
CROSSPIECE



The Parish Magazine of St James's Church, Cambridge

January — February 2021

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Over 60 kits for making Christmas wreaths were given out from St James in the afternoon of 5th December, followed by an online wreath-making workshop on 6th December. More photos of the kit components and completed wreaths are included on pages 10-11.

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Words from the Vicarage

Dear Readers,

The need to put 2020 behind us has been palpable. People know that nothing really changes when we move from 31st December to 1st January and that the virus that has blighted communities all over the world won't simply disappear simply because it's a new year. I think the need to move on from 2020 is all about the hope of something new, the hope of a vaccine being made widely available and so therefore the opportunity to go to work, to visit family and go about the normal things we feel we need to do in safety once again.

There is a sense of optimism about starting anew. When we open the pages of a diary at the beginning of a new year and write in the crucial dates or when we hang up the new calendar, there is a moment of expectation and wonder of what might happen this year. A diary or calendar contains a whole year in a concise easy to read format. A year planner is a single sheet pinned to a wall where you can scan the whole year in one glance. We can move from the cold chill of January through to the freshness of May to the crisp autumn mornings of September in a few seconds.

This short 2-month period of January to February takes us on a journey of faith in just a few weeks. We begin the year in Epiphany, rejoicing at the gifts given to us by God through the birth of

Christ and move quickly towards Christ's own baptism (as an adult); then, in a confusing chronological flashback, we begin February by marking Candlemas, when Christ, once again as a child, is presented in the temple and we celebrate the light that Christ brings to the world. Before we've had a chance to reflect too deeply on these landmarks we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday (17th February). It has the feel of a theological rollercoaster where we focus on birth, baptism, light and death, moving backwards and forwards across Jesus' life.

That's the way it is with following Jesus. It isn't a straightforward movement from one place to another. Easter soon follows Christmas, death and life are coupled together like dance partners moving around in an eternal waltz. There is no separating them. Christians understand that the baby that is adored in a manger is the same person who is hung upon a cross who is then absent from the tomb. You can't just pick the one story and stick with it. We have to keep moving with Christ as the story continues.

What kind of story might we tell about 2021? Let us pray that as we begin this year our hearts and souls may be rich in the hope of what might be and that we are ready to live our lives nourished by God's blessings.

Revd Steven Rothwell



Christingle

A brief outdoor Christingle service was held in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, in place of the usual crib service. The service included an explanation of the symbolism of the Christingle, while kits including Christingle components and other activities were distributed to the attending families.

This assembled Christingle graced a Christmas tea table and provided a reflective moment on a lively day.

Challenges of Interpretation

This morning I interpreted a Methodist service into British Sign Language (BSL) for half a dozen Deaf folk in Downham Market. I start by telling you this as it highlighted so many of the issues interpreting into BSL brings up. So here are just two:

Hymns

Always a problem. You might ask how come we had hymns, given the restrictions on singing that are currently in place. This church had decided to play a CD of the chosen hymns whilst projecting the words onto the screen so that people could mouth them behind their masks if they wanted. All went well until verse 3 – suddenly the recording being played had a different verse 3 from the projected words. Now, as an interpreter I am used to signing what I can hear, but I had to do a swift change to the written words (which, of course, I hadn't prepared!) as it would have been very confusing for the Deaf folk otherwise.

Different sorts of hymns present the interpreter with different problems. Normally, my job is to interpret the meaning rather than the words themselves. In some modern hymns it is hard to fathom what the writer means – and some are just weird. My personal hate is 'Lord I need you more than oxygen', which fortunately now seems to have disappeared. At the other end of the spectrum is a writer like Wesley – the words are so rich and if you take a hymn such as 'Love Divine all Loves Excelling', each line has several Biblical references. Here I am trying to sign the meaning in a way that enables the Deaf people to make a link to the relevant Bible texts so that the Deaf people have the same opportunity that hearing people have to make those connections.

The Bible

As an interpreter you need to know the Bible well – and try to understand it if you are going to interpret the meaning accurately. For stories such as the miracles, this is generally OK,

but once you start on Jesus' teaching or Paul's letters you enter a quagmire. First of all, I try to be loyal to the tradition in which I am working, so I might translate something such as the Last Supper narrative differently in a Methodist church and a Roman Catholic church.

Sometimes it depends on the context of the service: the text we might call the Nunc Dimittis, what Simeon says when Jesus is presented in the temple, 'Lord now let your servant go in peace, according to your word' might come up at evening prayer/compline, at a funeral or as the Bible reading – but what does it mean? I might interpret the 'go' as 'leave' – but just before this verse Simeon is told that he will not taste death until he has seen the Messiah – so perhaps I should translate the 'go' as 'die'. Then (being foolish) a quick look at the Greek suggests that the 'go' has more of the meaning of being freed. Aargh – and on what grounds do I make a decision, as my decision will influence Deaf people's understanding – and potentially their faith journey.

So this is just a few of the difficulties that the interpreter faces – and I haven't started on the nightmare of liturgy! Perhaps that is for another time – along with all the amusing mistakes that I have made.....

Revd Dr Ros Hunt

An introduction to sign language in an international world by Ros Hunt was included in Crosspiece issue 100 (September-October 2020), which is available in the Crosspiece archive on the St James website.

Ordinands on Placement

Two ordinands have been placed at St James for this year: Joshua Peckett and Baxter McRolston. We welcome them to St James and are grateful for all their contributions to St James life and worship.

Joshua Peckett

Hello, I'm Josh, one of the ordinands who will be on attachment at St James Church. I come from the Diocese of Leeds and, when I'm not training in Cambridge, I live in a little village outside York.

I grew up around Leeds and although my family weren't religious, I went to a Methodist school. It was partly the school's influence that began a journey of questioning which led me to Christian faith. I read Classics at Durham University and, after graduating, I spent a year working at Holy Trinity Brussels, an Anglican church in Belgium, as part of a scheme to discern the truth of my calling to ordained ministry by getting involved in the work of a church under the supervision of experienced clergy. I have worked for the Communications Team of the Diocese in Europe, I am a big history enthusiast, and I love the works of Terry Pratchett. Quite often, in normal times, you can find me in the pub with a pint.

I'm now in my final year of training and, God willing, I will be returning to Leeds to be ordained and serve as a curate from July 2021. As I write this in November 2020, I am aware that this is a difficult time for everyone. I can only hope that when you are reading this we are in more hopeful position. The last year has been incredibly challenging and painful for many of us, and there is a lot of uncertainty about the future. There is great strength and consolation to be drawn from our faith lived in community. It is that community, both in its trials and joys, that I am pleased to join in and to walk with on our Christian journey together. I



look forward to getting to know many of you, online or in-person, this year. Be assured of my prayers for you and I ask that you pray for me.

Josh

Baxter McRolston

Hello! My name is Baxter, I am a first year ordinand studying at Westcott House. Before moving to Cambridge to start training, I was a pastoral assistant serving the parish of St. Dunstan and All Saints in Stepney, East London, where I worked for two years starting in 2018. My sponsoring parish however is in my native Brighton, where I grew up until I left for study at the University of Aberdeen where I read Divinity and Politics, focusing (towards the end) on Middle Eastern politics and Islamic theology, two passions of mine.

I am very excited to get to know the people and community of St. James Wulfstan Way, and have been warmed by my welcome so far. I know that this year has been difficult for us all, but I hope to be a part of adapting to the challenges that we are facing, learning from the community as I go, and being of service wherever I can.

Baxter

St James Beatitudes

The following updated Beatitudes were created during the discussion part of St James online Zoom service on 1st November 2020. They are included here to give opportunities for further reflection.

Blessed are the homeless... for they know they need help and encourage us to give help

Blessed are those who are called... for God will give them strength

Blessed are the kind, patient and thoughtful... for they will build community

Blessed are those who listen... for they will be heard

Blessed are the lonely... for they are with us in spirit

Blessed are the patient... for they will endure

Blessed are the scientists... for they will guide us through the pandemic

Blessed are the sick... for they shall be comforted

Blessed are the cleaners... for they shall be respected

St James congregation

Inspired by Matthew 5:3-12

Exeter Shutdown Diary

Bob and Isabel Burn, with their four children, Christopher, Katherine, Nick and Sarah, were a part of our congregation at St James from 1971 – 1981. Bob had been ordained Deacon in the Church of South India before moving to Cambridge, and was given permission to officiate in Ely diocese in 1971, and so he took part in the ordained ministry at St James, helping with Sunday services, preaching and conducting the confirmation classes.

Bob's connections with members of St James, however, went back much further. He met Chris Calladine in 1953 when they were room-mates as freshmen at Peterhouse. Chris and Bob became firm friends, and later were Godparents to each other's children. Bob and Isabel also knew Jonathan and Judith Pinhey as they had been

contemporaries at Liskeard Lodge, Chislehurst, which was then the CMS Training College.

Bob was ordained priest in 1981, by Bishop Gordon Wroe, Bishop of Huntingdon, in Foxton parish church, and was instituted as priest-in-charge of Foxton parish at the same ceremony. He was a non-stipendiary (self-supporting) minister and continued as Mathematics lecturer at Homerton College during his parish ministry in Foxton. In 1988 he and Isabel moved to Exeter, where Bob had been appointed to a lectureship in Mathematics Education at the University. They returned to Cambridge each Summer from 1988 – 1996 and joined us at St James for Sunday worship each week.

They have been faithful subscribers to Crosspiece since its first issue.

When in March the shutdown came it was a relief. No more rush hour cars at 7 am, nor between 3.30 and 5.30 pm. What peace! The shutdown came just the evening before I was due to hear a talk about St Benedict. But we had been given a reading list, which we then had the luxury to read during the next month. The next spirituality session, in April, we missed too, so I read on, about Celtic Christianity this time. Then my urge to keep going rather dried up. We had been having services, sent as email messages with YouTube hymns and then a Zoom discussion. At first these were a bit bleak, but we gradually began to have constructive sharing, such as we never get after a church service, when we break up into twos and threes over coffee.

As soon as the first lockdown started, we were surprised to be rung up by a young friend from Cambridge who offered to shop for us. What a surprise gift!

We returned to services in church at a distance, but with limited singing, often recorded, and with an instruction to leave church before starting to chat. When there were no services in church, there was a problem of getting a Sunday

newspaper. But I devised a way of using a bus to get near a paper shop and then walked home, using long range tweezers to pick up rubbish on the way. So long as I kept on the main roads this passed without comment, but as soon as I moved to side roads it generated greetings and smiles. An old lady got off her bicycle to ask where I got the tweezers (actually posted by my daughter, but they are very clever and even allow you pick up fag-ends). Fathers tell their children to say 'thank you' and a stopped car wound down its windows to say 'well done!'. Curiously the lockdown has generated a little more community. Our grandson in Basle has initiated a family Zoom every Sunday night.

But then in September the students came back and Exeter shot to the top of the Covid lists for the South-West. Fortunately, the University took control and this is now being managed well.

The recent vaccine news is good. Praise God and the research workers!

Bob Burn

Update from Ben Edwards

Ben Edwards was placed at St James as an ordinand between 2016 and 2018 and has since been serving as a curate in Beccles, Suffolk.

Over the Summer, the Edwards family have moved to Bury St Edmunds, where I am serving at the Cathedral as one of the cathedral curates. It was quite a stressful time with the move and getting the children into new schools, but all are now relatively settled, as much as we can be in these times!

Cathedral life was a little daunting at first, but once I got used to the size of the building and the liturgy, I felt at home. The tradition of the cathedral is a bit closer to that which we all enjoyed at St James, so we all feel right at home!

At present, I have been at the centre of Advent Compline services which go out online, and have been whizzing around taking pictures for a Posada across Bury St Edmunds, meeting various

community groups and visiting various landmarks and institutions - I've met up with Extinction Rebellion one day and the police the next, so very varied. I've also been working with Bury St Edmunds for Black Lives, and there will be more to come in helping combat systemic racism.

We were so pleased to see the Pumpkin Picnic mentioned recently - we have such fond memories of St James and I still can't quite face the smell of pumpkins at Halloween!!!

Please be assured of my prayers for you all and we wish you a joyous New Year as we look in hope towards a post-pandemic world!

God bless

Ben

Lockdown Library

Limited library access and more time at home this year has provided an opportunity to revisit some of my own childhood favourite books with my daughter Elena, now five. In particular, we have now worked through all but one of the 'Swallows and Amazons' series by Arthur Ransome since March. The adventures have mostly stood up well to re-reading after a long gap, and it has certainly extended Elena's vocabulary in some unusual directions. One episode provoked a discussion of blood-borne diseases and a few mentions of pre-decimal money have also required explanation.

On the other hand, as an adult I am finding some of the rigid gender roles described (with the notable exception of Nancy!) uncomfortable, likewise that the expression of most emotions seems to be actively discouraged. 'Misse Lee', where they are held captive by a Chinese pirate, was definitely one of my favourite books when younger, but the one which I have found the most difficult to re-read now, due to a greater

awareness of the level of stereotyping and outdated language used in relation to the local people — the only case in which I have changed wording while reading to Elena.

On balance, we will continue to read these stories, but will also look for some more modern counterparts to broaden our horizons.

Christina Hood



Update from Jutta Brueck

Jutta Brueck was vicar of St James from 2008 to 2015, before moving to Ipswich.

Greetings from Ipswich and Ditchingham!

Dear friends at St James,

Happy New Year! May you be able to put your hand in the Hand of God as you are walking into 2021, possibly much more aware than in previous years, of the uncertainty and 'unknownness' of what lies ahead. God is with us.

In the summer Mary Calladine invited me to write about St Thomas Ipswich in Covid-19 times. It's taken me until the middle of November to put my hand to the keyboard as the summer brought some rather unexpected developments in my ministerial journey: I was exploring a call to apply for the post of Dean of the With Community at All Hallows Ditchingham, a new project to create a bespoke place of prayer and retreat for youth workers and young people, especially from deprived urban areas. Because of my experience of intentional community and involvement in new monasticism since coming to St Thomas' - I started the 'St Thomas Pilgrim Community' in the parish - I had been invited to join the board of trustees for this new project. At our first onsite meeting in July I realised that God might be calling me to do this job. An application, followed by three interviews later, I was offered the post at the end of September, with a view to starting on 6th January, the Feast of the Epiphany.

There is a lovely connection with St James in this: some of you will remember Sister Sheila Day, who worshipped at St James in the 1960s. She joined the Community of All Hallows in Ditchingham, in Norfolk, just across the border from Suffolk in 1970 and tells me that St James is one of the churches she regularly prays for. My first contact with her was when we invited Sister Sheila to join us for the 60th

anniversary celebrations in 2015. She was unable to attend, but it was the beginning of a fruitful relationship, as I was moving to Ipswich with the intention of starting a new monastic community. Sheila was mother superior at the time, and the Community of All Hallows are the only Anglican religious community in East Anglia.

In 2018 the sisters made the brave decision to leave the convent and live dispersed: in Bungay, near Ditchingham, where Sr. Sheila is now; in Norwich; on the Isle of Mull; and with three elderly sisters in local nursing homes. Following a 'Dragon's Den'-style process they gave the convent to a couple of youth workers with the vision of creating a bespoke retreat place for youth workers and young people, with a praying community at the heart of it. The Church Army has taken them under their wing, and will be my employer. My role is to develop the residential community which is at the heart of the vision. This involves creating a rhythm of prayer and a rule of life, attracting people from diverse backgrounds - the community is ecumenical - who want to come and live in Ditchingham, pray, live in community, be with young people and contribute to the development and life of the convent. We have space for about a dozen community members, who can be of any age 18+ and are asked to commit for a year, with the option of staying longer. They will receive a living allowance, but no salary. Anyone interested?

So, what about St Thomas? I am very sad to leave the parish of St Thomas, who, like we did at St James, prayed, worshipped and worked together hard, to grow in leaps and bounds, with a wonderful ministry team and more and more lay people taking on leadership roles. I am very grateful to leave the parish in the capable hands of Revd Cat Connolly, our assistant curate in her third year. The St Thomas Pilgrim community, whose main calling is to pray, with 11 non-residential members, some from St Thomas, others scattered across Ipswich and beyond, will continue and I will remain their leader. We have been meeting at least once a week on Zoom since the beginning of lockdown, which means I can easily stay in touch.



(Continued on page 9)

And what about our family, Martin, Anna and Luke? That's the hardest bit. I will be living in Ditchingham for some of the week, though I can commute and will do so a fair bit in the first six months while Luke is still at home. Anna is at university in Cambridge, reading English. Luke is in his final year at 6th form, hoping to get a place at a conservatoire in London from September to study jazz drumming. We will have to find housekeeping help for the Bishop's House as this is not something that can be done virtually, unfortunately.

So, we have no choice but to put our hands in the Hand of God as we walk into 2021. God is with us. In case you wonder: we are called 'With Community'

precisely for that reason, realising that 'with' is such an important word. With God, With each other, With oneself, With time, With silence, With creation. Come and visit! And, please, pray for us, tell people, especially those working with young people about us and support us, if you can. Perhaps, I will see some of you in 2021.

With love and prayers for you all, God's blessing in 2021

Jutta

Revd Canon Jutta Brueck
email: jutta@bewith.community
www.bewith.community

Reinventing a wheel



An unusual, large festive wreath hung on the outside of St James over the Christmas period. It was created by Jacqui Worster based on an old bicycle wheel given by a friend, with predominantly natural decorations including pine cones, orange slices and teasels.

Christmas Wreaths



Wreath components and preparation: Willow from Brigitte and Michael Snell's garden (above left), stripped of leaves (above right) and twisted into wreath structures (below left); to be decorated with predominantly natural ornaments including pine cones and dried orange slices (below right).





Some of the over 60 wreath kits ready for collection, with volunteers for the outdoor distribution session (above left). Examples of completed wreaths created by members of the congregation and wider community, all differently beautiful.

Colour photos are included in the online version of Crosspiece, available on the St James website.



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DEADLINE FOR MARCH-APRIL 2021
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Monday 22nd February

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.

Safeguarding officer:

Jill Bradley 07971 013645
email: happybeadsuk@gmail.com

Director of Music: Position vacant

The Music Group:

Grae Worster on mgw1@cam.ac.uk and 846295

Church & Community Activities

Note that these may still be suspended

Choir practice:

Mondays 6.30 –7.30pm

Meditation group: Fridays 1.30-2.00

Beavers (6-8 yrs):

16thcmbridgebeavers@gmail.com

Cubs (8-11 yrs) at QE School:

Stephen Harrison 07548 765421

Scouts (10½—14) at QE School:

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