

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



St Peter's Church
The Lawn
Budleigh Salterton EX9 6LT

DECEMBER 2021

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends

"Christmas is a comin' and the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny a ha'penny will do, if you haven't got a ha'penny God bless you"

Christmas is indeed a comin' but all the talk now is of supply chain disruptions and the threat that we may not be able to celebrate Christmas as we would like.

But frankly, after the two years of disruption that we have endured (and are still enduring to a smaller degree) to our lives, due to Covid-19, one more bit of disruption will surely just be water off a duck's back for the majority of us.

And compared to people not being able to attend funerals and blanket travel bans, shortages of pigs in blankets doesn't really compare.

Any disruption will be deeply annoying to everyone of course but keep in mind it is only the manner of the celebration that could be affected. What we are celebrating can never be affected.

Love came down at Christmas. In the birth of a child to a young unmarried mum, born into insecurity and privation, God came close to us. One of the names for Jesus used in the Bible is "Emmanuel" which means "God is with us".

What we are celebrating cannot be affected by anything, the way we celebrate it may or may not be affected.

Either way, let the Spirit of who we are celebrating, console and strengthen you this Christmas and rejoice and celebrate in whatever way you can within whatever constraints we may face.

On behalf of the church, which only exists because of what happened at Christmas may I wish you a very happy Christmas! Love and prayers

Martin



In 2019 I wrote a short item about VCS, a small group of forces veterans that gather every Friday afternoon in the Peter Hall. This is a very informal meeting over a cup of tea which offers friendship and support to military veterans, their families and supporters, many of whom have physical and mental health concerns. During the extended COVID lockdown with long periods of isolation there was a real concern for the welfare and well-being of our group, many of whom live alone. The joy

earlier in the summer when meetings were once again permitted was palpable, but it was quite remarkable how the peer-to-peer companionship was maintained throughout those lonely months. The loving and caring bond between group members left no one without contact of some sort and helped many through dark times. We try to celebrate when we can and are certainly looking forward to Christmas lunch together this year. If you want to know more or would like to join the group, please contact mrvell@btinternet.com. *Margaret Revell*

NEWS from the FOOD BANK

The Foodbank has been working along with other local agencies and Exmouth Town Council to support twelve Afghan refugee families temporarily staying in the area. We were able to provide nappies, baby products and toiletries. All of these things were very gratefully received and we thank everyone who specifically donated items for these families. We still need: long life milk and fruit juice, bottled fruit squash, jars of pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, tomatoes, rice pudding and fruit, packet custard and instant potato mash, noodles, rice, packet pasta in sauce. We are also short of cleaning products. So now we look to the future and to how things will pan out. As we approach Christmas, as we plan and prepare for our festivities, as we shop and write our Christmas cards, please let us never forget those who may not have food, warmth or even a home. If you are able to donate Christmas goodies they would be most appreciated, also anything that could be given as a gift, as many people will not be able to afford to buy presents for their loved ones.

Our collection box for Christmas treats will be in church until Sunday 5 December.

CHRISTINGLE

This service will be held as usual on Christmas Eve at 5pm. The Archdeacon, Ven Andrew Beane, will be conducting ours. I believe he has done this many times. The actual Christingles will be made up at 10am in the Peter Hall on Christmas Eve. Can you help us, please? Grandchildren are welcome to do this too. Sticking sweets onto sticks can be good fun! Many hands make light work. Contact Sally 446304



NOVEMBER 100 CLUB

Results for the November draw are: £5 Andy Ellett, £10 Jackie Clemo, £20 Tony Gray. BIG draw next time!

At the heart of Christmas



THE CHURCH MOUSE IS BACK!

Hello everyone. I am still around in St. Peter's and when tidying some papers recently I came across an article about Christmas flora which I thought I would pass on to you. Take care and Merry Christmas.



CHRISTMAS ROSES (*Helleborus niger*) A little Jewish girl who lived in Bethlehem had heard about the special Baby lying in a stable and wanted to see him. She found the stable stood against the stable door and saw the lovely gifts that had been laid at the feet of the baby. She longed to give him something but she was poor and had nothing to give. She then thought as she loved flowers maybe the Baby would too. She searched the fields but could not find even one. At last being tired and sad she went back to the stable and peeped through the door before she went home. Suddenly as she was moving softly forward a cluster of beautiful white flowers was growing on the path in front of her. She was sure they came from God and she gathered the flowers with eager fingers and ran joyfully into the stable to give them to the King. The legend says these white flowers which blossom at Christmas time are called Christmas Roses. It became a sacred plant and used as protection against the plague.



POINSETTIA The Flower of the Holy Night after a legend that tells of a peasant girl who, on Christmas Eve wanted to go to Midnight Mass with a gift for Jesus. She had nothing to give but angels appeared to her and told her to pick some weeds and take them into the church. As she went in everyone laughed at her. Suddenly the top leaves on every stem burst into a flame of scarlet. The people fell to their knees and the little peasant girl marched proudly forward to make her offering at the crib.



MISTLETOE The story is told that originally there were huge mistletoe trees from one of which Christ's cross was fashioned. After the crucifixion, all the other mistletoe trees shrank with shame and had to live out their lives as tiny parasites growing on other trees. Therefore to bring a sprig of mistletoe into our houses at Christmas we are, in effect, putting up a symbolic crucifix in honour of Jesus Christ.



HOLLY It has been a favourite decorative shrub for centuries for the simple reason it remains green even in the dead of winter. Long ago this quality made it a pagan symbol of immortality. Its conversion for use as a Christian symbol was easily done. The sharp pointed leaves became the crown of thorns Christ wore at his crucifixion and the red berries represented the drops of blood on the head of Christ where the thorns had pierced the flesh.



THE GLASTONBURY THORN After the crucifixion Joseph of Arimathea left Palestine and came to England. He and his followers walked inland to Glastonbury where Joseph stuck his staff in the ground. Immediately it took root and blossomed. Cuttings were taken from the old tree before it died and many of the trees still grow in the churchyard at Glastonbury. The thorn blooms twice a year, in May and at Christmas. A spray of blossom decorates the Queen's Christmas dinner table.



CHRISTMAS CACTUS A Jesuit missionary known as Father Jose was trying to convert Bolivian natives. However, in spite of his good works and attempts to pass on the Word, he was met with failure. The native people appreciated his help but did not believe in the Christmas story he tried to convey. As he was praying at his crude altar on Christmas Eve, he heard his congregants singing a hymn he had taught them. When he looked up, the children of the village were heading his way bearing plant stems decorated with beautiful flowers. These were the arms of a cacti, which they gave to him to decorate the altar. Whether the story is true or not, it is illustrative and a sweet tale nonetheless.

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S SCHOOL



Recently I had to wait while a crocodile of very animated but orderly St Peter's pupils crossed the Lawn from the church and went along the pathway next to the practice. I chatted to the teacher who was bringing up the rear, who explained that the children had been on a walk around the town, which they would have to write about later. They had ended up in the church where they had been absolutely delighted to be offered drinks and biscuits! They had visited us on a Friday morning – thank you Rendezvous! RH

Diary Dates for December

Thursday 2nd 2pm Film - The Founder - at Seachange (The Hub)

Thursday 2nd 7pm Budleigh Salterton Ladies Choir Christmas Concert in church

Saturday 4th 6.30 for 7pm Candlelight Supper in the Peter Hall

Week of Monday 6th Salterton Drama Club will perform Blithe Spirit

Tuesday 7th 9.30am St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel

Thursday 9th 12.15pm Loaves and Fishes lunch in the Peter Hall Tickets £10 Book with Fran (568732/443397) or Mary Jones (443333)

Friday 10th 6pm onwards Late Night Shopping in Budleigh

Sunday 12th 6.00pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 14^h 2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Peter Hall - Christmas carols & drama

Thursday 16th 08.45am Men's Breakfast in the Dolphin Café (book on 443333)

Rendezvous every Friday at 10am in the Peter Hall

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 19 December Family Carol Service at 6.00pm

Friday 24 December Christingle at 5pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion Services

Midnight Mass starting at 11.00pm on 24 December

Holy Communion at 8.00am and 10.00 am

SERVICES

Sundays Holy Communion at 8am and 10.00am

Choral Evensong 6pm 2nd Sunday

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 9.30am

QUICK CONTACTS

VICAR: The Revd. Martin Jacques, The New Vicarage, Vicarage Road, East Budleigh, EX9 6EF

vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk (not Fridays)

443473

RMC Administrator: Ms Fran Mills raleighmc@gmail.com

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Deputy Wardens: Judith Stewart-Young 442197 George Maddaford 446077

Pat Rogers 446304 Eileen Milne 446725

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PCC Secretary: Christopher Briscoe 444381 **PCC Treasurer:** Tony Gray 444006

Director of Music and Organist: Stephen Tanner 07804 209226

Peter Hall Manager: George Maddaford 446077

St Peter's Burial Ground: Milena McClellan 445366

Safeguarding Representative: Tina Ellett 07426 090311

Friends of St Peter's Chairman: Position vacant. For information, please contact the RMC Office

DIGITAL MINI-MAG

To join the Mini-Mag email list send your address to Gillian gillian.heathfield@gmail.com or read it on the parish website <https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/st-peters-parish-magazine.html>

Please send contributions to both editors gillian.heathfield@gmail.com and RNHumphreys@aol.com