

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG

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



Editors: Rosemary Humphreys 488524
Gillian Andrews 444095

DECEMBER 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES

"Christmas is a coming and the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat" seems to draw both excess and charity together in a rhyme that is traditional and comforting at the same time.

Traditions are a comfort at any time of year because of their familiarity, especially Christmas, where every family seems to have its own jealously guarded family traditions. Louise insists on a real tree every year, whereas my tatty old artificial one holds special memories for my daughter and I. Result: we have two trees obviously. I love the rigmarole, the Turkey and tinsel, midnight Mass, presents on Christmas day, Noddy Holder bellowing "It's Christmas" for the umpteenth time on the radio, TV, and in high street shops. That too has become a modern "tradition" which adds to the general feeling. There is no need for a war between the religious and commercial sides of Christmas – try and see it as creative tension. Every church I've been at has had a Christmas tree put up inside the church – a marriage of Christian and pagan symbolism that does no-one any harm. I know a high churchman in East London whose church welcomes scores of Hindus every Christmas to pay respects to the statue of the Virgin Mary. This softening of the divisions between different faith groups also seems right in the "season of goodwill".

Christmas is a time for the hotchpotch of traditions and influences to be enjoyed as a whole, not a time to retreat into religious puritanism. After all, the killjoy puritans banned celebrating Christmas in this country in 1644 believing it threatened core Christian beliefs (That went well!). Christmas in all its muddle, excess, strange customs, noise *and* religious import can be enjoyed as a whole. So eat, drink and be merry and remember that the reason for all this from the Christian perspective is to celebrate the incarnation of God's Son on earth,. Happy Christmas!

Martin





*The Partridge

A reminder of Christ. A mother partridge will feign injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. She will literally give her life for her children.

*Two Turtle Doves

The Old and the New Testaments of the Bible.

*Three French Hens

During the 16th Century, only the rich could afford these costly birds. These represent the three great gifts of Faith, Hope and Love.

*Four Calling Birds

The four Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

*Five Gold Rings

The first five books of the Old Testament, treated by the Jews with great reverence and considered worth more than gold.

*Six Geese a-laying

Eggs are an almost universal symbol of new life. The laying geese stand for the six days of Creation.

*Seven Swans a-swimming

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, service, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy.

*Eight Maids a-milking

The eight Beatitudes of Jesus, as nourishing as milk.

*Nine Ladies Dancing

The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

*Ten Lords a-leaping

The Lords with authority are the Ten Commandments.

*Eleven Pipers Piping

The eleven Apostles who remained faithful to Jesus.

*Twelve Drummers Drumming

The twelve beliefs of Christianity found in the Apostles' Creed.



XMAS



The abbreviation is frowned upon by English teachers, who see it as a modern form of writing laziness, but their disapproval is misplaced. The word “Xmas” has been in use for at least six hundred years and has a special, religious meaning. The X does not, as many think, represent the Christian Cross, but the Greek letter “chi”, which is the first letter of “Christos”, meaning Christ. So Xmas is not modern slang, but has an ancient and worthy heritage.

THE REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Could you help those who are struggling more than ever at Christmas time to put food on the table? All you need to do each day in the first three weeks of December is put an item of tinned food, toiletries or household goods into a box or bag. When filled, these can be left in the church and they will be taken to the Community Larder in Exmouth who will be open on the 23rd and working hard.



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CARD

In 1843, Sir Henry Cole, realising that he would not find time to write all his letters at Christmas, asked the artist John Horsley to design a card that he could send to each of his friends. It showed merry-makers making a toast and has a Christmas greeting on the front. But on either side were pictures of the poor being clothed and fed, to remind people that Christmas is a time for remembering those who are in need. The Victorian image of feasting and merrymaking and winter scenes continued to be popular and it was some time before a Christian image appeared. Perhaps the Christmas card was considered too trivial to carry a religious message, or perhaps, as becomes more evident these days, the Christian element has always been less prominent than one might expect.





St Peter's Prayer Group



This is an informal group who meet in the Lady Chapel at 9.30 am for half an hour on the first Tuesday of each month. Attendance is usually between 8 and 10. There is no formal Membership and the meeting is open to all. Each session is led by one of the regulars on a rota basis. The object is to pray as a group, principally for our Parish, but also for current world problems, for our own Parliament and government, the world-wide and national church, and our Mission Partners. We remember the sick and suffering, and any recently bereaved.

The leader for the day may open with a brief introduction drawn from a Bible passage, or something they have heard or read, and will list the topics chosen particularly for prayer. Their task is to keep things moving so that as much as possible is covered. Members are then invited to pray openly or silently around the chosen topic. Ideally people will pray out loud, but there is absolutely no obligation.

The Prayer Group may be seen as a mini-power-house for the parish, its leaders and its mission. We emphasise that more members would be very welcome, or any who would like to sample the experience of informal prayer as a group.



ADVENT

An important time for reflection four weeks before Christmas - a time of **WAITING AND PREPARATION**. This year it starts on Sunday 1st December when the first purple candle is lit in the Advent ring symbolising **HOPE**. The circle of evergreen represents continuous life and in the subsequent three weeks more candles are added. **Purple** – LOVE, **Pink** – JOY, **Purple** PEACE. On Christmas Day the white **CHRIST CANDLE** is placed in the middle.

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S SCHOOL



A MATHS CHALLENGE FOR YEAR 6



Before half term, 12 children from Year 6 were selected to take part in a maths event at Exmouth Community College. Students worked together to solve a large variety of Maths problems within a time limit, using teamwork, time management, mathematical knowledge and determination. There were speed, group and relay rounds to take part in. Selected children may take part in further rounds later in the year. Well done year 6!



The Friends of St Peter's is the active fund-raising group of the church. All monies raised are spent on the maintenance of the church building or equipment. In recent years we have contributed to the Peter Hall renovation, the organ fund and the repair of the roof. The Friends' committee has dwindled over the years and now consists of only three - Iris Cooper, Jackie Clemo and Betty Clement. All three of us have been on the committee for 13 or 14 years and have reluctantly decided that the time has come for us to bow out. We would be very sad, however, if the Friends folded and do hope that others will come forward to form a new committee and organise events. The Friends events organised have a social and mission benefit as well as essential fund-raising. A new committee could include people from the town even if they do not often attend church. If it is impossible to form a new committee, perhaps there are people who would be prepared to organise just one or perhaps two fund-raising events?

All events planned on the present programme will continue until the AGM in February, date to be finalised. Next year the three of us will help to organise three one-off events, the wine-tasting in Findlay Wines in May, the Patronal Festival BBQ in June and the Advent Fair, unless a new committee would like to take them over. We are not continuing formally as a Friends' Committee.

Finally, we should like to thank all those who have helped us with the events of the last year, and also all those who have supported them by their attendance. Particular thanks go to Fran for all her help. We hope to see you all at the final three events on our 2019 programme, the **Advent Fair on 30th November**, the **Military Wives Choir on the 7th December** and lastly, the **New Year Party on the 25th January 2020**.

Betty, Iris and Jackie

PCC REPORT 6TH NOVEMBER

This year we have had a different format for PCC meetings. All 3 RMC PCC's meet together for the first hour to discuss matters of common interest such as services, mission, the Churches Partnership and joint events, then separate into individual meetings.

RMC Meeting

The **service schedule** for 2020 has been circulated and comments were invited. It was agreed that Patronal Festivals should be joint celebrations on the three occasions a year. A Churches Partnership Christmas card will be produced, with details of services for all our churches, to be delivered with the parish newsletter/magazine in Otterton and East Budleigh and with the ONE magazine in Budleigh Salterton. Costs will be borne proportionately by the churches.

The 'in-house' **Alpha Course** has been well received with 20 – 30 attendees each week. There will be another course in 2020 for the wider community.

Safeguarding. No incidents to report. Training needs for Safeguarding are being addressed and a specialist trainer from the Diocese will be delivering a session in January.

Penny Kurowski reminded everyone to forward items of interest, dates etc to her for inclusion on the **RMC website** so it can be kept up to date. (website@rmcommunity.co.uk)

Review of arrangements - the new system was working well but East Budleigh would like to host the meeting sometimes.

St Peter's Meeting

A report was received from Steve Hitchcock, **Head of St Peter's School**, on recent activities.

A discussion took place on how to improve the **church car-parking facilities**. This is still ongoing.

After some discussion the timing of the **Christmas Day Eucharist** was agreed as 11.00am.

Tony Gray gave his **Financial Report**. While this year's income was greater than expected due to legacies, the budget for 2020 showed a significant deficit. A vigorous stewardship campaign was needed.

The **Friends of St Peter's** contribute to our income but Betty Clement said that all the committee (herself, Iris Cooper, Jackie Clemo) will retire at the Friends AGM in February after 13/14 years in post. New members are urgently needed.

Date of next meeting – 22 January 2020.

UNLIMITED CHURCH

Many of us were inspired by the Revd. James Grier's address on Mission Sunday. If you would like to know more about the Unlimited Church in Exeter and its work with young people the website is unlimitedchurch.org.uk

James also talked about Street Pastors and John Hutchinson has kindly provided this article about their work.

STREET PASTORS



This is a national movement which started in Brixton, London in 2003. Since then it has spread across the country and 300 towns and cities are kept safer on Friday and Saturday nights by teams of SP's who patrol in groups of not less than three from 10.30 pm until about 3.30 am. They are supported at their base, which is usually a local church, by at least two Prayer Pastors. The SP's will not go out unless there are Prayer Pastors on duty. Their focus is on pubs and night clubs and the stream of young people who migrate from one to the other.

They are in radio contact with the Prayer Pastors, the City Council CCTV base, and the Police. They carry no money, but in their satchel they carry basic first aid kit, bottles of water, pairs of flip-flops and a dustpan and brush. The flip-flops are to give to girls who become unsteady on their high heels when they have had a few, to save them being injured by broken glass, and the dustpan and brush is to brush up broken bottles and glasses which litter the pavements and can cause injury. They wear a distinctive uniform of bomber jacket and baseball cap clearly marked STREET PASTOR.

Exeter Street Pastors have been functioning for ten years, and local Police say that crime levels in Exeter have reduced by between 25% and 40% on Fridays and Saturdays since the SP's have been operating. If you know Exeter by day, you would not recognise it at midnight, when upwards of 2000 young men and girls move around from Club to Pub or chat in the streets. These revellers who are out for a good time regard the SP's as their friends, there to help rather than rebuke. In one year, the SP's picked up 5500 broken bottles and glasses, issued 580 pairs of flip flops and 750 bottles of water. If they see a fight brewing, they will move in and try to pacify the contestants, but before doing so will radio the base asking for prayer as they go in. Often the fight has dissipated before the SPs get there. In those ten years there has only been one minor case of a SP being physically abused.

You are highly recommended to read <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/night-the-flip-flop-brigade-2984239> for a fascinating and detailed account of one night on the streets of Exeter.



MILITARY WIVES CHOIR CONCERT ON SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

This is a concert by the Military Wives Choir from the Lymington base. With 75 choirs in British military bases across the UK and abroad, the Military Wives Choirs charity exists to bring women in the military community closer together through singing. Any woman with a military connection can join. The choirs raise funds for SSAFA (the Soldiers' Sailors and Airmen's Families Association) and The Royal British Legion. The first half of the programme will include popular songs and the second half Christmas music. The concert starts at 7.30. Tickets cost £10 from the Church Office or Findlay Wines. Do come along and support this fund-raising event for the funds of St Peter's Church.

ST. PETROCK' CHURCH IN EXETER

We will be collecting new or nearly new socks, hats, scarves and gloves again this year, for St. Petrock's church in Exeter to distribute to people sleeping on the streets this winter. Please tuck a chocolate treat into your gift for a little Christmas cheer. There will be boxes labelled for donations at the back of the church on Sundays Dec.8 and 15. Thank you.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS



This four page edition of the Minimag will not become the norm (for a start it would make a mockery of the name!). We would like to thank everyone who has supported us with content and suggestions this year.

WE WISH EVERYONE A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AS WE CELEBRATE CHRIST'S BIRTH AND A PEACEFUL AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Gillian and Rosemary

DATES FOR THE DIARY

'Twas CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE WORKHOUSE' talk by Ken Atherton Peter Hall. 4th December 11.00am. Refreshments available from 10.30am. Proceeds in aid of Fairlynch Museum.

Friends £3, £5 Non Friends,

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING in Budleigh Salterton 6 to 9 pm

6th December

Friends of St. Peter's MILITARY WIVES CHOIR from Lymington CONCERT

St. Peter's Church Tickets £10 7.30pm

7th December

CHORAL EVENSONG at St. Peter's 6.00 pm

8th December

Salterton Drama Group present SEASON'S GREETINGS - a Christmas comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. 7.30pm Tickets are £10 from Budleigh TIC

2nd to 7th December

FRIENDS NEW YEAR'S PARTY AND QUIZ in the Peter Hall £10 entry

5th January

A Christmas Carol Parade Through Budleigh Salterton – Friday 6 December



Pupils from St Peter's, Drake's and Otterton schools will parade through the town with jam jar lanterns on the Christmas Shopping Evening. Starting from St Peter's Church at 5.45 they will stop to sing carols along the High Street. Finishing at the Methodist Church, the children will stand on the steps and sing a hymn.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST PETER'S CHURCH



1 st December	Advent Carol Service	6.00pm
4 th December	Hospicecare Light Up a Life	6.00pm
17 th December	St. Peter's School Carol Concert	5.30pm
20 th December	Millwater School Christmas Service	10.00am
22 nd December	Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	6.00pm
24 th December	Christingle	5.00pm
24 th December	Midnight Mass	11.00pm
25 th December	Holy Communion	8.00am
25 th December	Holy Communion	11.00am

Calendar December 2019

Saturday	30 Nov	Advent Fair & Hamper Sale	10.30
Sunday	1	Holy Communion BCP	8.00
Sunday	1	Holy Communion	10.00
Sunday	1	Advent Carol Service	18.00
Tuesday	3	St Peter's Prayer Group Meeting	9.30
Wednesday	4	Holy Communion	9.30
Wednesday	4	6Zone/Youth Group	15.30
Wednesday	4	Hospicecare Light up a Life Light a candle in memory of a loved one	18.00
Friday	6	Holy Communion	11.30
Sunday	8	Holy Communion BCP	8.00
Sunday	8	Holy Communion	10.00
Sunday	8	Choral Evensong	18.00
Wednesday	11	Holy Communion	9.30
Wednesday	11	6Zone/Youth Group	15.30
Wednesday	11	Loaves & Fishes	12.00
Friday	13	Holy Communion	11.30
Sunday	15	Holy Communion BCP	8.00
Sunday	15	Holy Communion	10.00
Tuesday	17	St Peter's School Carol Concert	17.30
Wednesday	18	Holy Communion	9.30
Thursday	19	St Peter's School End of Term Service	9.30
Friday	20	Millwater School Christmas Service	10.00
Friday	20	Holy Communion	12.00
Sunday	22	Holy Communion BCP	8.00
Sunday	22	Holy Communion	10.00
Sunday	22	Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine & mince pies	18.00
Tuesday	24	Christingle	17.00
Tuesday	24	Midnight Mass	23.00
Wednesday	25	Christmas Holy Communion	8.00
Wednesday	25	Christmas Holy Communion	11.00
Sunday	29	Holy Communion BCP	8.00
Sunday	29	Holy Communion	10.00

Rendezvous every Friday in Peter Hall at 10.30

Deadline for items to be included in the January Mini-Mag, space permitting, is the 18th December

RNHumphreys@aol.com and gillian.heathfield@gmail.com

We are always pleased to receive items for the Minimag but please send to both of us (addresses above) in case one of us is away.

QUICK CONTACTS

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

revmartinjacques@gmail.com (not Fridays) 443473

ASSOCIATE PRIEST: The Revd. Karen Young, Maranatha, Boucher Way, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6HQ

thereverendkarenyoung@gmail.com 488121

RMC Administrator: Mrs. Fran Mills raleighmc@gmail.com 443397

Office Open: Mon 1pm-3pm, Tues, Wed Thurs 10am-12noon, Fri 10am-2pm

Churchwardens: Iris Cooper 445273 Chris Parrish 442275

Deputy Wardens: Judith Stewart-Young 442197 George Maddafor 446077

Pat Rogers 446304 Eileen Milne 446725

Paul Maslen 488861

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

Director of Music and Organist: Stephen Tanner 07804 209226

Peter Hall Manager: George Maddafor 446077

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

Burial Ground Manager: Brian Shackleton 443762

Safeguarding Representative: Tina Ellett 074260 90311