

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG

St Peter's Church

The Lawn

Budleigh Salterton EX9 6LT



Editor: Lizzy Doorbar

December 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends,

Now is there anything going on in December I could possibly talk about? Oh yes – it's Christmas time again! This Christian festival – the Mass of Christ geddit – has grown and grown and become the biggest commercial occasion in the world and is celebrated everywhere – even in non-Christian countries.

Hard to remember that Christmas day is just that – one solitary day. But every year the Christmas lights go up earlier and earlier and the “season” can cover many weeks, the shopping frenzy starts earlier and earlier, St. Noddy Holder's dulcet voice gets more ubiquitous, and the shops are full of Santas and Elves in grottos, every programme seems to have a Christmas special, people go into debt to afford lavish Christmas presents, millions of trees decorate millions of houses, and Turkeys start feeling very nervous towards the start of December.

I could go on describing the festival of excess but also it reveals a better, kinder more generous side of so many people. Families get together, people feel better about things and if we're lucky a snowfall induces extreme excitement especially in children. The churches are full of people celebrating Christingle or singing carols or attending Midnight Mass.

Of course, we all know there is a shadow side – suicide rates go up, families struggle with debt, some of those on their own feel their loneliness is amplified, and it's so obvious that Christmas is just a convenient commercial peg for companies to hang their hat on. BUT...BUT... I like all the razzmatazz, the gaudiness, the fakery. It doesn't for me, diminish one iota what some have started calling “the true meaning of Christmas”. The two can co-exist side by side surely.

2000 year ago, God became man, and that moment has spawned the largest festival in the world by far. We can celebrate that central tenet of the Christian religion and roast chestnuts on an open fire, wearing a gaudy Christmas jumper whilst having drunk far too much can't we? Perhaps we can't have one without the other?

Happy Christmas

November 100 Club results

No 66 Sue Low £5.

No 30 Janice Brace £10.

No 22 Joan Shaw £20

Please note: The BIG December draw will take place at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December. The new fee to join will go up from £12 to £15 per annum in January, and prizes will go up from £5, £10 and £20 to £10, £15, and £25 per month. The amounts for the Christmas draw will remain the same. This will give better prizes and an extra £135 to the church, making the total £735, so win/win!

Fiona Hennah

St Peter's Christmas Fair: 6th December in the Peter Hall from 10 am to 12 pm. Do come along and enjoy a festive morning with plenty to buy, cakes, plants and refreshments. All proceeds will support the upkeep of St Peter's Church. Everyone welcome!

Budleigh Salterton Ladies Choir Christmas Concert

This will be on Wednesday 10th December at 7pm in St Peter's Church. Tickets £10 - seasonal refreshments included - cash, card, contactless on the door. We are raising money for the Devon Freewheelers Blood Bike Service
Maggie Cairns and Bernie Isaac

Exeter Festival Chorus Concert on 13th December

This will mark a series of 12 events that bring the Christmas season into close proximity with other dates in the month of December. The programme weaves secular and sacred music of celebration into the Christmas narrative. There will be audience carols and seasonal refreshments. Tickets are now available online. There will be a collection in aid of Eden Project charities.
Shirley Tanner

Events at Budleigh Library (in brief!): Photography exhibition about young people's experiences of mental health (1st to 13th December). Energy saving advice drop in session (4th December, 10 am to 12 noon). Christmas crafts drop in event (Saturday 13th December, 10 am to 12 noon).

Chris Parrish

Chris, aged 94, died on November 1st. Janet his wife, and later Chris on his own, were some of the hardest workers we have ever had in our church. They would turn their hands to anything anywhere and anytime. From organising Flower Festivals, re-varnishing the church tiled flooring, replacing a castor, building a small strong trolley for the brass lectern, so it could be moved easily for the Music/Literary Festivals, (both great income providers for the church) all of these were grist to the Parrish mill.

When do we get fried bread for breakfast? Well annually at the Cancer Research Big Breakfast: who helped organise this and worked like slaves— you've guessed it! Who organised the Annual Barbecue and struck a deal with Porky Down the butcher for both events — Of course it was!

We are so grateful to have been around while both Janet & Chris were still around. Luckily there is still a small cohort that remains in our congregation who aided and abetted the Parrishes — all is not lost!

Sally & Pat Rogers

Rosemary Humphries tells me that Chris 'invented' the Mini-Mag – what a legacy! *Editor Lizzy*

Devon County Council consultation about the library service

There is to be a consultation about the future of all Devon libraries; at the time of writing it will start on 1st December and run until 22nd February. For those of us who love our library, it will be really important to have as many responses as possible. Information will be available about how to respond will be available in the library and in many other places. *Editor Lizzy, and member of the Friends of the Library*

Mothers Union

The November meeting was well attended to hear an informative and salutary talk given by Mick Harrison, a retired policeman, about on line and telephone scamming. A summary of his advice can be obtained from me.
Alison Newson

Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir

On Saturday 20th December at 7.00pm the Choir will perform their Annual Christmas Carol Concert at St Peter's Church. The concert programme will include a guest soprano and the opportunity for the audience to join in with several well-known carols. Tickets are £12, which can be obtained from the Choir's website www.budleighmvc.co.uk or purchased from "Reflections" at 25 High Street from early December. Tickets can be purchased on the night as cash on the door. *Richard Gerry BSMVC Secretary*



Shoe boxes for Ukraine and Moldova

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the boxes and donated over £300. The money will be used to supplement boxes also help with the cost of the transport. CREE, Christian response to Eastern Europe are absolutely delighted.
Sue Low, Alison Newson

Church Audio Visual Equipment

Having received an unexpected legacy in 2025, the PCC has decided to upgrade the audio visual equipment, which was very old and showing signs of unreliability and inflexibility. We hope the congregation will notice the benefits of the new equipment. The cost of this upgrade exceeded the amount of the legacy. Any contributions towards this project would be gratefully received and would help to protect the PCC's financial reserves.

Tony Gray, PCC Treasurer

Open the Book

A big thank you to Jenny (St Peter's) and Ann (Temple) who looked after Open the Book while I was away and to Hazel, Jenny and Nicky (all St Peter's) who wrote each month for the mini-mag. We only have three Open the Books after half term and before Christmas so we have continued with two stories about Jacob from Genesis before the Christmas story in early December. Please pray for the team as we prepare each time and for the children who take part or watch.

Jean Burrows

A little something

The John Lewis Christmas advert, 'Where Love Lives,' tells a moving story. A teenage son gives his dad a vinyl record. When the father plays it the familiar tune takes him back—to dancing, laughter and the joy of being alive. No speeches, no explanations. Just a gift that says what words can't. The tagline is 'If you can't find the words, find the gift.' It's clever marketing but it's also deeply Christian because the first Christmas was exactly that: God finding the gift when words were no longer enough. In the advert, the father and son reconnect through a record, a song that bridges the silence between them. At Bethlehem, God and humanity are reconciled through a person, a Saviour who bridges the gap between heaven and earth. We don't need the words but we do need to open the gift.

Jean Burrows

Wendy & Yong – our Mission Partners – News

Wendy & Yong have been settling back into our work and life back home in Cambodia. Despite mobility limitations, Yong has been working from home supporting various organisations programming support and timetabling. Wendy has joined the team facilitating a new cohort of 16 international and Cambodian believers who want to deepen their faith through the Journey Deeper course. The course started with a 3 day retreat at a venue in Phnom Penh. They pray it would be fruitful for each participant learning more about listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Andrew Kingsnorth Mission Representative

People in our church : Tony Gray

Tony was born in Tynemouth on the north bank of the River Tyne, which makes him a Geordie, and he has followed Newcastle United Football Club ever since! He grew up in Whitley Bay and played cricket and football for many years. He went to St Peter's Church Monkseaton, and at the age of 15 joined the church youth club, part of the Anglican Young People's Association. Later he became treasurer of the York Provincial Council of the AYPAs, and was a PCC member at the young age of 20! After the sixth form he went to work on a training contract in Newcastle to be a chartered accountant, which took more than five years.

Once qualified, Tony came to work for KPMG who had an office in Exeter, and he lived in the centre of Lympstone. The work mainly involved auditing big companies, and in his spare time he became heavily involved with the Lympstone Players (his last play was the Scottish play, when he played Duncan).

Tony joined Colas, a subsidiary of Shell, where he was Regional Finance Manager in Exeter for six years, then Finance Director of the company at head office, near Gatwick. Tony enjoyed the job, which came with good benefits, and he lived in the Weald of Kent; a nice place to live. Tony started umpiring cricket, later covering the County Premier League, which encompasses the top clubs in the county playing against each other. Later he became an umpire instructor. He became a trustee of the company pension scheme, which he still is. In time he negotiated leaving the company to work as a consultant which meant he could move back to the south-west. He first moved to Granary Lane and undertook local client work, which he finished six years ago.



Robert Charles asked Tony to be a deputy warden soon after starting to worship at St Peter's Church here in Budleigh, and Tony became treasurer of the PCC in 2012 (with the proviso that he would stop being a deputy warden). The role has changed considerably since 2012, with more rules and legislation to be complied with.

Tony's uncle was a budgerigar breeder, and when living in Budleigh, Tony followed suit. These were show birds, not pet birds. He bought birds from the National Champion Breeder who lived in Bridgwater, and Tony's sixty birds were all based on the genes of those birds. Tony was very successful, and won many rosettes. He enjoyed the breeding through the winter, and the shows in the summer. Unfortunately the dust from the bird's cages caused problems with Tony's lungs, and he had to stop breeding the birds.

Tony has now taken up bowls, and enjoys the banter with the bunch of fellows, like most sports. Tony enjoys seeing his children and grandchildren, some of whom live near Maidenhead and some in the Chew Valley near Bristol. Tony's daughter is a musician and garden designer, and his son is a GP. The families are all sporty and are a happy lot!

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

Monday 1st 2.30 onwards : Bay Court Coffee afternoon
Tuesday 2nd : St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel
Saturday 6th 10 am to 12 pm : Christmas Fair in the Peter Hall (see elsewhere for details)
Tuesday 9th: 2.30 pm : Mother's Union – Christmas Celebrations
Wednesday 10th : Budleigh Salterton Ladies Choir concert (details elsewhere)
Thursday 11th 12.15 pm : Loaves and Fishes lunch, Peter Hall. Book with Fran, or Mary Jones on 443333 by six days in advance. Cost £10
Saturday 13th : Exeter Festival Chorus concert (details elsewhere)
Sunday 14th 6 pm : Choral Evensong
Thursday 18th 8.45 am : Men's Breakfast, Wesley's (Methodist Church Hall). Book with Malcolm Jones on 443333 by three days in advance
Saturday 20th: Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir concert (details elsewhere)
Sunday 21st 12.30 pm : Solos Lunch. Book with Fran or Christine Channon on 442927
Sunday 21st 6 pm : Family Carol Service
Christmas Eve 5 pm : Christingle Service
Christmas Eve 11 pm :Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8 am and 10 am : Holy Communion service
Rendezvous Café every Friday at 10 am in the Peter Hall

SERVICES

Sundays Holy Communion at 8 am and 10 am Choral Evensong 6 pm **Second Sunday**

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 9.30 am

For services at the other RMC churches see www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk

CONTACTS (landlines all begin with 01395)

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To join the Mini-Mag email list, please send your address to Lizzy Doorbar at doorbars@btinternet.com

Contributions to the Mini-Mag are most welcome – please send them to me by the 20th of the month.