

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG

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



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Gillian Andrews 444095

DECEMBER 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES

We can see the light!

This news that there is a distinct possibility that a Covid-19 vaccine is quite close is probably the best early Christmas present anyone could have asked for. Now we just have to manage the dark winter months and the present lockdown and whatever follows that until the vaccine(s) finally comes on stream. But I find that these current restrictions are suddenly much easier to bear because we have glimpsed the light at the end of the tunnel.

The four weeks before Christmas are called Advent, which looks forward to the coming of the eternal light of God into the world at Bethlehem. The most common Advent motif is "Darkness to light" and the spirit of the season is anticipation.

As we sit in eager anticipation of a vaccine to a nasty virus, we also wait in eager anticipation of Christ coming into the world.

What we are celebrating at Christmas is God's permanent loving and redeeming presence in the world. A loving presence that did not just begin and end with the life of Jesus.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" is said near the beginning and near to the end of the book of Revelation.

Which means that the whole of creation came from God and will end in God and Jesus was God's revelation to the world – in historical time - to show us his eternal loving will and purposes.

The celebration of Jesus' birth every year at Christmas is the celebration of the eternal light of God in the darkness that came to demonstrate his unending love for all created things – yes, even you and me.

Love and prayers,

Martin

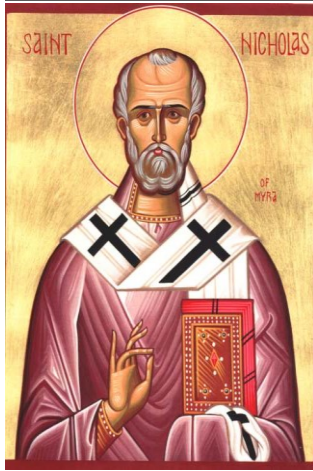
Sock Sundays



St. Petrock's organisation once again welcomes donations of hats, scarves, gloves and socks to be distributed to homeless people in Exeter this winter. If possible, please bring gifts of new or nearly new garments, plus gifts of chocolate for some festive cheer, to church on December 6 or December 13. We can't cope with large items such as coats or jumpers. For enquiries please phone 442951. If you want to know more about the work of St Petrock's visit stpetrocks.org.uk.

STOP PRESS! See Page 2 for news of our filmed Advent Service and Page 4 for winners of the big Christmas 100 Club draw!

St Nicholas – a Much-Loved Saint



St Nicholas was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is now the south coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while he was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made **Bishop of Myra** while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships. In later life, he was imprisoned with other bishops and priests under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire. Released by Constantine the Great, he attended the Council of Nicea, which produced the Nicene Creed. Nicholas was determined to spread abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang up Christmas stockings today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags

of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging up stockings on Christmas Eve in the hope of attracting presents. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving in much of Europe, particularly in Holland where he is known as Sinterklaas - Santa Claus in English.

CMS AND THE SHARLANDS The retiring collection in aid of CMS on Mission Sunday raised **£500.40**. Very many thanks to those who contributed. It has been possible, thanks to Lucinda, to download on to the RMC website an amateur video shot a few years ago, providing a glimpse of David and Heather's work and surroundings in Northern Uganda. The quality isn't marvellous, but it's good enough to gain a general impression. Please take an opportunity to go to the RMC web site Home Page, under the heading "St Peter's Overseas Mission Partners" click on "Here" which takes you to a brief summary of their activities with a further link to the YouTube video. We have received a newsletter describing some of the effects of Covid 19 on their work which is on the same page on the website and on the Missions notice board in Church. John Hutchinson, CMS rep.

Apologies - New PCC Members Our November report omitted to mention the two new members elected to the PCC - Beryl Schmidt-Rieche and Lizzy Doorbar (who is also quite new to the parish, so welcome Lizzy!).

Congratulations to All Saints Church The churchyard was awarded a Highly Commended in the best churchyard awards run by Devon CRPE (the Campaign to Protect Rural England). The awards celebrate churchyards which are managed to provide a peaceful haven for people and wildlife.

Christmas Treats for Food Bank Clients Pat and Sally Rogers would like to thank everyone for the wonderful response to this appeal.

Christingle There will be a Retiring Collection at the 10am service on December 20 in aid of the Children's Society because we are not having our Christingle service on Christmas Eve. Rev Karen has been filmed making a Christingle which will be shown to all the children in our 3 schools. We are providing each child, approx 400, with an orange and the wherewithal to make a Christingle at school.

Pauline Wallis We shall miss Pauline who has left Budleigh and moved to Dorset to be nearer her family. She was a familiar figure, bustling around the church and a regular server at the Wednesday Communion service. She was also Secretary of the Mothers' Union and very supportive of parish life.

Mothers' Union Christmas Boxes Through CREE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe) the MU has sent 40 Christmas shoeboxes to Moldova with suitable items for girls, boys and families, together with a donation of £70.

Advent Service

Message from Lucinda Stuart-Banks: *The RMC Advent Service will be live from Sunday 29 November - Advent Sunday. The YouTube link will be found on the Home page of the website. I hope you will all enjoy this service as much as we did filming it!*

Exmouth Community Larder Demand is going up – by mid-November it was up by 20% on the peak months. Families have lost income due to the pandemic and delays in Universal Credit coming through. Please carry on with your contributions – either financial or by putting food/household items into the local Supermarket collection boxes – and make this festive period as widespread to the needy families as possible. If sending money – please make cheques payable to The Salvation Army (on the reverse write "Community Larder"). Send to Exmouth Community Larder, c/o Salvation Army Hall, Sheppards Row, Exmouth, EX8 1PW. Thanks to everybody who contributes. The Larder is closed on Christmas Day but will re-open with its dedicated volunteers on Bank Holiday Monday.

ROOTS & SHOOTS

Weekly e-newsletter from the Diocese of Exeter

Packed full of resources for churches, news stories, messages from Senior Clergy, future events and much more!

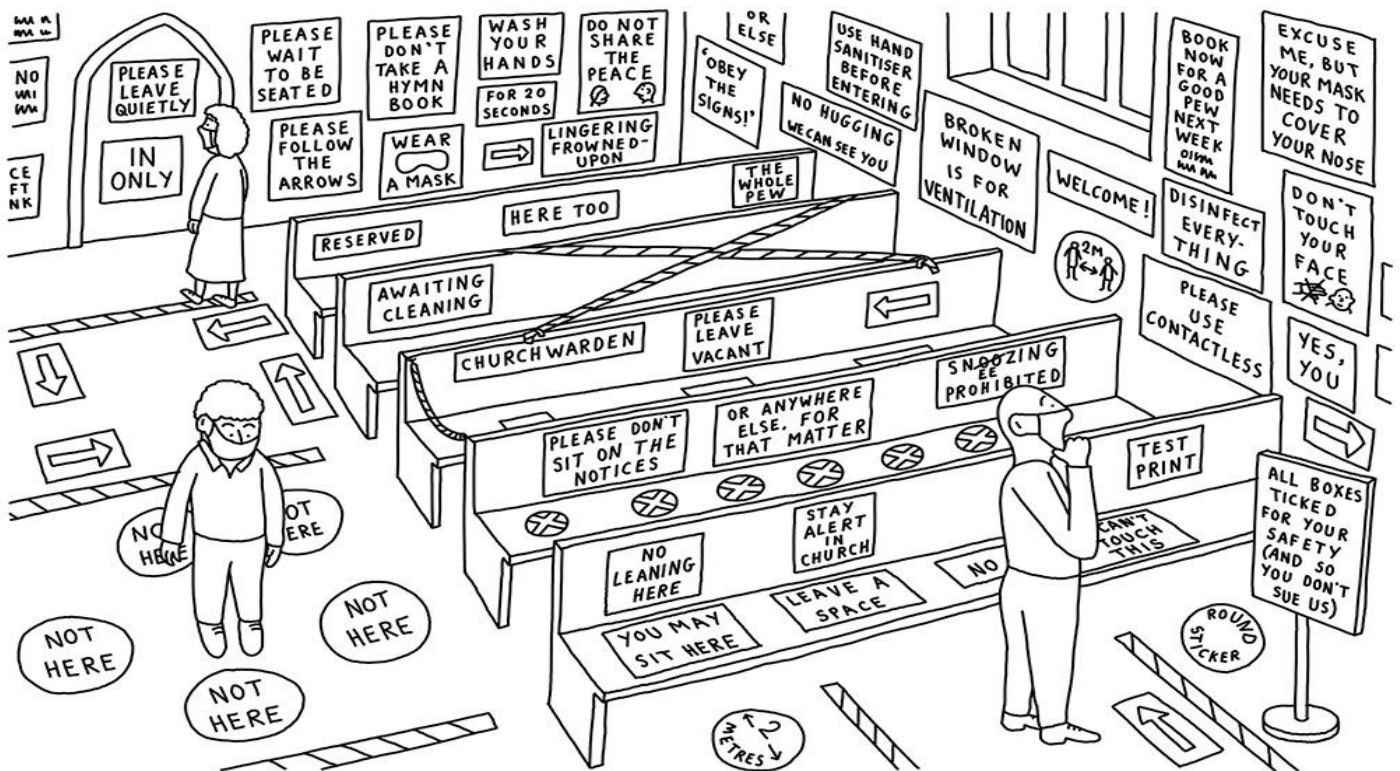
To sign up visit www.exeter.anglican.org and go to the bottom of the homepage

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON



SIGNAGE

DURING A PANDEMIC



NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S SCHOOL



The Head reports that so far there has not been an outbreak of COVID involving pupils or staff at the school. He says this must be due in part to luck, but also to the good systems and rule-following in Budleigh! (and the ongoing planning and hard work of the staff! Eds)

Open the Book The Bible Society has a new booklet – *It Begins in Bethlehem A Nativity Rhyme for Christmastime* – a very modern version. As the teams can't visit the schools for the usual Christmas performances the churches have bought 400 of these booklets – one for each child in the 3 RMC schools. An animated version can be seen at www.biblesociety.org.uk/nativityrhyme

100 Club

WINNERS OF THE 100 CLUB CHRISTMAS DRAW.2020

£100: Revd Martin Jacques

£50: Jackie Clemo

£30: Sonia Brookes

£20: Lillian Grainger

£10: Pat Morley

£5: Pat Rogers

November winners were £20 Neville Humphreys, £10 Betty Clement, £5 Gill Shilcock.

Congratulations everyone!



Fiona Hennah presents the Vicar with his winning envelope!

To renew your membership for 2021 there are three options, either

1. By cash (£12) to Fiona Hennah, 21 Clinton Terrace, B/S, EX9 6RY
 2. By cheque for £12, payable to St Peter's PCC by post to Fiona Hennah, or put in my church pigeon hole.
 3. By BACS direct bank transfer into the church account, using Sort Code: 09-01-28 and Account Number:96051138, giving your initial, surname and 100 club as Reference.
- I will put all new membership cards in the pigeon holes in church as soon as possible for you to collect. Please continue to support this very worthwhile fund raiser which raised over £750 for our church this year. In case of any problems, my telephone number is 488671. **Fiona Hennah**

Latest total for The Gift Day is £6057 with over £1000 in Gift Aid to come.

We send love and best wishes to Gillian Andrews who has been in hospital but hopes to be home soon.

Services

We hope to return to normal services from Sunday 6 December. There will be a Christmas Family Service planned for Sunday 20 December at 6pm (when we would normally have held a carol service).

Midnight Mass will take place at 11pm on Thursday 24th December and services of Holy Communion at 8am and 11am on Christmas Day. Please see the church notice board and the weekly Pew Sheet for the latest information. No Communion service on Wednesday 30 December.

QUICK CONTACTS

VICAR: The Revd. Martin Jacques, The New Vicarage, Vicarage Road, East Budleigh, EX9 6EF
vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk (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: Wed 10am-12noon, Fri 10am-2pm

DIGITAL MINI-MAG

If you would like to receive the Mini-Mag online then please send your email address to Gillian on;

gillian.heathfield@gmail.com You can also read the Mini-Mag on the parish website

<https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/st-peters-parish-magazine.html>