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The Spire

The Parish Magazine
CHRIST CHURCH
— Southgate —

December 2019 & January 2020



15 December
Christingle



20 December
Nine Lessons and Carols



19 January
Epiphany Carol Service



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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

This Magazine is being published on the 1st December which is also the First Sunday of Advent. That means that unusually the opening of Advent calendars (not Christmas Countdown calendars) will really start at the very beginning of Advent, closely followed by the departure of Mary, Joseph and the donkey on their travels to Bethlehem.

Advent calendars have become more and more complicated over recent years. A quick check in the shops at the end of November found calendars that have a huge range of things behind their daily doors, including candles, teabags, pieces of Lego, cosmetics, jewellery, cheeses, bottles of gin, hot chocolate, jelly beans etc., etc. They all make a piece of chocolate look quite tame. What they are all doing is counting up to Christmas as the end of the season, when in fact – as we all know – the 12 days of Christmas **start** on Christmas Day.

Counting of things has always been a theme of the Nativity. After all, Mary and Joseph only set off to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. December is full of counting and lists, such as numbers of mince pies, presents, Christmas cards (sent and received), stamps, places at the table, crackers, sprouts, beds and chairs, carols, more mince pies. (If you need any help with your count of stocking fillers, the Choir's new Christmas CD has 19 carols on it and is the ideal gift!)

However, this year is very different in that, as well as the census for Mary and Joseph, halfway through the countdown the whole nation will be travelling to be counted at their local Polling Station on 12th December. If you live in the Southgate Green Ward, that polling station will be in Christ Church for the first time, as the Walker School is in the process of being demolished and rebuilt. So, if that affects you, please come to

church on the 12th December to vote – it is an important right we all have, so exercise it with care.

As well as days and votes, we will be counting tags on this year’s gift tree – where you take a tag and buy a present that the particular child would really want to open on the big day. This year we are supporting KidsOut, who are aiming to make sure every child in a Women’s Aid Refuge has the opportunity to receive a present this Christmas. Please support this worthwhile cause.

If you want to help other counting, you could help with increasing the count of the numbers

of people coming to church this Christmas. We have lots of lovely occasions to bring your friends and neighbours to, young and old, so that we can all get together to sing the traditional carols to celebrate the coming of the ONE Christ Child – the reason for all the counting. All are always very welcome here at Christ Church.

Wherever you find yourself, and whoever you are with, may the Christ Child be born again in your heart. Have a blessed Christmas and a joyful new year.

Fr Chrichton

Stewardship

This month I thought that I would share details of the income and expenditure of the Parochial Fund which is where we record Christ Church’s income and expenditure.

At the beginning of each year we set a budget for income and expenditure, this year the totals are as follows:

- Total income is expected to be £151,000
- Normal running costs are expected to be £160,000

This year therefore we expect to have to dip into our reserves to the tune of £9,000.

At the present time the donations from the current congregation together with the Gift Aid recovered accounts for only 64% of the income. Property and Investment income accounts for 36%.

This shows that we are heavily reliant on rental income to cover our day to day expenses. Without that, our reserves will

soon be depleted. It is therefore incumbent on us, the present congregation and members of Christ Church, to play our part in increasing the income and thereby eliminating the deficit.

If you are not part of our Stewardship Scheme please seriously consider completing an application for the **Parish Giving Scheme**. The forms are available in the rack at the back of church by the north door. My contact details are in the back of The Spire if you want to discuss any aspect of stewardship.

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder



WHAT WE SING IN CHURCH

Wake, O Wake! with tidings thrilling (New English Hymnal, No. 16)



This rousing hymn embodies the whole expectation of Advent and was written in German at the very end of the sixteenth century by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), a Lutheran pastor (see picture, right). At the time of writing this hymn he was pastor at Unna in Westphalia. In 1597 there was a terrible plague in the town in which, in just over six months, more than 1,300 people died and Nicolai was regularly burying up to 30 of his parishioners a day.

Feeling in need of comfort, he reread St. Augustine's *City of God* and then wrote a book of meditations called *A Mirror of Joy*. He wrote of his own book: 'There seemed to me nothing more sweet, delightful and agreeable than the contemplation of the noble sublime doctrine of eternal life. I gave to my manuscript the name of *Mirror of Joy* to leave behind me (if God should call me from this world) as the token of my peaceful joyful Christian departure, or (if God should spare me in health) to comfort other sufferers whom He should also visit with this pestilence'.

The translation in our hymnbooks was made by Francis Crawford Burkitt (1864-1935), a distinguished biblical and patristic scholar who was Norris Professor of Divinity at Cambridge from 1905 to 1935.

The watchmen referred to verses 1 and 2 the writer has taken from Isaiah 52:8: 'Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.'

The hymn is very largely based on Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids told in Matthew 25. And we are also told in Revelation the Lamb is the bridegroom and the Holy City New Jerusalem is his bride. (Rev. 21:2)

The supper we may share in verse 2 might be a reference to the Eucharist or to the heavenly banquet in Isaiah 25.

The traditional themes of Advent are death, judgement, heaven and hell and the writer of this hymn has taken heaven as his theme in the last verse.



The ideas of this hymn are summed up in St. Paul's letter to the Romans: 'It is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.' (Romans 13:11)

Cathy Dallman

The Wise and Foolish Virgins by Sir Frederick Leighton.

[[Jim Champion / *The Leighton Fresco, St Michael and All Angels church, Lyndhurst* / [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/)]]



KidsOut

THE FUN & HAPPINESS CHARITY

Most children living in refuge arrive with only the clothes on their backs, having left all that is familiar to escape abuse. These children deserve more, and through the Giving Tree, we work to ensure every child in refuge receives a present over the festive season.

Support the Giving Tree



Take a tag



Buy a toy



RECEPTION

Bring it back



KidsOut give presents to disadvantaged children

Follow @KidsOut on social media and see the difference we are making to the lives of disadvantaged children!



#GivingTree2019

www.kidsout.org.uk / 01525 385252 / Reg. Charity No: 1075789

Christmas Giving

Giving presents is such a lovely thing to do. One of life's joys. By now a lot of us will have made that list, which usually has one or two people that we have no idea of what to get... again.

My plea here is that we try and think a little 'green' or 'eco' before we buy. Here are a few considerations:

- Shop local, support local businesses, buy local produce, keep that carbon footprint low.
- Consider making gifts yourself. Use your talents to make food gifts or crafts.
- Consider the packaging of bought gifts: glass bottles/jars, paper, cardboard, recyclable/compostable wrapping is all good.
- Give experiences that create memories, for example theatre/concert/cinema tickets, sporting events, dining, creative experiences. We are all so fortunate in that we have lots of 'things' so gifts of this nature are often so very appreciated and enjoyed.
- Look at the eco websites for gift ideas. They exist now for practically anything we're looking for; toys, clothes, household goods etc. There are many lovely items that are made completely from recycled materials.
- If at all possible, avoid the plastic, hard though it is.
- Gifts to charities at this time of the year are also the choice of many instead of, for example, sending out Christmas cards or buying other presents.

Enjoy the giving however much or little it is and if you're lucky, the receiving too.

Of course, we can all give those gifts that money can't buy: love, kindness, compassion amongst others. Without the giving of ourselves to others, the rest would mean nothing.

Dear God,

Be with us as we are ever mindful of the true meaning of Christmas in our lives today. Let us not be overwhelmed by the commercial frenzy and modern expectations placed on us. Send the Holy Spirit to enable us to hold true to our values and play our part in the giving of peace and love to all mankind, in a world that is so often struggling.

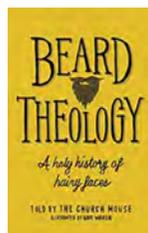
Thank you, Lord, for the greatest gift to mankind of all time, your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sandra Anderson

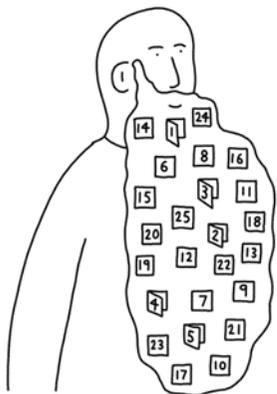


Beard Theology: a holy history of hairy faces,
by The Church Mouse. Hodder & Stoughton, 2019.
174 pages; ISBN 978 1 529 31863 0.



As the owner of a beard for more than fifty years this book has proved absolutely fascinating, and I commend it to all as the perfect Christmas present for a hirsute friend or partner.

The title sounds like a joke, and the subject is one that lends itself to humorous treatment. The result is hugely entertaining, but the research has been thorough and serious, which is what makes reading the book so very worthwhile.



BEARDS IN RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS:
 THE BEARDVENT CALENDAR

These days, growing a beard (or not) is a matter of personal preference: I grew mine because at the time I sang as a countertenor, and it was then customary for countertenors and male altos to be bearded (e.g., Alfred Deller, Grayston Burgess, Geoffrey Mitchell, etc.) to indicate that their high voices were not the consequence of something lacking elsewhere.

In the past, as the author shows, a beard – and the right kind of beard – ‘has been, if not quite a matter of life and death, at least a matter of spiritual life and death. [...] People argued about beards, taxed them, banned them and fought over them on ideological and theological grounds. [...] Having the wrong beard at the wrong time in history could be seriously bad news for the beard-wearer in question.’

Female pharaohs wore fake beards, and (apparently) Henry VIII had a beard-growing competition with the king of France. Peter the Great in 1698 imposed a beard tax in order to encourage Russian men to look like the modern, trendy Europeans he had seen on his recent European tours. Most significantly, generations of artists have depicted Jesus with a beard, although there are no contemporary descriptions – in the Bible or anywhere else – or images of him until two hundred years after his death. (He probably did have a beard, for he was an observant Jew and all observant Jews in his time had long beards.)

I was gratified to read that, in the opinion of St Augustine of Hippo, ‘the beard signifies the courageous; the beard distinguishes the grown men, the active, the vigorous’. What more is there to say?

There *is* one more thing: the book is enhanced by the illustrations of the brilliant Dave Walker, whose work graces the pages of the *Church Times* every week (see example above).

In the end, however, it is perhaps the prophet Samuel whom we should heed, for God told him (1 Samuel 16:7): ‘The Lord does not look at things the people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart’.

Garry Humphreys



Annual Christmas Raffle 2019

We are pleased to announce that tickets will be on sale for this year's raffle at the end of the main services as usual up until and including the Nine Lessons and Carol Service

1st Prize - Luxury Christmas Hamper
Plus lots of other prizes to be won!

Ticket price: £2 per strip of tickets and proceeds to support a worthwhile children's cause

THE LUNCH BOX!

Charity Lunches

Held on Saturdays in Church House,
12 for 12.30. £5.00

(Main course & dessert, a glass of wine or fruit juice, followed by tea or coffee.)

All proceeds to a good cause.

Everyone welcome – Come and support us!

25 January
28 March
30 May
11 July
26 September
28 November

Lunch Fellowship

Held in church – 2nd Wednesday of the month, following the 11 o'clock service.

Sandwiches + dessert. Followed by a raffle, with a talk, quiz or a discussion.
Everyone welcome – Come and join us!

11 December 2019

8 January	12 February
11 March	8 April
13 May	10 June
8 July	12 August
9 September	14 October
11 November	9 December

Prayer of the month

It's the time of year for celebration, new life, new hope and... new resolutions. As we move into 2020, all but destroying our planet as we go, it's clearly time to pause, reflect and think carefully about everything from our choice of (glitter-free) Christmas cards and wrapping paper to whether we need the plastic packaging around our Christmas gifts and the food we eat. Now is the time to start afresh – a New Year, new resolve and a new beginning.

81-year-old Sister Miriam Therese Winter wrote her first poem at the age of 6 and began playing the piano at 7. Her life has been spent as a Medical Mission Sister, spreading love, care and protection across the world through medicine and music. Today, she's a renowned theologian, musician, author and poet, and Professor of Liturgy, Worship, Spirituality, and Feminist Studies at Hartford Seminary (a non-denominational theological college in Connecticut). This prayer is her prayer to save the world – let's make it **our** prayer, too.

*Creator of Earth
and of all earth's children,
Creator of soil and sea and sky
and the tapestries of stars,
we turn to you for guidance
as we look on our mutilated planet,
and pray it is not too late for us
to rescue our wounded world.
We have been so careless.
We have failed to nurture the fragile life
you entrusted to our keeping.
We beg you for forgiveness
and ask you to begin again.
Be with us in our commitment to earth.
Let all the earth say: Amen.*

[from Dorothy M. Stewart (2002) *Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*. Westminster John Knox Press: London]



Angels

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www.PSALM.org.uk



*Bringing
Great News!
A workshop
involving
discussion and
sharing, craft,
play reading,
and poetry*



Monday 16 December 2019 11am - 3pm

Venue: St Pancras Church House, 1 Lancing Street, NW1 1NA

Coffee etc at 10.30am, prompt start at 11am. Please bring a packed lunch but drinks will be provided.

Cost £10 (£8 for PSALM members – Christ Church has two subsidised places – ask Patricia Ashby).

To book your place return a booking slip (available on the board at the back of church to):

PSALM, St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London, NW1 2BA

Or email your details to: psalm@stpancraschurch.org, or leave a message on 020 7388 1461

Praise and Thought for Christmas – Can we not love Him as He loves us? Lynda's letter to the Christ child.

Adeste fideles. Born this happy morning...
Word of the Father, Now in Flesh appearing...
Child for us sinners...

Think of these words from the carol... Can we not do this? Pure innocent love himself, giving up His heavenly home to come to earth as a baby and Holy God. 'Oh come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord. Who could not love Him, loving us so dearly?'

What a beautiful hymn, Jesus: *Take My Life and Let It Be, Consecrated Lord to Thee.* I ask:

- Take my heart; it is Thine own. It shall be Thy royal throne.
- Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
- Take my will, and make it Thine; it will be no longer mine.
- Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.
- Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Amen.

Lynda Corcoran



Christchurch Association News

The Christchurch Association (CCA) provides a social centre for the parish, and runs the “Top Step Bar” which serves soft and alcoholic drinks upstairs in Church House.

The CCA “Top Step Bar” opens early at 6 pm on the first Friday of each month, the **next two occasions** being **Fridays 6th December** and **3rd January** when complimentary cheese and snacks will be served between 6 and 11 pm.

We will be serving **Prosecco and Mince Pies** in church after both the Advent Carol Service on **Sunday 1st December** and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on **Friday 20th December**.

On **Sunday 26th January** we will be hosting our annual celebration of **Burns’ Night** from 7:30 pm in the Reception Room (bar). The evening will feature the traditional meal of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, Burns’s *Ode to the Haggis* and Scottish music and drinks. There will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of food.

All membership subscriptions become due for renewal on 1st January. Membership costs just £2 per year and you can renew by visiting the bar during opening hours (see below) or contacting Clive.

The Top Step Bar is open on a regular basis as follows (except during August and on the 22nd, 25th, 27th and 29th December):

Sundays from 7:30 to 10:30 pm

Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 11 pm

Early opening at **6 pm** on the first Friday of every month

The CCA is a Registered Club with membership open to anyone who worships at Christ Church, lives in the parish or uses the church halls. Membership costs just £2 per year and new members are always welcome. Please contact Clive for more information or if you would like to become a member.

Clive Woodhouse (Chairman, Christchurch Association)

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Thank you for all the contributions which enabled us to send 61 shoe box Christmas presents plus £310 towards postage to **Operation Christmas Child** this year. I'm sure they will be much appreciated.

The faces of the children in the photograph were also lit up when they were given the jumpers that were hand knitted by Jean Thomas. The children attend the Magoso school in Kibera, one of the biggest slums in **Kenya**. Magoso is not an official school, but a place of welcome, sanctuary, safety, education & most importantly FOOD for about 500 children. We have a direct link through Anne Nicholls who some of you will know through the Night Shelter. Anne is also involved in getting groups together to teach them how to make sanitary wear for girls who cannot do everyday things, like going to school, because they do not have any protection.



At our next **Charities Lunch** on January 25th 2020 we will serve Delia's special Shepherd's pie and raise funds for Anne and her efforts as she prepares for her next trip to Africa in March.

The next **Lunch Fellowship** is on 11th December. Please see the **Lunch Box** for all our Charities Lunch and Lunch Fellowship dates for 2020.

From Advent Sunday our **Christmas stalls** and **Gift Tree** will be in church. Please sample our preserves; buy your Christmas cards or a piece of jewellery or something from the craft or gift stall. Proceeds will go to **NET Patient Foundation** (the neuroendocrine tumour patient foundation) in memory of Graham Stone. This year the charity we are sending presents to from our Gift Tree is **Kids Out#Make Kids Happy**. Please take a tag, buy the present for the named child & return it to church by the 15th December. Presents should not be wrapped but placed either in a box or in a gift bag. Gifts go to children who are living in a shelter after leaving home for sanctuary. We have 76 gifts to buy this year so please do your best.

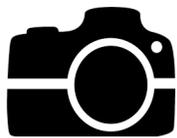
Our **Christmas Raffle** is already up & running.

The final total raised for **Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB)** through the pilgrimage in September was £2,400. Much was gained not only by the pilgrims but also for this very worthy cause.

Harvest gifts in October were divided between HAB and the **North Enfield Food Bank**. Both these organisations continue to need our contributions at Christmas time and through this cold winter weather so they can supply some comfort to the homeless and hungry.

Once again, many thanks for your continuing support, enabling us to give to these numerous charities.

Hilary Meur



Parish Life in Pictures November 2019



We baptised and welcomed Aidan into the Church family



Jackie was thanked for her continuing ministry as a LLM with cake and fizz



Claire and Johannes were confirmed by Bishop Rob at St Andrew's

We celebrated our Patronal Festival with an evening of musical excellence at our annual concert





Row 1: the annual visit from the Beavers and Cubs to remember those who lost their lives in war. They learnt about the flags in Church and lit a candle in memory of a name on the memorial; our Act of Remembrance

Row 2: Fr Chrichton was privileged to lead the short service of Remembrance for Quantum Care Homes in the aircraft hangar at the De Havilland Aircraft Museum before a lunch and tea dance celebrating the war achievements of many of their residents

Row 3: Fr Chrichton led the Act of Remembrance in Broomfield Park

Diary Dates



Sunday 1st December 6.30 pm

Advent Procession

Set off on the road to Christmas with our traditional Candlelit Advent Procession service, featuring beautiful music from our renowned choir and seasonal readings



Sunday 15th December 4.00 pm

Christingle Service

Come for an hour of Christmas Candles and Sweets with a traditional orange. Take a giant orange selfie and sing some carols while supporting the work of the Children's Society.



Friday 20th December 7.30 pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

Have the full traditional Christmas Experience with an evening of the carols and readings you know so well. Enjoy listening to the singing of the choir and joining in! Stay for the seasonal refreshments afterwards.



**Sunday 22nd December, 10 am
Pop-up Nativity**

Our Eucharist will include the organised chaos of our Pop-up Nativity where anything can happen, and usually does.



**Tuesday 24th December, 5.00 pm
Family Crib Service**

Follow the story of the nativity as the Christmas Crib is built with the familiar words, music and carols to sing.



**Tuesday 24th December, 11.30 pm
Midnight Mass**

Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with our sung Eucharist of the Nativity



**Wednesday 25th December
8.00 am and 10.00 am
Christmas Morning Eucharist
Services**

Join us for a quiet start to Christmas Day at 8 am, or come at 10 am for Christmas Communion with Carols

**Sunday 19th January, 6.30 pm
Epiphany Carol Service**

Round off the Christmas Season with a final retelling of the story with words, carols and lots of singing.





Christmas comes to the Tiwi Islands...

In December, a big celebration on the Tiwi Islands, in the heat of the tropical summer, is a community festival complete with water slide, lucky dip, bouncy castle, BBQ – not so unlike our own May Fair – that signals Christmas is coming. The Tiwi people are culturally and linguistically unrelated to any mainland Australian Aborigines. Some 2,000 live on the two inhabited islands of the archipelago, Melville Island and the smaller Bathurst Island (which is open to tourists and visitors).

Over 85% of the islanders are Christian. Missionaries of the Sacred Heart arrived on the Tiwi Islands (by canoe) in 1911. A mission was established. Stories abound. The Tiwis embraced Christianity with enthusiasm and happily tell you they are Christians, and... they believe in ghosts! There would seem to be an irreconcilable conflict here and there's a lot of debate about it. But talking to the islanders, my feeling (as an outsider) is that the church has quietly accommodated the Tiwi culture, rather than the Tiwis changing their culture to accommodate the church. The two are almost seamlessly merged – and this raises some curious conundrums.

For example, until the 1970s, the cemetery on Bathurst Island was very traditional and strictly regulated – neatly fenced and gated, rows of marble headstones, statues and crosses. Space ran out and new ground was consecrated. The new cemetery is unfenced, untidy, and graves (which may still have headstones and Christian statuary) also bristle with colourful and elaborately carved *pukamani* (meaning 'taboo' or 'dangerous' in Tiwi). These spectacular funerary or grave poles, made by a designated relative, are maintained by successive generations until they decay beyond repair, and finally release the last traces of the spirit – the *moviditi* - of the deceased, setting it free to join the ancestors in the spirit world. (The formal process to liberate the spirit begins a few months after the Christian funeral with a public *pukamani* ceremony at the graveside, setting the spirit free to begin its journey; but it's only when the poles finally disintegrate, often many years later, that the process is completed.) These poles are beautiful, often up to seven or eight feet in height, and so sacred to the Tiwis that photography in the cemetery is forbidden, lest the spirit is stolen, captured in the photograph and can never be set free. Minibuses full of tourists drive the dusty unmade tracks between the graves with the express purpose of displaying the *pukamani*.





The beachside, stilted, St Therese's church is a large wooden building completed in 1945. Local ground-dwelling animals (bandicoots, echidnas, wallabies, buffalo...) are deterred from entering by the steep stairs. Christmas will be celebrated here against a backdrop of ethnic paintings and decorations. Midnight Mass will take place some 9½ hours before ours. My thoughts will be with my new friends.

Patricia Ashby

[Images: Dream time Christmas baubles, Pukanami display, Bathurst Island Museum, St Therese's Church, Bathurst Island]

New Choir Christmas CD for 2019

Christmas at Christ Church Southgate



The ideal accompaniment to your Christmas!

A treasured gift for family and friends!

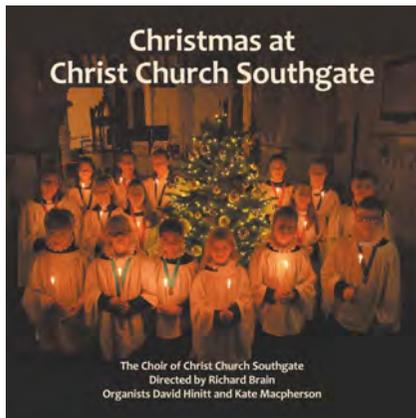
19 Christmas favourites including:

O Holy Night - Gaudete - I Saw Three Ships
In the Bleak Midwinter - Shepherd's Pipe Carol

Once in Royal David's City
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

And many more!

Price: £10



Christmas at Christ Church Southgate

- 1. Once in Royal David's City
 - 2. The Angel Gabriel
 - 3. Kings of Orient
 - 4. God rest you Merry Gentlemen
 - 5. Gaudete
 - 6. Away in a Manger
 - 7. O Little Town of Bethlehem
 - 8. Jesus Child
 - 9. I Saw Three Ships
 - 10. Shepherd's Pipe Carol
 - 11. The Little Road to Bethlehem
 - 12. Ding Dong! Merrily on High
 - 13. O Holy Night
 - 14. Silent Day Carol
 - 15. O Come all ye Faithful
 - 16. In the Bleak Midwinter
 - 17. O Magnum Mysterium
 - 18. Sussex Carol
 - 19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- H. J. Gauntlett, A. H. Mann, arr. David Willcocks
 - Basque traditional, arr. Edgar Pettman
 - John Henry Hopkins, Jr.
 - English traditional, arr. David Willcocks
 - Proven
 - W. J. Kirkpatrick, arr. David Willcocks
 - Francis Cross, arr. Ralph Vaughan-Williams
 - John Rutter, arr. Kenneth Pore
 - English traditional, arr. Richard Lloyd
 - John Rutter
 - Michael Head
 - Charles Wood
 - Adolphus Adams, arr. John Rutter
 - Cornish traditional, arr. John Rutter
 - J. F. Wicks, arr. David Willcocks
 - Norfolk Dancer
 - Marianne Lindquist
 - English traditional, arr. David Willcocks
 - Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, arr. David Willcocks

News from the committees

There has been a flurry of committee activity during November, most of which fed into **Finance & Standing** (which met on November 7th) and then **PCC** (which met on November 19th).

Plant & Fabric reported on completion of the roof work, progress with investigation of the sinking chancel floor, imminent installation of the new sound system, the new lighting system not far away now, plans for funding urgently needed organ repairs, issues with damp and water noise in the flats being addressed, and preparation for refurbishment of Oakfield road after the current tenants leave – a huge amount of hard work.

Outreach, reported by Fr Chrichton, included news of a Remembrance service which he led at the de Havilland Aircraft Museum, an upcoming Dignity Memorial service here in Christ Church (at 6.30 on 11th December), and plans for school services for St Paul's New Southgate including blessing their Prayer Garden, as well as a number of Advent and Christmas school visits here to Christ Church (including Walker School, Monkfrith School and Little Oaks Montessori nursery); we also heard of St Andrew's going ahead with the Night Shelter, and plans for possible involvement with Homeless Action Barnet (jointly with St John's, Palmers Green).

Additionally, financial news from **Resources** at the PCC pointed to the urgency now of increasing our income – not only by individuals giving more, but especially by increasing the numbers of people regularly attending Christ Church and by ensuring that 'regulars' participate in planned giving; we cannot routinely sustain months where outgoings exceed income... as members of Christ Church, we are jointly responsible for ensuring this does not happen.

Pastoral is scheduled to meet on November 26th – unfortunately just too late for this update.

Patricia Ashby

Stamps

Christmas is coming... Please remember to save your used stamps from the envelopes that are used to deliver your cards – **British and overseas** are all equally valuable to the RNIB. **BUT...** they are only of value if they are carefully cut off with a **1 cm margin all round**. When torn from the corner of the envelope (and we all do this sometimes – it just seems quicker and easier), this border is often lost. The stamp then is useless. I sort and check all the stamps before packaging them ready for donation; anything without the stipulated border has to be thrown away.



Reject



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Thank you! *Patricia Ashby*



"It's easy to tell when it's Nativity Play time – I can never find a tea-towel!"

Spire Style Guide

- 9 pt Calibri Font
- No complex formatting (i.e. don't insert pictures into your text, etc.)
- Ideally not more than 400 words, unless this has been invited, or discussed in advance
- Photos should be sent as .jpeg files
- Respect Copyright – always cite sources if you have quoted text or reproduced images from elsewhere (internet, books, etc.) .

Note from the Editors

A final note from us for 2019. Thank you for your contributions. Please keep them coming in 2020 – preferably on time, of course, and copy always to the Office to ensure that nothing gets lost. Remember, too, that we've all got a month off at this point – the next copy deadline is 21st January 2020.

We've done pretty well on meeting deadlines this year... although we are not without serial offenders! At the risk of repeating ourselves, in order to get *The Spire* to you by the first Sunday each month, the content has to be ready for printing at the beginning of the previous week, which means we start preparing it 10 days before. We are very grateful to all contributors who manage to stick to the deadline that makes this possible – thank you.

It remains, then, to wish all readers the most joyful and happy Christmas and to send you all our very best wishes for the year to come. God bless!

Clare & Patricia

DECEMBER 2019 CALENDAR					
DECEMBER	Day	Eucharists	Other Services	Liturgical Colour	
Sunday	1	Advent 1	8am (said); 10am (sung)	6.30pm Advent Procession	Purple
Monday	2				Purple
Tuesday	3	<i>Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552</i>	7.30pm (said) Including Healing and Wholeness	5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Wednesday	4	<i>John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749; Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637</i>	11am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Thursday	5		12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Friday	6	Nicholas, bishop, c.326		8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Saturday	7	Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397	9am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	Purple
Sunday	8	Advent 2	8am (said); 10am (sung)	6.30pm Choral Evensong	Purple
Monday	9				Purple
Tuesday	10		7.30pm (said)	5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Wednesday	11		11am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Thursday	12		12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Friday	13	Lucy, martyr, 304 <i>Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784;</i>		8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Saturday	14	John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591;	9am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	Purple
Sunday	15	Advent 3	8am (said); 10am (sung)	4pm Christingle	Purple
Monday	16				Purple
Tuesday	17	<i>O Sapientia; Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928</i>	7.30pm (said)	5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Wednesday	18		11am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Thursday	19		12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	Purple
Friday	20			8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30 (Evening Prayer) 7.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols	Purple
Saturday	21		9am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	Purple
Sunday	22	Advent 4	8am (said); 10am (sung & Nativity Play)	6.30pm Said Evening Prayer	Purple
Monday	23				Purple
Tuesday	24	Christmas Eve <i>Incense at 11.30pm</i>	11.30pm (Midnight)	5pm Crib Service	Gold
Wednesday	25	Christmas Day	8am (said); 10am (sung)		Gold
Thursday	26	Stephen, deacon, first martyr			Red
Friday	27	John, Apostle and Evangelist			White
Saturday	28	The Holy Innocents			Red
Sunday	29	Christmas 1	8am (said); 10am (sung)	6.30pm Said Evening Prayer	White
Monday	30				White
Tuesday	31	<i>John Wyclif, reformer, 1384</i>			White

JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR					
JANUARY	Day		Eucharists	Other Services	Liturgical Colour
Wednesday	1	Naming and Circumcision of Jesus			White
Thursday	2	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389; <i>Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide, 1833; Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah,</i>	12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Friday	3			8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Saturday	4		9am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	White
Sunday	5	Epiphany Incense	8am (said); 10am (sung)	6.30pm Choral Evensong	Gold
Monday	6				White
Tuesday	7		7.30pm (said) Including Healing and Wholeness	5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Wednesday	8		11am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Thursday	9		12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Friday	10	<i>William Laud, archbishop, 1645</i>		8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Saturday	11	<i>Mary Slessor, missionary, 1915</i>	9am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	White
Sunday	12	Baptism of Christ	8am (said); 10am (sung)	6.30pm Choral Evensong	Gold
Monday	13	Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367; <i>Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603; George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691</i>			White
Tuesday	14		7.30pm (said)	5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Wednesday	15		11am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Thursday	16		12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Friday	17	Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356; <i>Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932</i>		8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Saturday	18	<i>Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January</i>	9am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	White
Sunday	19	Epiphany 2	8am (said); 10am (sung)	6.30pm Epiphany Carols	White
Monday	20	<i>Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349</i>			White
Tuesday	21	Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304	7.30pm (said)	5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Wednesday	22	<i>Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304</i>	11am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Thursday	23		12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	White
Friday	24	Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622		8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Saturday	25	The Conversion of Paul	9am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer)	White
Sunday	26	Epiphany 3	8am (said); 10am (sung)	6.30pm Choral Evensong	White
Monday	27				White
Tuesday	28	Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274	7.30pm (said)	5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Wednesday	29		11am (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Thursday	30	Charles, King and Martyr, 1649	12.30pm (said)	8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White
Friday	31	<i>John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888</i>		8.30am (Morning Prayer) 5.30pm (Evening Prayer)	White

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office *Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2.30—5 p.m.
Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.
N.B. Notices for the Sunday pew sheets should reach the Office no later than
10 a.m. on a Friday. If possible, please e-mail them.*

Mail 1 The Green, London N14 7EG
Phone 8886 0384
Email office@christchurch-southgate.org
Website www.christchurch-southgate.org

Clergy

Vicar The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert
Address 1 The Green, Southgate, London, N14 7EG
Phone 8882 0917
Email frch138@btinternet.com

Assistant Priest The Reverend Hazel Miall
Address 85 Conway Road, Southgate, London, N14 7BD
Phone 07980 740587
Email hazelhmiall@btinternet.com

Lay Readers

Cathy Dallman, 4 Greenacre Walk, Southgate, N14 7DB 8886 5918
 Jackie Anderson 8245 0305
 Sandra Anderson 07947 027265

Churchwardens

Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR 8367 5961
 Catherine Harvey, 1 Ruby Road, Walthamstow, E17 4RE 07872 493556

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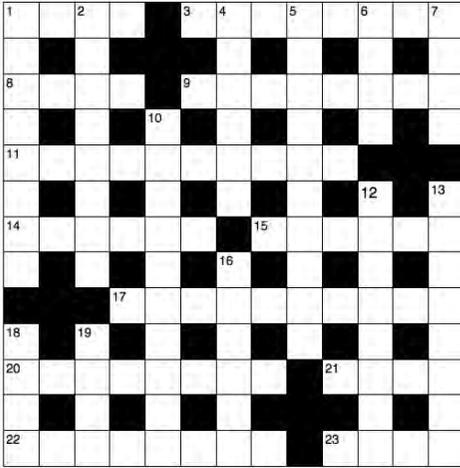
Secretary John Macrory 8440 3258
 john@macroryward.co.uk
Treasurer Clare Boulton (as above)
Stewardship Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

Music Department

Director of Music Richard Brain 07979 850546
 music@christchurch-southgate.org
*Assistant Director
 of Music* David Hinit, 19 Mercia Rd, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6RZ 07734 209662
Treasurer Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

Sacristan	Peter Holiday, 61 Arnos Grove, Southgate, N14 7AG	8886 4126
Sidesmen	Judith Lo	8882 3335
Sub-committee Chairs/contacts		
<i>Outreach</i>	Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)	
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Catherine Harvey (as above)	
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Jackie Anderson (as above)	
<i>Resources</i>	Ronald Lo	8882 3335
<i>Pastoral</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
Electoral Roll Officer	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
Parish Magazine "The Spire"		
<i>Editorial Team</i>	Copy to be sent to the Parish Office (see above)	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362
Flower Arrangers	Contact the Parish Office (see above)	
Parish Centre/Church Halls		
<i>Chairman</i>	Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD	8882 6738
<i>Secretary</i>	Clare Boulton (see above)	
<i>Lettings</i>	christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Meur (as above)	
Christ Church Association Bar		
<i>Contact</i>	Clive Woodhouse, 41b Osborne Road, N13 5BT	8882 0014
Friday Coffee Morning	<i>Every Friday morning 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Hilary Meur (as above)	
Lunch Fellowship	<i>Usually on 2nd Wednesday in the month at noon in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
Waterfall Group	<i>1st Tuesday 8.30 p.m. – informal women's meeting</i>	
	Frances Wyatt	8361 5379
	Glenys Rodway, 14 Dawlish Avenue, N13 4HP	8882 5970
Scout Group	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i>	07980 740 587
	Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	8882 0991
Bellringers	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974
Bridge Club	<i>Thursdays 7.30 p.m. – 10 p.m.</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	Jean Jobson, 26 New River Crescent, N13 5RF	8882 5619
Young Fogeys	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH	8882 8133

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't —, and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the —, "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and —' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

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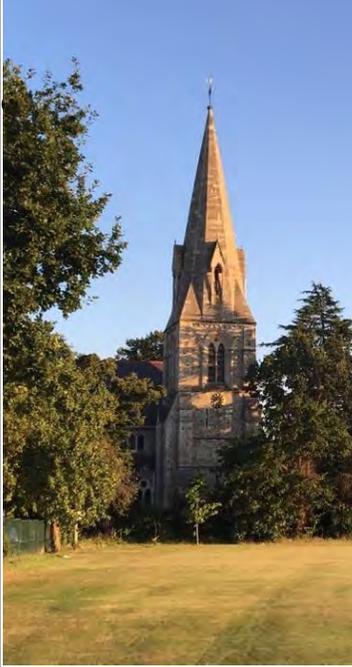
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