

The Abbey Church of St Peter & St Paul
serving the communities of Bourne
Dyke Twenty and Cawthorpe



PARISH MAGAZINE



JANUARY 2024

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Bourne Abbey Church Group

WORSHIP AT THE ABBEY

31 st December	The Naming of Jesus	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00 am
4 th January	MU Corporate Communion	Said Eucharist BCP	10.00 am
7 th	Epiphany	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00 am
11 th		Said Eucharist BCP	10.00am
14 th	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00 am
18 th		Said Eucharist BCP	10.00 am
21 st	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00 am
		Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
25 th	Conversion of St Paul	Said Eucharist BCP	10.00 am
28 th	Candlemas	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00 am
1 st February		Said Eucharist BCP	10.00 am
4 th	2 nd Sunday before Lent	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00 am

The Abbey is open daily for visitors and private prayer during the hours of daylight.

We welcome the names of those who are ill or awaiting an operation so that prayers may be offered for them. We also continue to welcome the names of loved ones departed to be inscribed in the Abbey's Book of Remembrance. Contact Churchwarden Jennifer Maclean.

JANUARY 25TH : THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.



NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

by Canon David Staples

A New Year is a time for new beginnings. We acknowledge this when we make New Year's resolutions, even if they are forgotten after a day or two. Now the coming of another new year provides an opportunity for a very special look at things, to reflect on the events of the past one and to look ahead to the possibilities of the next.



Let there be: Respect for the earth

Peace for its people

Love in our lives,

Delight in the good,

Forgiveness for past wrongs

And from now on, a new start.

Respect for the earth. The Resolution begins with a global perspective. We live in a relationship of interdependence with the earth; its future and ours cannot be separated. Stewardship of creation is a gift from God. Hence concern for the planet and environmental issues.

Peace for its people. Peace includes concepts of justice, truth, wholeness and reconciliation. It is more than just an absence of war. It implies a commitment to live in harmony with our fellow human beings.

Love in our lives. Love in our lives may involve a commitment to an individual or a wider group or community. It is more than sentimental feelings. Rather it is an active will for the good of others.

Delight in the good. This is a much more positive idea than avoiding what is wrong. The million-dollar question is what we mean by 'good'. By what yardstick do we measure our actions?

Forgiveness for past wrongs. We see all around us suffering and environmental destruction on an unprecedented scale. We need more than New Year Resolutions. We need more than human best efforts. We need to accept our need for 'amendment of life and the grace and comfort (strength) of the Holy Spirit' (from 'Morning Prayer' in the 1928 Prayer Book).

Every new year is a gift - God's gift to us. So is each new day. The urgent question is how we will use this new day? Christianity is much more than a private hobby or an individual eccentricity for those who like that sort of thing. Its implications are world-wide. **Here's wishing you a Happy New Year.**

From the Abbey's Book of Remembrance for January

1st Hazel Morgan : 2nd Patricia Leverton
3rd Jean Miller : 4th John Edwards
6th John Bentley; Karen Paterson; George Pickett
7th Myra Mason : Jill Kee
8th Paul Bennet : Christine Orbell : Neville Groves
10th Dorothy Wright : 11th May Vaughan
12th Constance King : 13th Robert Cripps : George Vickers
14th Florence Treadwell : Rosita Leicester
15th Gerald Swain : Sandie Rhodes : Pearl Holden
16th Betty Colvin : Keith Barnard : 18th Marjorie Munns
20th Edwin Danby : Doris Hitchens : Philip Wells : Leslie Troop
21st Michael Barker : 23rd Elsie Cheetham : Elsie Chadwick
24th Patrick Carvath : Laura Brooks : Fay Gurteen
25th Marjorie Smith : 27th Freda Thorold : 29th Kathleen Lambert

'Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.' Matt.5.4

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will be arranged at the High Altar and in front of the Pulpit in memory of loved ones.

Please forward names of those you wish to be commemorated plus £5.00 per name to Ann Northen 24 Fir Avenue, Bourne, PE10 9RY. Telephone Number 01778 423353 by Sunday 10th March.



Payment options.

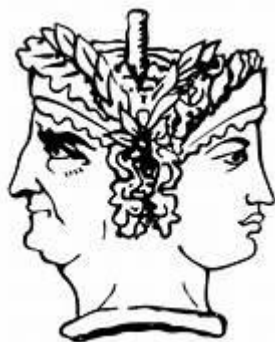
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Flower Fund

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Churchwarden's Chat – January 2024



January is traditionally a time for looking both backwards and forward and was named after Janus, the Roman god of doors and time who was portrayed with two faces looking in opposite directions.

At the Abbey we can look back to a busy Advent and Christmas with attendance of over 70 for the Christingle service, around 1,100 pupils and adults from Bourne's two Church primary schools and The Willoughby School for their respective carol services, over 350 people at the Crib and Carols Service on Christmas Eve, and a total of 110+ for the Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Eucharist.

The services themselves were very special, and the Abbey looked wonderful in the candlelight - one of only two occasions in the year for which the chandelier is lit. The crib was in place at the crossing, the Christmas flower arrangements were beautiful, the Magi are making their way to Bethlehem (did you spot them on their journey?) and the tree was decorated with knitted angels. Please do help yourself to one from the tree.

It was all so normal that those who attended only the Christmas services may not have realised that the parish is, in fact, without a Vicar (or 'in vacancy' in CofE-speak). We have been extremely fortunate to have had services to attend at all, thanks to the dedication of the clergy who have since August been taking it in turns to celebrate/officiate: the Rural Dean, the Rev. Stephen Buckman; our Associate Priest, Fr. Peter Lister; and the Rev. Sylvia Rice-Oxley, a retired priest with permission to officiate. The preparation and presentation of the church is down to the efforts of volunteers who faithfully contribute their time and skills, mostly unsung and in the background.

We cannot know what the future will bring, but we do need to continue our fund-raising efforts if we are to be able to afford an incumbent in the longer term. While regular donations, annually reviewed, are clearly important, we also need people to donate their time and skills to help to keep the church operational; even one hour a week is useful - can **you** spare that?

If so, please email info@bourneabbey.uk and give an indication of where you see yourself being able to help out. There are many different areas of activity so you are not short of choice - see the jigsaw in my November Chat (available on line).

With an uncertain future in mind, perhaps we may take some comfort from the words of *Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)*:

*'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.'

Jennifer Maclean



This article seemed particularly relevant after the Churchwarden's Chat! Ed.

WHO NEEDS RETIREMENT?

It seems that working into your old age can be very good for you. Certainly, there are increasing numbers of people in their 70s who are still going strong – and loving it. As one 77-year-old swimming coach explains: “It gives me purpose and satisfaction, and I get a real buzz from the interaction.’

As for celebrities, Dame Zandra Rhodes, 83, recently released her autumn/winter 2023 capsule collection with John Fluevog. Dame Esther Rantzen, 82, is still writing, campaigning, and broadcasting – all with stage four lung cancer.

King Charles, 75, has only just begun one of the world's most prestigious jobs. And the next American president? Likely candidates seem to be Donald Trump, 77, or Joe Biden, 81.

Certainly, medical evidence suggests that work is good for you. A 2021 BMC Public Health study found that full-time and part-time workers scored higher in mental health tests compared with retirees, while a study published in the Harvard Health Review found that people working past 65 were about three times more likely to be in good health.

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“We do not have a bias toward younger applicants and it wasn't necessary to write your résumé in crayon.”

Christmas in Spain is very different from a typical British Christmas. Firstly, in most towns it is a lot less commercialised, and Christmas does not usually start in earnest until the 8th December, La Dia de La Immaculada Concepcion or Day of the Immaculate Conception.

This is when Christmas starts to show in the shops with Belens or Nativity scenes appearing in the windows and possibly a few coloured lights. Red carpets are laid outside the shops and poinsettia plants placed on each side of the door. Christmas decorations are put up in the town streets along with a tannoy system for the blaring out of discordantly sung taped carols, discordant to our taste anyway!

A lot of towns have their large Belens; the one in Albox, where we lived, was placed in a marquee in Plaza San Francisco Square. It was on three sides of the marquee and from left to right told the Christmas Story through model buildings and figures from the Angel visiting Mary, to Jesus's birth and through to the slaying of the innocents by Herod.



Several generations of Spanish families often live in the same house. Room is also made for any members returning for Christmas, who usually arrive by 24th December as this is the day of the family Christmas feast. What this main meal consists of depends very much on where you live. In regions near the coast it's predominantly sea

food but inland, lamb or turkey stuffed with truffles are favoured. A few days before Christmas we used to see the old ladies and their daughters at the main supermarket fish counter buying a large variety of fish and bags of shellfish, enough to feed an army. They would probably do the cooking together on Christmas Eve with grandma taking the lead!! Workers would stop work at lunchtime on Christmas Eve and the family meal would take place in mid-evening with plenty of wine to support it. Then everyone would then go to Midnight Mass, La Misa de Gallo or the Rooster Mass.

Christmas Day would be a day of rest and relaxation. Children would receive a few small gifts, their main ones being reserved for 6th January. Boxing Day would see most Spanish workers back at work and the shops open as usual.



The 6th of January is Dia de Los Reyes Magos or Day of the Three Kings, when the wise men visited the baby Jesus. In the evening, each town would hold a carnival-type procession with many floats manned by various organisations. Spread through the procession were three floats, each with one of the Kings on board on his throne. The local Town Hall supplied each float with large boxes of wrapped boiled sweets to be thrown

out to the children and adults along the route. Children could end up with a carrier bag full, and it was not unknown for adults to use an upturned umbrella to catch sweets in! When I was with the 'Proteccion Civil' for a few years, one of our duties was to walk alongside the floats to grab any child who decided to dive under a float to recover sweets that had ended up under it. No barriers on the route, no English-style Health and Safety here, maybe only in cities like Madrid, where the scale of the procession was much larger and the odd injury or worse had occurred.

At the end of the procession, the Three Kings would mount a stage outside the Belen and, after a few speeches, the children of parents who had paid a few euros for the privilege would be called forward to receive their main presents from one of the Three Kings. A speciality eaten on this day is a cake called 'Roscon de Reyes' or the King's Crown, a ring-shaped cake with cream and glace fruits on top. On the 7th the towns return to normal until the Easter Festivities.

The other big Christmas event is the El Gordo Lottery, known as The Fat One.

Millions of tickets at 100 Euros each will be sold for the draw on 22nd December. Winning tickets fill two whole pages of the national papers the next day. Charities will buy whole tickets which they sell on in 10th shares for 23 euros each, making them 3 euros profit from each 10th share ticket for their funds. Winning whole tickets can win several millions of euros and there are thousands and thousands of 1000 euro prizes.



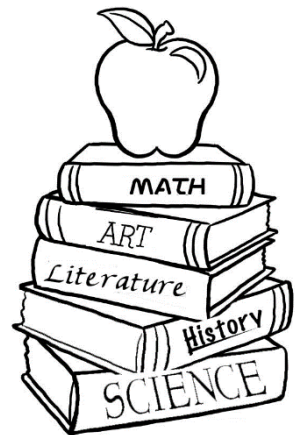
MARGARET'S PAGE

At this time of year, I try to meet up with friends and family that I have not seen for some time, but this year I have had numerous frustrations and complications. One of them happened a few days ago.

I have a friend called Janet who lives about 15 miles from Norwich and, when I saw Shaw's had a coach trip to Norwich last Tuesday, I booked myself a seat and we arranged to meet and exchange presents. But Janet does not drive and she lives in a village where the only mode of transport is by train. As she lives almost next to the station this is usually very convenient. However, the train drivers chose this week to go on strike, so my meeting with Janet had to be cancelled as she had no means of getting into Norwich.

I debated whether to cancel my coach trip, but decided, rather doubtfully to go ahead despite the threat of rainy weather. It rained all the way there and all the way back but stayed fine during my visit so I was able to enjoy my visit to one of my favourite cities. Janet and I met when we were both at Norwich Training College nearly 70 years ago. The college was actually in Keswick, a few miles away from the city, but it still holds a very dear place in my heart. Unfortunately it closed many years ago, but I have many happy memories of my days there.

In my college days we relied very heavily on a wonderful stationers called Jarrolds, which amazingly is still there today. In fact it has grown into a large department store, a very rare sight in these days of store closures. Jarrolds was only five minutes' walk away from the place where the coach set us down so I headed straight there to buy Christmas presents and find some lunch. I was very successful with my shopping but my heart sank when I saw the length of the queue for lunch. I debated whether to go somewhere else but realised everywhere would be in the same state, so I joined the queue and was rewarded with my first turkey lunch of the season.



Norwich has a wonderful market, open every day of the week except Sundays, so I browsed the stalls and explored the fascinating arcades full of all sorts of shops until my legs refused to go any further. At one corner of the market is a church called St Peter Mancroft, which I last entered in December 1955, and I decided to go and indulge in a bout of nostalgia and sit in a pew to give my poor legs a rest. I had a pleasant surprise as they were opening a Christmas Tree Festival the next day so I was able to have a preview.

Best of all, I was able to sit and look at the beautiful gold reredos behind the altar that I remembered from my youth, when our second-year students performed a nativity play there. I could remember so clearly sitting in the audience and

listening to a girl called Mary Betts who had the most beautiful singing voice. The years rolled away and I relived in my memory a very special Christmas experience.

I hope all our readers had a very happy Christmas and wish you every blessing in the New Year.

A Quiz compiled by Margaret when she edited this magazine.

Here are some cryptic clues to English place names, of which some, but not all, are local. Answers next month.

1. Consumed	2. Nothing consumed
3. Man in charge with weight	4. Carried
5. Goes ahead	6. Paradise with pigmeat
7. Robin Hood's city	8. Robin Hood's 'green' city
9. It's nearly all a sweet bar	10. A sofa
11. Base of a boat	12. Famous jockey's forename
13. This is said to be filled in February	14. A score
15. Vegetables in Staffs	16. Several ships
17. Rouse a piece of countryside.	18. Famous for its crabs
19. Sounds like window hanging	20. Years ago it was taken in front of the fire

And the answers to Richard's December Quiz:

1)Tynwald 2)Dorchester 3)Euro 4)Witham 5)Cor Anglais 6)Arborio 7)Rebecca 8)Oasis 9)Lynx 10)X 11)Zion 12)Quito 13)Young 14)Unfinished 15)Ventriloquists 16)Hod 17)Ineos 18)Stottie 19)Katherine 20)Joey 21)Beano 22)Fleetwood Mac 23)Malted Milk 24)Breakwater 25)Percival or Peredur 26)Nimble. Girl's name:- Carol

CHRISTMAS EAST 1961



My Sunday School Class RAF Changi: children of accompanied families on the base.

Flying west from Changi, one would arrive at RAF Gan on a small coral island of the Maldives Group in the middle of the Indian Ocean. It was a staging post on the routes to the Far East and included a marine section for covering search and rescue. It was unaccompanied posting, especially lonely at Christmas.



Our airborne search and rescue crews took it in turns to be on standby there for two weeks at a time. I remember being there at Christmas 1961. The permanent staff had adapted to the prospect of an isolated seasonal celebration.



Native Maldivians sailed daily to Gan to work. They were Muslims whose knowledge of Christmas was perhaps limited to what they saw of the Europeans who lived on their territory. Some worked on domestic duties including waiting at tables.

Imagine Christmas in the Sergeants' Mess. The bar is open and men are making merry, soothing their loneliness or binding their camaraderie with repeated rounds. Some of more sober disposition notice how the strict Muslim waiters are watching. One approached our table. My companion saw the need to speak and, pointing to the revelry, said, "You see this. This is not Christmas. Allah had a son." We prayed that the religious divide could be bridged and that their prophet Isa (Jesus to them) would show us all the better way.



The Maldivians had families on the islands. with youngsters like this. My thoughts went back to the RAF church in Changi and the Sunday School children well taught about Christmas.

Such events make you think about mission. With thanks for Christmas blessings,
Malcom

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

***SATURDAY 6th** 10 – 12 noon in the Church Hall

NIBBLE & NATTER

Stalls to include Raffle, Book Stall and Refreshments. Proceeds to Abbey Church Funds

***WEDNESDAY 10th** at 2.25pm in the Church Hall

MOTHERS' UNION AGM

Any committee members who wish to step down please let me know. I am willing to stay as leader and Merryn is happy to continue as Treasurer.

After a short AGM Bishop Hall has agreed to come and chat to us about MU in Mahajanga. Everyone welcome. Elizabeth

***FRIDAY 19th** at 10 – 11.30am

THE ABBEY AT HOME

The Revd Sylvia Rice-Oxley invites you to 34 Arnhem Way for Christian fellowship beginning with refreshments. All welcome!

***WEDNESDAY 17th** from 2 – 4pm in the Church Hall

THE KNIT & SEW FRIENDSHIP GROUP All most welcome!

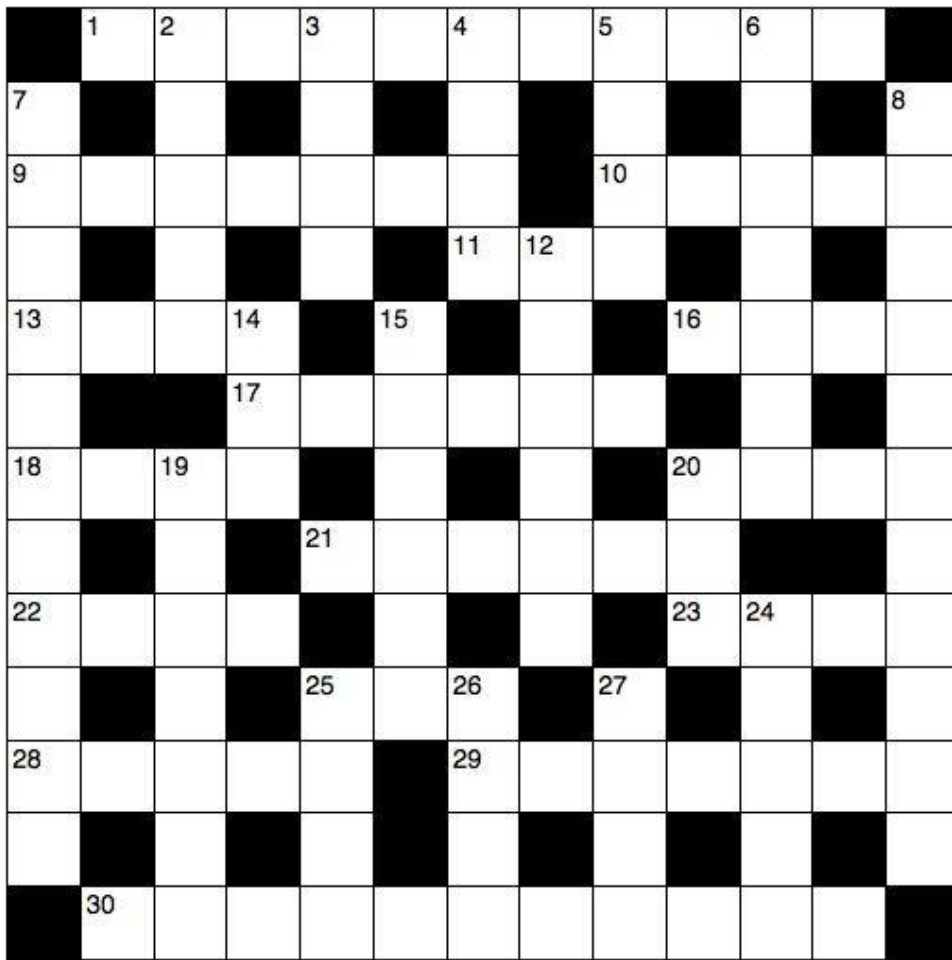
Children's Society

Thank you to all who helped with the Christingles and to Bakkavor for kindly donating the oranges. £220 was collected for The Children's Society.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you could make a lasting gift to God, by leaving a legacy to His church. Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support the mission and ministry in your community. A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help keep the Abbey Church alive, and help transform its future. Do consider a legacy.

QUIZ No volunteers yet to compile brain-teasers, so we have a place puzzle from Margaret (page 11) and a crossword - you'll need your Bible for this one!



Answers next month

ACROSS

- 1 Paul said the wrath 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7)
- 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee'(Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)
- 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

DOWN

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5 Tidy (4)
- 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)
- 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)
- 12 The Lover likened fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
- 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one'(Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)
- 24 Rarely used musical note (5)
- 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)
- 27 See 26 Down

The Abbey and Parish Church of Ss. Peter & Paul

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Vicar

During the vacancy, all queries should be directed in the first instance to info@bourneabbey.uk or the Churchwarden, Jennifer Maclean.

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