

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bradford on Avon



**PARISH NEWS**  
**JANUARY 2008**

## DIRECTORY

### Vicar

Canon Bill Matthews      The Vicarage, 18A Woolley Street      864444  
e-mail: vicar@brad-avon-ht.org.uk

### Parish Deacon

Revd Angela Onions      27 Berryfield Road      309001

### Retired Clergy

Ven John Burgess, Revd Alun Glyn-Jones,  
Canon Peter Hardman, Ven Ian Stanes

### Licensed Lay Ministers

Graham Dove

Dr Malcolm Walsh      (retired)

### Churchwardens

Joan Finch      40 Palairret Close      863878

Tony Haffenden      6 Folly Field      864412

### Director of Music

Gareth Bennett      01380 728772

### Pastoral Team

Alison Cook; Mike Fuller; Pat Kitchen; Sue Lavis; Revd Angela Onions;

### Ministry of Healing

The Vicar; Mary Burge.

### Times of Services

*(Check Bulletins and notices)*

#### Sundays

8 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Sung Eucharist (coffee after)
6 pm	Evensong
	Service of Prayer for Hope & Health and Compline monthly)

#### Holy Communion

10 am      Wednesdays

#### (weekdays)

8 am      Fridays

### Times of Meetings

Choir Practice      6.45 pm      Church, Tuesdays

Sunday School      9.30 am      Church Hall

Mothers' Union      7.30 pm      Church Hall, (usually) 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

Bell Practice      7.30–9 pm      2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays

# FROM THE VICAR

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As I write this in early December, there has been the usual discussion about the propriety of schools staging Nativity Plays in our secularised and multi-faith culture. Last week I attended something called 'The Nativity' at St Laurence School, but this was radically different from what usually happens in the primary sector. It was based on the medieval 'mystery plays', which were performed in the open air by the guilds of the various 'mysteries' at places like York and Coventry, and were the origin of our modern drama.

I was struck by the professionalism of everyone involved. It was a superb piece of theatre. But I was also fascinated by the way in which earthy (sometimes very earthy!) humour and slapstick combined with the tragic stories of the Fall of Man, the murder of Abel, the Flood, the potential sacrifice of Isaac and the Massacre of the Innocents. The bickering between Cain and Abel, the 'domestic' between Noah and his wife and the story of Mak the sheep-stealer threw the darker events into stark relief. It also meant that this was definitely something for performing in the open air or in a secular environment, rather than in church!

The season of Christmas which lies between my writing and your reading this is, of course, the high-point of the year for churchgoing, Clergy and regular church members look wistfully at overflowing pews which will seldom see similar numbers until another year has passed. There will be many condemnatory noises made about the commercialisation of Christmas. There should be a lot of concern about the number of people, younger people especially, who seem ignorant of the basic details of the Christmas story.

But as we think about that story, we should remember that it takes place 'outside' in a stable, just as the death and resurrection at the end of Jesus's earthly story happen outside the city wall and in a garden. In Jesus, God lives for us, dies for us and rises again for us out there in his world.

The medieval mystery plays bore witness to a faith that penetrated life and society. With all their sins and weaknesses, participants and audience saw no problem about the intermixture of sacred and secular. Perhaps the central problem that faces all churches as they move away from their Christmas celebrations is, how the secular and the sacred can be brought back into living contact.

In this new year we need to pray for grace in bringing this about in our own daily lives, and guidance as to what we as a church community can do about it.

A very happy New Year to you all.

*Bill Martin*



## A Happy Christmas to all our readers...

Although this is the January issue of Parish News, there is still time for the Editors and the Parish News team to offer you our best wishes for Christmas and for the New Year, and also to give special thanks to all those who have contributed to the magazine in 2007.

Ann and Bryan

## THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY BRADFORD ON AVON

### Vision Statement

Within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, our Parish is part of the Bradford Group Ministry and Deanery in the Diocese of Salisbury, and a member of Churches Together in Bradford and District.

***It EXISTS*** for the sake of God and his world, with particular responsibilities to the people within its area and the members of its congregation.

***Its PURPOSE is***

- to be an outpost of the Kingdom of God and a sign of his presence in the world;
- to pray and to offer worship to God, supremely in the Holy Eucharist, on behalf of all people;
- to proclaim to all in word and life the good news of God's saving love in Christ;
- to minister to the particular needs of people of all ages through Word, Sacrament, pastoral care and Christian fellowship.

***At the heart of the parish our church family AFFIRMS***

- the historic Christian faith received and delivered by the Church down the ages as a living inheritance to be interpreted afresh in each generation;
- the unique and equal value of all our members and their freedom to follow Christ in accordance with their conscience;
- our commitment to offering the best of our God-given gifts and resources, in self-giving love, to prayer and discipleship, the worship of God, our common life and the service of all.

# DIARY FOR JANUARY



## 6 SUNDAY

### THE EPIPHANY

9.30 am Solemn Eucharist  
6 pm Compline

## 13 SUNDAY

### THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9.30 am Family Communion  
6 pm Evensong

*Christ Church*

17 Thursday

7.30 pm Mothers' Union Corporate Holy  
Communion and AGM

*Church/Hall*

## 20 SUNDAY

### EPIPHANY 3

11.15 am Holy Baptism  
6 pm United Service

*To be arranged*

23 Wednesday

7 pm Holy Communion  
7.35 pm Parochial Church Council

*St Mary Tory*

*St Mary Tory*

## 27 SUNDAY

### EPIPHANY 4

6 pm Sung Evensong

*Unless otherwise stated, Holy Communion at 8 am and Sung Eucharist at 9.30 am each Sunday*

*Copy Date for February is 13th January*

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptism

18.11 George Grummant Alfred  
Darkin

28.11 Lear Stanley Gordon Smith

3.12 Vera Powell

6.12 Thomas Losh Hutchinson

7.12 Alan Roger Luke

13.12 Alice Emma Furn

### Funerals

19.11 Donald Mervyn Wicheard

## **1 January – The naming of Jesus**

It is Matthew and Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus – a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> January, eight days after 25<sup>th</sup> December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days), for in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus's name permeated his ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

## **6 January – Epiphany**

On 6<sup>th</sup> January we celebrate Epiphany – the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings, by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origen of Alexandria, assumed there were three of them to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing – and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have been given the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

## **25 January – The Conversion of St 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. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then on his way to Damascus Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded – and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: he 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 AD 64 and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many millions of people down the centuries.

Source: Parish Pump

## CONFIRMATION

Three of our young people are to be confirmed by Bishop David together with Bishop Steven and Bishop Tim on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm in the Cathedral at Salisbury. They are:

Alice Ash, Thomas Hawkins and James Stephenson.

Please remember them in your prayers.

This will be an exciting and important time for them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

They will be making their First Communion on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.

It will also be good to welcome them on to the serving team.

May God bless them in their new life in the Church of God.

Angela.

### The Saxon Church

Readers may like to know that there is a new web site concerning the Saxon church which they can visit by going to the web address

[www.ecclsoc.org](http://www.ecclsoc.org) and clicking on '*fascinating links*'.

### Crossword solutions

1 Cripple 2 Cursing 3 Jesus 4 Portion 5 Wrote 6 Sweet 9

#### Down

18 Jehu 22 Dream 23 Saracen 24 Richer 25 Public  
7 Reuben 8 Sorrow 10 Pasture 11 Tith 12 Lent 13 Achor 17 Psalm

#### Across

## Bradford Area Churches Together



### BACT 2008 LENT COURSE

## The Lord's Prayer – Praying it, Meaning it, Living it

For those parishioners wishing to participate, a reminder that our excellent Bradford Area Churches Together Lent Course will commence on 11th February 2008.

Application forms will be found at the crossing. Please complete them as soon as you are able and return them to me, or to Denise Leigh (address on form).

Many thanks

David Rawstron

### Are you taking a mid-winter break?

If you are preparing to take off for foreign climes, do keep an eye out for signs that have English words... but perhaps not an English meaning!

In hotels, train stations and airports all over the world there are polite little signs that will bring a smile to the lips of even an exhausted traveller.

For instance, how about these:

**Romania:** The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret you will be unbearable.

**Canary Islands:** If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.

**Denmark:** In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in a seemly manner.

**Italy:** If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

**Spain:** Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

**Switzerland:** We have nice bath and are very good in bed.

**Russia:** If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

From *Lost in Translation: Misadventures in English Abroad* by Charlie Croker (Michael O'Mara Books, £9.99)

## MUSICAL MEMORIES

Like an earlier contributor, my family had little interest in music beyond Gilbert and Sullivan, but we had a piano and, like many pre-war families, regularly had sing-songs with friends around that piano singing hymns and “community” songs, for which I was pianist. Any classical music which came on the radio was quickly switched off. My schools were also not very musically oriented, but the music master at my grammar school began to invite me to sing at choral concerts which he conducted in the town, thus introducing me to big choral works.

But it was in 1934, when I was 13, that a personal musical catharsis occurred. It was the day that Elgar died and the radio announcement of his death was accompanied by playing the Enigma Nimrod variation. No doubt influenced by the solemnity of the occasion, I was awestruck by this hitherto unknown music and for the first time in my life felt shivers down my spine. Thereafter listening to music became an important part of my teenage years.

From time to time I was called upon to sing at school events, two of which are memorable. One was to sing *Land of Hope and Glory* as a warm-up for speech day (Elgar again). The music master rehearsed me,

insisting that I sing the final “make thee mightier yet” an octave below the soprano line. This master was away during the hours before the event and had asked another master to give me a quick rehearsal. This one insisted that I must sing that last phrase as printed and, in true military style, I felt I must obey the last order. The music master, who was present at the performance, was furious and said he would no longer give me the present (unknown) which he had intended as a reward.

The second event in November 1936 was my last public performance before my voice broke; as leading lady in a performance of *Dido and Aeneas*. I marvel now that I could sing Dido’s long lament without a worry about breathing. Aeneas was played by Father Horton, a young



Elgar conducting an acoustic recording session at HMV in Hayes, Middlesex, showing the equipment used in those days.

Photo supplied by Denis Holloway

monk from Nashdom Abbey at Burnham. He was popular with us boys as he drove a sports car and later, at Christmas time, he took some of us carol singing, ending at the gaunt abbey in the woods with mince pies round a great fireplace and singing carols with the monks. Nashdom has now been sold and converted into luxury flats and the order has moved to Elmore Abbey near Newbury where a magnificent new chapel has been built with much oak and a beautiful stained glass window.

During the war there were occasional concerts in unlikely buildings and I remember particularly the pleasure of hearing Denis Matthews playing Mozart, for which he was famous, in a factory canteen. Mozart became my favourite composer and I think is still; but the greatest joy was to promenade at Queens Hall, with its modest size and perfect acoustics. Being young, with friends, and unattached, the bombs which were often falling on the way home only increased the thrill; until of course in May 1941 Queens Hall itself was destroyed by bombs.

Concerts were moved to the Albert Hall but the early concerts

there were a great disappointment. I remember the drum rolls in some Wagner being reflected from the roof and returning, much delayed on account of the size of the building, even louder than the direct sound, with a disastrous effect on the music. Fortunately over the years the acoustics of the Albert Hall have been much improved and the Proms have gone famously on. Who can forget the performances of (again) Elgar's Cello Concerto by Jacqueline du Pré in the 1960s? Like many men of my age I think I was a little in love with her vitality and shocked by her tragic illness and death. So it was fascinating that, when recently visiting my daughter in Malvern, her partner demonstrated his treasured original "His Master's Voice" portable acoustic gramophone and played an early 78 rpm disc of the first movement of Elgar's Cello Concerto played by Beatrice Harrison and conducted by Elgar himself. The codes on the record label identify the pressing as from the original wax matrix recorded on the early acoustic recording equipment at Hayes on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1919.

Dennis Holloway.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family drove up behind an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...

**Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass**

**Caution: Do not step in exhaust**

Supplied by Margaret Purves

## THE STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Bill gave a very thought-provoking sermon on the way in which the Advent themes challenge our beliefs about life after death and their impact on the way we should live now. He then introduced the topic of Stewardship for 2008 and said that members of the PCC would be giving a short presentation.

Tony Haffenden, Churchwarden, opened the presentation by reminding us that as we enter Advent and look forward in anticipation to the celebrations of the birth of Christ it is also the time to think about our giving to the church. He then gave a short summary of our financial needs for 2008. The Treasurer had carefully prepared the forecasts and the PCC seriously reviewed all the details.

The Treasurer said, "We were hoping to bring you good news this year but unfortunately our forecast expenses, in round figures, are £114,000 and our forecast income £100,000, which gives us a shortfall of £14,000. The PCC have looked at various ways to reduce costs but the only other cut that could be made would be £4,000 to external good causes and this may not be popular. The two main reasons for this forecast shortfall are a significant increase in Share to the Diocese of £6,000 and a reduced forecast in planned giving to £55,000 caused by a number of families moving to other parts of the country and the sad death of others.

To enable us to fill the shortfall we are seeking average increases from members of the stewardship scheme of £6 per head or £72 per year. As a standard, givers may like to think about £30 a month (depending on affordability) as a minimum, which is less than £1 per day. It is hoped that some members may like to provide an additional seasonal gift now and details of this are in the Stewardship letters that are being circulated to everyone."

Tony then introduced three members of the PCC to give their thoughts on giving to the church. Their presentations follow:

### **John Woods**

"I am sure that you will agree that our church should not be reliant on a relatively small proportion of generous members, but that we should all be giving the same amount relative to our means. I was brought up in Wales where the church became disestablished and so, in order to survive, all the churches had to rely on every member of the congregations giving generously and the better off churches sharing with those that were less well off. In a sense, the Church of England now has to face a similar scenario.

Perhaps because of the situation in Wales I was brought up with the thought that if you cannot give to your church the same money that you give to your hobby, you cannot think much of God. I found it a hard one to take but, equally, I have great difficulty in arguing against the thought."

**Anne Willis** (Read for her in her absence)

“Thirty pounds a month. That is less than a pound a day for the best investment ever.”

**Cecilia Hynes Higman**

“The Church has always needed to raise money and in the past — indeed within living memory — members of the congregation were invited to pay to occupy a pew that was then named. In fact, one of my mother's relatives in the 1920s found someone sitting in her family pew one Sunday and was so outraged that she never went to church again!

We are definitely not suggesting a return to that system, which was of its time and inappropriate for nowadays. However, we need to find our own method more suited to the 21<sup>st</sup> century that will ensure a regular increase in the income.”

**Edward Shaw**

“I represent the man in the pew on the PCC and I derive great comfort by attending this church. Last year the Vicar gave us the stark news that our planned giving had to increase by 10% to overcome the shortfall in the church's budget. I understood what was being said and responded by upping my weekly envelope by that amount. It has happened again so my weekly giving must increase again — period.

Finally and as reminder, your stewardship envelope is at the crossing and ready for your collection after the service today.”

Bill then thanked those who gave the presentation and reminded the congregation that the completed stewardship forms and promises should be returned in the enclosed envelopes by no later than the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007.

AHG Haffenden (for and on behalf of the PCC)

### **The Bathtub Test**

During a visit to a mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what criteria were used to define whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

“Well,” said the Director, “we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub.”

“Oh, I understand,” said the visitor. “A normal person would use the bucket, because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup.”

“No,” said the Director, “a normal person would pull the plug out. Do you want a bed near the window”?

Supplied by David Rawstron

# WEST WILTSHIRE INTERFAITH GROUP

## Striving for Mutual Understanding, Respect and Integration

The other evening I enjoyed talking with two friends who had just returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. They spoke with enthusiasm of the good work that is going on there in rebuilding the country, and regretted that the media tended to dwell on the fighting rather than the constructive work that took up much of their time.

It was heartening to hear their comments on progress being made there in many different ways. Of course one can also hear other less positive comments but this conversation only set me to realise more the very great need we have in this country for better dialogue and understanding between those of different faiths or no faith.

This Interfaith Group is performing excellent work in endeavouring to find ways and ideas to promote such understanding. It is a pity that we are not able to reach more individuals and groups, as the present need for dialogue is great. This year has seen good discussions on such subjects as the power of God to heal, can we live in harmony, understanding diverse communities in Wiltshire, and the showing of the film *Peace One Day*. We hold these meetings usually on a Tuesday evening or Sunday afternoon but not on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday Morning.

This year we have enjoyed working with the training of the Wiltshire Police recruits, in Primary Schools, and next year we also look forward to working in secondary schools. There is such a need to promote understanding between all sections of society and the more we can all help spread this good news and welcome more individuals and groups to our meetings the more will be achieved in this area.

Unfortunately we have found it difficult to find sufficient funds this year. We are dependent on subscriptions and donations to forward our work and the committee would be grateful to hear of any ideas you may have to increase funding. We are very grateful to those who have helped us financially this year.

We look forward to another year of good progress and increased membership as we help to make our community an example of good relationships amongst all peoples.

Keith Simpson

### **Kashmir – then and now**

Sitting in the Shalimar gardens in the shadow of the snow-capped mountains, Kashmiri girls gracefully sculling their *shikaras* over the smooth surface of Lake Dal, it never occurred to me that this perfect peace would ever be shattered by the guns of war. Simple breakfasts on the houseboat

closely observed by colourful kingfishers perched on a nearby rail, were interrupted by our host, Hajji Butt, an elderly, turbaned gentleman in flowing robes and a long white beard. His arms outstretched in an attitude of blessing, he would intone "Peace be upon you my children" and we did indeed feel included in his family.



A Shikara on Lake Dal.

Photo: TravelIndiaSmart

This genteel man ran the houseboat company with his son Gulam, who, twenty years later appeared on Michael Palin's TV series Himalaya. Michael Palin later commented, "Of all the places I've been to on this journey so far, this is the closest I've come to perfect peace."

As the fighting of two major powers causes chaos and destruction, let us hope and pray that this lovely country will not become another Paradise Lost.

Ann Holland

## Parish Christmas Card Distribution

A big thank you to all the 50 or so people who once again helped with the distribution of the 3,000 parish Christmas cards and especially to those who did so for the first time. The packs were considerably heavier and bulkier than in previous years on account of the thicker, folded cards. I trust you agree with me that the use of David Milne's superb colour photograph of our crib was an attractive change of subject from previous years. One was delivered to every home in the parish plus packs to local hotels, the library and the tourist information office.

As I always say, it is not the most popular of tasks at a particularly busy time of the year, but it is an important aspect of our outreach in the town. I hope you share my view that it was very worthwhile and responsible for many of the 'new faces' apparent at our services over the Christmas period.

So thank you everyone, for a job well done, especially those of you who took on a 'little extra' this time. Your assistance and continued support are much appreciated.

Mike Fuller

# THE LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

On the whole, we don't take advice from friends about personal matters very easily; we prefer to make up our own minds as to how we act when matters are of a serious nature. A wise old friend of mine suggested a while ago that, as I was now in the autumn years, and being single, I should take out 'An Enduring Power of Attorney'. I did so, much to the comfort and relief of the one whose responsibility it will be to care for me should I become unable to manage my own affairs.

The following explanation of recent changes in the law was kindly provided by BLB Solicitors at my request: I hope that it will encourage others in my position to follow suit.

Muriel Freeborn

## Background to the Changes

Those who have made an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) can still have it registered if their capacity fails. Since 1/10/07 the new Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) came into force and new EPAs cannot be created

## What are EPAs and LPAs?

An EPA and an LPA give others legal rights to deal with your finances and in the case of an LPA also your medical /welfare requirements.

An LPA has two sections:

- i. Financial control
- ii. Welfare/medical control

Like an EPA you choose a person or persons to act: they are called "ATTORNEYS". The Court of Protection, now called The Public Guardianship Office, is the relevant court to all of these matters.

An EPA came into force when it was signed; an LPA comes into effect only when it is registered with the Court. The LPA is made by completing a specified form in accordance with the rules.

The two parts of the LPA, FINANCIAL and WELFARE, can be completed independently and you can have different attorneys for each part (if you so wish), and you can specify if you have more than one if they are to act together (jointly) or independently (jointly and severally).

The rules for making an LPA. are more complex than for the creation of the old EPA.

When completing the LPA you have to obtain a certificate from someone who certifies your competence (a certificate provider).

The certificate provider procedure is in place to prove that you are competent, understand your decisions fully and are not under duress or vulnerable. The certificate provider will need to see you independently.

Please note that amongst others, relatives, husbands and wives and those with whom you have lived for two years or more cannot act as the certificate provider.

Unlike with the old EPA where the persons entitled to receive notification of registration are specified in statute, YOU decide who receives notice, and you can nominate up to five persons. If you do not wish to nominate anyone you will have to have two certificate providers.

You can revoke such documents at any time so long as you retain capacity.

The Mental Capacity Act provides the framework and law in the area of "CAPACITY".

As with an EPA, you must be over 18 and competent to make an LPA.

An Attorney must act honestly and in your best interests with the least restriction on your rights and must maintain records/accounts.

All people are presumed competent and will not be treated as lacking capacity (unless the facts show otherwise).

It is now recognised that a person can have periods of competence between periods lacking competence.

When an attorney considers any decision he must apply the principles of the Act, *ie.* act in your best interests, consider your competence, recognise your rights and wishes and the right for you, if possible, to make decisions perhaps with aid and assistance.

Like an EPA, an LPA is a very powerful document which allows others to deal with your affairs as though they were you.

You should only appoint those whom you trust implicitly and who are competent to fulfil the duties.

Do not worry if you have a relative who does not have an LPA. The court has a procedure for appointing someone to act if the need arises. However it is likely to be a deputy appointed by the court.

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## THE TRUE OR FALSE CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

- T There are no records of Joseph speaking in the Christmas story.  
*There is absolutely no record of him speaking at all.*
- F The wise men were three kings from the orient.  
*The number of wise men is not mentioned. They were not kings. (see p. 4)*
- F The little drummer boy came to the manger after the other shepherds.  
*Really? There is no mention of a drummer boy in the Bible.*
- T The star did not appear above the manger.  
*It appeared above the house where Joseph's family was living.*
- T Jesus's ancestors include a prostitute, an adulterer, a woman who committed incest, and a non-Israelite.  
*Rahab was a prostitute, David & Uriah's wife were adulterers, Tamar & Judah committed incest, and Ruth was from Moab. Matthew 1:3, 5, 6*
- F The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary first and then Gabriel appeared to Joseph.  
*Trick question. Mary was first. but we don't know the name of the angel who appeared to Joseph (Matthew 1:20). It might have been Harold — You know, "Hark the Harold Angel Sings.*
- F Mary rode a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.  
*A donkey does not appear anywhere in the Biblical account. She probably walked*
- T Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem because of a decree by Caesar Augustus.  
*Yes. Luke 2:1-5.*
- F The wise men followed the star as it moved from their eastern land to Israel.  
*Apparently not. The wise men saw the star in the east (Matthew 2: 2) but it did not take them to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem they asked for directions. Once leaving Jerusalem the star appeared again and led them to the house in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:9).*
- T The wise men did not arrive on the night of Jesus's birth.  
*The wise men arrive sometime after Jesus is born (Matthew 2:1). Jesus is called a child, rather than a baby (Matthew 2:11).*
- F God sent a choir of chubby angels to announce Jesus's birth to the shepherds.  
*Actually God sent an army of warrior angels. See Luke 2:13: "company" and "host" are military terms.*

- F     Shepherding was considered a very noble occupation.  
*In the first century BC, shepherding was close to what we would consider garbage collecting. Shepherds were unable to remain ritually pure according to Pharisaic laws and so were considered unclean. Yet God chose them!*
- T     Both Joseph and Mary were told that the baby was to be named "Jesus".  
*Yes. See Matthew 1:21 and Luke 1:31. In Judaism, babies were always named by their father. Here we see God the Father (not Joseph) giving Jesus his name.*
- F     When Herod heard about Jesus he was the only one concerned about this new king.  
*All Jerusalem was disturbed by this news of a new king (Matthew 2:3).*
- F     The wise men found Jesus lying in a manger in the town of Bethlehem.  
*Jesus was in a house by this time (Matthew 2:11).*
- T     After the angels announcement the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to see Jesus.  
*Correct. They were excited! They did not hesitate. They did not stop - Luke 2:1 5-16.*
- T     Joseph married Mary immediately after the angel appeared to him.  
*Yes. His obedience was quick, cheerful and complete. Matthew 1:24,*
- F     Some of the shepherds doubted and refused to believe the message they heard from the angels.  
*They went to see the baby right away, they spread the word, and they praised God for what they had been permitted to see and hear. No doubt there. Luke 2:15-20*

Source: St Phillips and St James, Whittington, Parish News  
 Provided by David Rawstron

## **Weighed down**

After the Christmas and New Year festivities, a wife gingerly crept onto her bathroom scales to weigh herself. She pulled a sad face.

Her husband asked: "What's the matter? Are you overweight?"

"Well, not if I was six inches taller."

## A CRUISE FROM ATHENS AROUND THE BLACK SEA – 2

*At the end of the first part of this article, Chris and Gerald's ship had left Sevastopol and sailed to Yalta...*

We had to be off the ship at 7.30 next morning — some holiday! However, we were in Yalta, the one place I had really wanted to see, so I didn't complain, too much! Off to the Livadia Palace, where Churchill met with Roosevelt and Stalin in 1945 for the anti-Hitler coalition conference. Stalin was afraid of flying, so despite Roosevelt's infirmity they met in Yalta which Stalin could reach by train. Roosevelt stayed in the Livadia Palace and Churchill at the Alupka Palace, which we were to see later. Livadia was built by the last Tsar, Nicholas II, replacing a wooden one built by his father. Made of white stone and completed in 19 months (I wonder how many slaves died as a result!), it is one of the major sights of Yalta. Unfortunately, the Royal family only came here four times before they were taken prisoner, and assassinated. The lower floor takes you through the rooms where the conference was held, and I found this quite moving, remembering it happening, and the excitement we felt at the time. The upper floor is a museum to the Romanovs, with some lovely memorabilia, including a wall hanging made in Persia as a present to them of Nicholas, Alexandra and Alexei.

From there we went to the Swallow's Nest Castle, jutting out over a cliff, and in all the pictures of Yalta. Just a photo-stop, as it is now a restaurant. The Alupka Castle was built for Count Vorontsov, of Odessa fame. He'd been

educated in England, and built it to appear as a Scottish castle from the north and Moorish from the south — an odd combination, but it worked. It was amazing inside, with many English bronzes, clocks and art, including the only Hogarth in this part of the world. The Blue drawing room was blue(!), with sculpted white flowers all over the walls, no flower the same as any other, and some magnificent Wedgwood vases. We went through a Winter Garden, with some rare



The 'Big Three' at Yalta, Feb. 1945

sculptures, and out on to the south side to see the magnificent Alhambra entrance. A flight of steps flanked by six lions, two sleeping, two awakening, and two vigilant, leading up to the entrance. One of the sleeping lions is called "Winston", which caused much amusement — a lion maybe, but hardly ever sleeping! We had to share a table that day with an American, who averred that the US had bankrupted itself supporting Britain in the last war. I'm afraid I reminded him that they had only been in for half of it! It had been really hot that morning,

so we decided to avail ourselves of some sun on deck, only to find that it was blowing our heads off. The only time my shorts had an outing!

There was thick fog when we arrived in Varna, Bulgaria, so we thought we wouldn't dock on time, and of course, we did! I was nearly the last to get on the coach: what a stick for the Hodge Travel party to beat me with! Our first visit was to a Roman Baths site, over an area of 7000 sq m, constructed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. With pictures on the walls to show you what room you were in, they were very interesting.

On to the Cathedral, where there was a Mass in progress, but our guide insisted on talking as well, until a priest came and told her to be quiet. She then carried on in a whisper! From there to another Archaeological museum: I was not looking forward to it, but it was one of the highlights, as it happened. In 1972 a diver in Lake Varna found gold in a grave. From then, until the money ran out in 1982, they discovered an underwater cemetery, dating from 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. Each skeleton had been buried with its own treasures — gold coins, jewellery, *etc.* Some of the jewellery was incredible, the most beautiful earrings of sculpted figures with wings, and skirts. No pictures were allowed, so I bought postcards, and put them on my camera to show the Saxon Club at a later date. From there we went to a Petrified Forest where there were acres of standing stones, some of which have been given names: The Devil, The Family, The Lonely Man, The Mushroom, *etc.* We had only half an hour to explore and take pictures - it was an incredible site. Leaving there



Yalta: looking up to Alupka Palace, 'Winston' lion on the left.

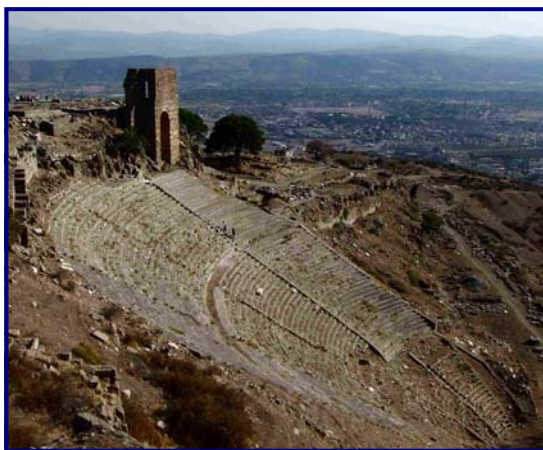
we crossed the Asparonhovo Bridge, the largest in Bulgaria, built in 1979, linking the Black Sea and Lake Varna, with many shipyards underneath, both building and repairing ships.

Sitting in the Piano Bar for cocktails, the magician on board came to our table, and spent half an hour doing the most amazing card tricks, making out of balloons a parrot on a hoop for me and a snail for the friend we were with. He was the best entertainment on board. That night, our only other 'Elegant' night, we had another excellent meal finishing with the traditional parade of the Baked Alaskas, flaming with lights, and one brought to each table.

Having a free morning, we could sleep late, I thought, but was awake at 5.30am, bright as a button! However, it meant that I could pack one of the cases before we had the meeting to tell us the routine for leaving the ship. I packed the other one before the concert at 11am which was from a Scratch Choir on board. When I was in the Choral Society, we used to go to the Albert Hall and do Concerts from

scratch, of the Verdi and Fauré Requiems, among other things, and I used to receive leaflets about cruises doing the same thing. This was one of them, and in the week on board, as well as the sight-seeing they'd managed to fit in practices, and prepare a concert. It was very good too, even though there weren't enough men or young sopranos. Nothing changes! We met the people who ran it at lunchtime, which I found most interesting, having corresponded with them for years when I was in the BACS. A very rude man, sitting next to them, turned round and said, "Of course, you get free holidays out of it!" I was appalled, as anyone who organises things like that would be. Yes, you do get a 'free' holiday, but my goodness! you certainly earn it with all the correspondence and phone calls it entails.

Another carpet factory had been included in the trip to Dikili in Turkey that afternoon. I asked for it to be deleted, as did everyone on the coach, when we got on there. So they substituted it for an onyx factory



Theatre at Pergamon: the deepest in Turkey.

instead, still determined to get our money! The trip was to Pergamon and Asklepon, established in West Anatolia around the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. It was an incredible site, over a huge area, and on several levels because it was on top of a hill. Although the coach took us a long way up, there was still climbing to do, which did Gerald no good at all. We saw the deepest theatre in Turkey, the Altar of Zeus – but no altar, as the Germans who discovered it took the altar back to Berlin! There was such a huge community there that they decided to open up a Healing Centre, and this was established about 10 miles away at Asklepon. The main street reminded us of Ephesus, as it led to the hospital entrance. People went there for mental as well as physical problems. They were taken into an underground tunnel, given opium to relax, heard running water – for more relaxation – and, through holes from above ground, asked what was troubling them. Getting to the end of the tunnel, they went to bed, where they slept and dreamt of their problems, which they then told the

doctors on awaking. With improving health, they had to perform in the theatre to prove that they were being healed. Not long for photos, so a mad rush around again, especially to the stage of the theatre, and hearing Max testing the acoustics in my mind.

Not many made purchases in the onyx factory, and we were all glad to get back to the ship, it had been a busy afternoon.

Our last dinner was great fun. We exchanged email addresses so that we could send photos, and got an invitation to Colorado, one we won't be accepting, I'm afraid. Cases

had to be outside cabins at midnight, just leaving you with hand baggage to carry off the ship.

We had to leave the cabin at 7am because the next lot of passengers were coming on board after 8.30 — those cabin staff certainly had their work cut out! There was a coach into the port building, where we picked up our luggage and waited for the courier. We were into Athens by 10am, and had 4½ hrs to pass before being taken to the airport. This was not a problem, though. We explored the site in the centre, with the temple of Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, *etc*, with lovely views of the Acropolis. The ticket cost £4.20, and covered that and the Acropolis: can you imagine what it would have cost in the UK! After a coffee stop we wandered around the Plaka, the famous shopping area of Athens, and had a long and leisurely lunch before finding our way back to where the coach was to pick us up. We then encountered a cycle demo, about half a mile of cyclists, followed by police, all very light-hearted, demonstrating

for cycle-ways in the city. They certainly need them, the traffic is terrible and there is no speed limit, it seems. I left Gerald there, and went to take more photos of the Evzones (soldiers in National Costume), outside the Parliament Building. Unfortunately, we had a cloudburst. This time I had both mac and umbrella, but still had to take shelter, it was so bad. Getting a bit too close to the sentry boxes, (they were sheltering as well), a rifle was thumped down and a voice yelled. I soon moved back, almost up to my ankles in running water!

A good flight back, only marred by the fact that England were playing in the Final of the World Cup and our daughter, Fran, had to miss it to pick us up. We were not popular!

However, despite that, it had been a truly fantastic holiday, visiting places I'd heard about in history lessons, and never thought I'd see. We'd thoroughly recommend it to anyone.

Chris and Gerald Hodge

*Photographs provided by the authors*

## WILTSHIRE BUTTERFLIES – 8

I received no records of butterfly sightings in Wiltshire during December but one or two **Red Admirals** lingered into late November. One was seen in the centre of Trowbridge on 24<sup>th</sup> and Muriel Freeborn saw one in her garden on 29<sup>th</sup> — the last butterfly sighting of the year. We now look forward to the 2008 season and wonder what excitement is in store. It will probably not be until mid-March that the hibernators begin to emerge from their winter rest. I would be most interested to hear of any butterflies seen before then.

©Mike Fuller

Wiltshire Butterfly Recorder

## **ALICE FURN**

Little Alice, as she was affectionately known, was an amazing little character, and an example to us all. She was happy to spend a simple life, loving, caring for, and serving others. She was well known in our little town, she loved it here. And she had a smile for everyone she met.

After she retired, she could be seen pushing a pram, or walking her friends' dogs. She loved babies and children, and they loved her. She would see such beauty in a garden, or in a certain flower, and would stand for a few moments just admiring and wondering at it! She supported me and my family like any loving grandmother would, and I will always be so grateful to her. We would laugh at her little remarks – sometimes she was so funny, and made us all smile.

Children were so special to her and they all loved her. I can see her now at our family birthday parties when the children were young, and at Sunday School Parties. Alice would love to be there, helping and watching the children. Washing up just seemed to disappear when Alice was around!

But most of all she loved to come to Church. She would sit near the front where she would watch the Choirboys, and she would wonder and be full of admiration at their beautiful singing. She would know if any one of them looked a bit "off colour" that day, and she knew and talked to each one if she could.

So thank you Alice, for all the love you have given to all who knew you. We are sure you will be loved just as much in heaven, and we will hope and pray that we shall find you one day, in a special little corner there.

Celia Milne

## **Jean and Fred at St. Mary Tory**

Many people have remarked how well St. Mary Tory is cared for and how nice it is to have it open to visitors on most days. Much of this is due to the dedication of Mrs Jean Kent with the support of her husband Fred who live in the cottage next to St. Mary. During the summer months, they even provide sojourners with a welcome drink and put the contributions in the collection box.

Fred is a careful, trustworthy and professional painter and decorator – he will even get your shopping if you ask him. In addition to doing work for us at Holy Trinity, he has worked for a number of people in the congregation who are happy to give him a reference. The winter months can be a lean time for painters, as they cannot do much work outside. If any of you have any internal painting and decorating jobs that you need doing now (and have been leaving) then please give Fred a call on 01225 868186 He has some spare time, his charges are reasonable and he will be pleased to get the work.

Tony Haffenden

## Making sense of the world

I had not realised, until reading the book that is reviewed here, quite how much time and effort had been spent in trying to make sense of the way the world is, and it was not so much the story as the title that spoke.

Revisiting the text after several years, when only a bare outline of the tale was remembered, I started with the critical reviews and was surprised to find that two of these drew on the New Testament in their commendations of the work. In an age which seems to neglect the treasure house of scripture, this was rather encouraging.

The 'hero' is, if judged by appearances, not an attractive figure. He would have had a criminal record if his respectable family had not bought off the neighbours after his teenage raids on their homes. Now, post-university and with a broken marriage, he is seen in an old car, renting a basement with the appearance of a tip, with clothes worn and ill-fitting. He shows up reluctantly at family gatherings and finds excuses to leave early – in short, totally rejecting social graces. His redeeming feature is his dedicated work to his clients at employer Rent-a-Back. This delightfully invented company provides 24-hour care to clients who want things moved, sorted, or fixed – all the jobs that fit people do for themselves. It provides a rich background in clients' eccentricities and life stories, but of course the job is disapproved of by the family.

The family has a history. Having started as a successful business organisation it is now an esteemed not-for-profit 'foundation'. The third generation directors in their city suits think rather highly of themselves, and feel let down by their black-sheep son. There is however a myth they share. This is the belief in finding their angel. It goes back to great grandfather's claim to have been inspired by a visit in his shop of a tall woman with golden hair coiled in a braid who gave him inspiration. From then on business took off and laid the foundations of, well, The Foundation. So when a chance meeting leads to an unlikely romance for the black sheep, the question of whether she is his angel hovers in the background. However, it is not so much the plot but the acute observation of the life of the ordinary people who inhabit this bit of the planet that earns the book a clutch of favourable reviews.

Can such a relatively simple, if somewhat ingenious, story provide a way of looking at the world? Its characters show the bad being good and the good being bad, or in part good and in part bad, not fitting any preconceived world view. In the words of the Times reviewer "The picture is so rich and original that it will be revisited again and again". Revisiting it again for the first time was certainly a pleasure, and the idea of a patchwork planet somehow expresses the way the world is.

*A Patchwork Planet* is written by Anne Tyler and was first published in 1998.

Karl Wiggins

## FOR PRAYER IN JANUARY

We pray:

- for God's blessing and guidance in the coming year
- for the unity of the Church of Christ in accordance with God's will
- for Bradford Area Churches Together
- for our continuing Christian Stewardship
- for Kosovo
- for the United Nations and the African Union
- for more united world action on climate change

### **A New Year's Resolution-Prayer — Following in His Footsteps**

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

St Francis of Assisi 1182 - 1226

**Saxon Club Programme**

**January 2008**

*We meet in the Church Hall at 2 pm on Tuesdays.*

*You are very welcome to join us.*

- January 1st: No meeting  
January 8th: Peter Hardman - Seeing is Believing?  
January 15th: Sue Woods - Quilting  
January 22nd: Anne Willis - Bell Restoration  
January 29th: Beryl Cox - Travels in New Zealand

# Quick Crossword

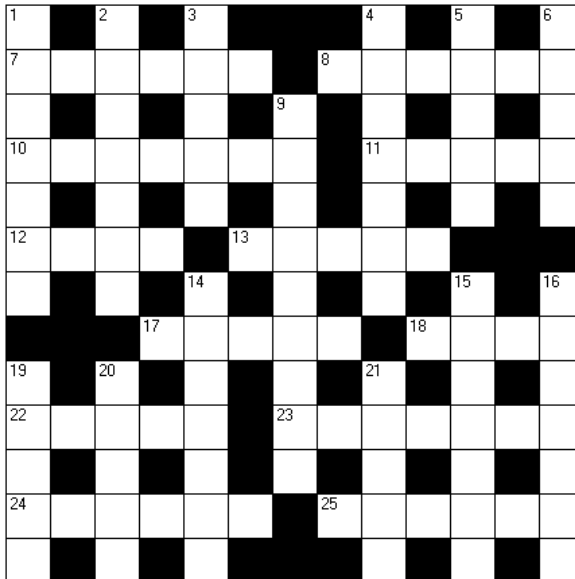
The Bible version used in our crossword is the NIV.

## Clues across

- 7 First son of Jacob and Leah (6)
- 8 It is better than laughter, according to Ecclesiastes ch. 7 (6)
- 10 Grazing land (7)
- 11 Tax for the support of the church (5)
- 12 Season leading up to Easter (4)
- 13 Hosea ch. 2 likens this valley to a door of hope (5)
- 17 One of the songs forming one book of the OT (5)
- 18 He shot Joran in 2 Kings ch. 9 (4)
- 22 In which an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in Matthew ch. 1 (5)
- 23 Muslim opponent of the Crusades (7)
- 24 ..who will be far \_\_\_\_\_ than all the

## Clues down

- 1 Disabled person shown an act of kindness in Acts ch. 4 (7)
- 2 ..their mouths are full of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 3.14) (7)
- 3 The son of God (5)
- 4 An angel suggested that Babylon should receive a double one from her own cup, in Revelation ch. 18 (7)
- 5 What the hand did on the wall in Daniel ch. 5 (5)
- 6 Like stolen water, according to Proverbs ch. 9 (5)
- 9 Showing no clemency (9)
- 14 Son of Abram and Hagar in Genesis ch. 16 (7)
- 15 Drawing implements (7)
- 16 Into which Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown (7)
- 19 Then \_\_\_\_\_ yourself with glory (Job



Source: Parish Pump

Solutions on page 5.

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - OFFICERS

Canon Bill Matthews (Chairman)	Tony Haffenden (Churchwarden & V/C)
Joan Finch (Churchwarden)	Graham Dove (Hon. Secretary)
Dr Malcolm Walsh (Hon. Treasurer)	Revd Angela Onions (ex officio)
Pat Astill	Cecilia Hynes-Higman
Karen Bowen-Nielsen	Peggy Leach
Janet Brown	Dr Nick Nutt
Mary Burge	David Rawstron
Bob Cherry	Edward Shaw
Trevor Ford	Anne Willis
Bryan Harris	John Woods
June Harrison	

## STANDING/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vicar; Churchwardens; Secretary; Treasurer. **CHURCHWARDENS EMERITI**  
Norman Hanney, Jeremy Lavis, Mike Fuller, Anne Carter

## FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

<b>Patron:</b> Dr Alex Moulton	<b>Chairman:</b> Bob Cherry
<b>Secretary:</b> <i>vacancy</i>	<b>Treasurer:</b> John Woods
<b>Committee:</b>	Anne Carter; Bryan Harris; Jeremy Lavis; Revd Angela Onions; Mike Smith
<b>Ex officio:</b>	Canon Bill Matthews; Joan Finch; Tony Haffenden

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<b>Distribution:</b>	John and Beryl Cox (864270)
<b>Subscriptions Collector:</b>	Mary Ford (863984)
<b>Price:</b>	Annual subscription £4.00 in advance .

## THANKS!

**to the whole Parish News Team, editors, printer, collators and distributors. A tremendous amount of work has gone into the excellent editions of 2007, and all of us are very grateful to you.**

***Bill Matthews***

## OTHER OFFICERS & ORGANISERS

PCC Secretary	Graham Dove	868654
PCC Treasurer	Dr Malcolm Walsh	862702
Bellringers	Phil Gaisford	863538
Bookstall	Revd Angela Onions	309001
Brass Cleaning	Chris Hodge	863543
Brownies	Jennifer Hazell	863860
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Coffee on Sunday	George and Ivy Hurst	868795
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Electoral Roll Officer	Pat Irving	862903
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MU Prayer Circle	Chris Hodge	863543
Publicity Officer	Ann Holland	862731
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Sidesman's Rota	Joan Finch	863878
Stewardship Secretary	Brian Netley	866121
Sunday School	Karen Bowen-Nielsen	07732 786440
Verger	Peter Wills	867593

### Parish Representatives on other organisations:

Bradford Group Council: The Churchwardens

Children's Society: Anne Carter

Christian Aid: Jonquil Burgess

Deanery Synod: Bob Cherry; June Harrison, Revd. Angela Onions; Dr Malcolm Walsh; John Woods; Anne Willis (Deanery Information Officer)

Churches Together: David Rawstron

*Cover picture from a drawing by Frances Taylor.*