

DECEMBER

IN

*CHRIST
CHURCH*

WORTHING

BN11 1QY

Volume 3 Issue 12 - DECEMBER 2019

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Worship in December at Christ Church

1st 10.30am Holy Communion with The Revd David Renshaw
6pm BCP Evensong with The Revd Nancy Ford

8th 10.30am Morning Prayer

with Derek Hansen & The Revd David Renshaw
to include a celebration of the renewal of Marriage Vows

for two members of our church family



12th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion with The Revd David Renshaw

15th 10.30am Holy Communion with The Revd Roger Walker
4pm Christmas Carol Service with The Revd David Renshaw
and guest speaker Samantha Burton, Chaplain from the YMCA

22nd 10.30am Holy Communion – a special service with
The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel for the Licensing of
The Revd David Renshaw as Parish Incumbent

24th 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

with The Revd David Renshaw

25th 10.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day

with The Revd David Renshaw

29th 10.30am Morning Prayer with The Revd David Renshaw

and Canon Muriel Pargeter

A message for December

It's unusual to find that one is reaching for the Banns of Marriage Book in November and reading Banns of Marriage for a couple who are to be married in the very near future in another place due to a qualifying connection and not at Christ Church.

BORROWED OR BLUE

It's even more unusual today to find a wedding taking place in December, but if one looks back in many a Church Marriage Register you find that Christmas Day and Boxing Day were often popular because people had time off. The old folklore about the bride is often expressed in verse.

*"Something old, something new,
Something borrowed, something blue."*

The origin and meaning of this folklore is hard to discover the notion of wearing or carrying something blue follows a similar principle but in a richer and deeper vein, blue being the colour traditionally taken to represent the Virgin Mary. This means by implication, that in some sense the woman who wears blue is associating herself with the mother of our Lord, the young bride whose first-born son bore the prophetic name Immanuel - 'God with us'.

So a simple bridal jingle brings us to our forthcoming festive celebrations of Christmas.

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"— which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:23



There will certainly be something old in close proximity to something new in many homes, where the traditional Victorian Christmas tree stands next to the High Definition TV! Sadly, in so many places, the "something borrowed" will be Christmas itself and the money to pay for it. People will borrow Christ's birthday to celebrate whatever they want to celebrate regardless of its simple message

We often sentimentalise Christmas in the same way that we sentimentalise weddings, spending a lot of money on it and taking it away from the realms of reality into a kind of fairy tale fantasy. The fantasy ends when the honeymoon of Christmas Day is over, and we wake up to the reality again.

How do we find ourselves approaching the feast of Christ's nativity this year? Do we allow the pressures of the "borrowed" Christmas to hustle us into eating, drinking and spending too much, or can we associate ourselves with Mary and her special baby - Jesus?

Making sense of Christmas must be allowing time for the true meaning of Christmas to come through all the razzmatazz, its simple meaning of Christ born for us and for the world. In our world today we often want something sensational, so it was that first Christmas the Son of God came to earth, not with a bang and fizz, but into the hearts of simple people who were looking forward to something special that would change their lives in a quiet and gentle way.

May you find for yourselves this year the simplicity of the Christmas story and may it be a blessing to you and your family.

With every blessing for a happy Christmas
Yours

David - Vicar

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

1 John 5:14

Come along to our new monthly Prayer Focus every second Saturday in the month from 10.45 am – 11.15 am. We meet in the organ vestry and spend time praying for our Church, Community and Country as we seek the heart of God and His will in these matters. Everyone is welcome!

For further details please speak to Ken or Miles



Come and join in with our regular events in Christ Church

Tuesdays 10.30 am to 12 noon:

Open church with refreshments



Wednesdays 10.30 am to 12 noon,

Open church with refreshments - donations accepted in aid of missions. Hand-made greetings cards for sale.

Informal Carol singing on

Wednesday 18th December...everyone welcome!

Thursdays 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm: come and enjoy a chat over a

cuppa – if you are so inclined, why not join in the “Knit & Natter” group, bring your knitting, crochet or crafts or... simply come and enjoy fellowship with friends!



Every 2nd Thursday – Mayor Hazel Thorpe is sometimes available to listen and give advice

Every Third Thursday at 2.30pm *[re-starting in January]*

The Rainbow Poetry Group meets in the church



Coffee on the 2nd and 4th Saturday

of each month - 10.30 am to noon

The new Monthly Prayer Focus meets on the second Saturday of each month from 10.45 am – 11.15 am. We meet in the organ vestry, everyone welcome!

Dates for your diary!

Concerts...

Tuesday 21st January 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Paul Gregory [Cello], Marielle Way [Flute] and Yoko Ono [piano]

Tuesday 21st April 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Martin Smith [Euphonium] and Chris Coote [piano]

Tuesday 5th May 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Yoko Ono Piano recital

Tuesday 2nd June 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

John Rattenbury, Guitar and Ivana, Cello

Tuesday 16th June 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

John Collins Organ recital

Tuesday 22nd September 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Richard Bowen classical guitar recital

Tuesday 13th October 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm

We welcome back Rob Campkin, violinist and James Buckham, pianist



Talks...

Tuesday 4th February 2020 12.30pm – 1.30pm A talk on the work of the Police Community Support Officers



The Christ Church Annual Christmas Tree Festival

will take place from

THURSDAY, 5TH –

SUNDAY, 29TH DECEMBER

*when trees from various charities
and our own church organisations
will be on display.*

*The Mayor, Councillor Hazel Thorpe
will declare*

*the Christmas Tree Festival open
on THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER AT 3PM.*

*You are warmly invited to come along,
enjoy a cuppa*

and some cake or mince pies

We look forward to seeing you all there.



Poet's Corner

Noel!

For some 'tis but a festive season come
To celebrate another annum gone;
Base, hedonistic, opportune, for some,
Indulgent, eating, drinking, having fun;
For others, though, 'tis solemn time of year,
Momentous intervention to recall,
Through carolling good news for all to hear,
How Godhead incarnated in a stall;
As unpretentious yeast suffuses dough,
Providing vital life-preserving bread,
Inherent tidings of the season flow,
And into many inner-beings spread.
Though victim to malign detractors' ire,
Noel shall ne'er diminish to inspire!

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Little Things....

Cowherd brought fresh straw,
Lodging for the maid prepared -
Comforting Old Man!

Firstborn warrants gifts,
Shepherds proffer little lambs,
Grateful render hearts!

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WEDNESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER

Heene School Choir join us for their annual Carol Singing for the Bible Society Coffee Morning: 10.30am to 12 noon.

The Nativity Plan. Max Boyce's memoirs - Thanks to Dorothy!

It was the tradition in our chapel every year to produce a nativity play. One year, I played the part of Joseph and we borrowed a donkey from the local farm. The innkeeper was called Billy Williams [they'd given him the part with very little to say because he was apt to forget his lines].

Christmas Eve arrived and I led the donkey up the aisle to the inn and said my lines, "I am Joseph, and this is my wife, Mary who is great with child, have you any room at the inn?"

Billy, who was very nervous and visibly shaking, never said a word. He'd forgotten his one simple line.

I repeated my lines but still no reply from Billy so, I whispered to him, "Make it up, mun".

That proved to be the ruination of our nativity play for when I asked him again, he replied, "Yes, plenty of room. Come on in".

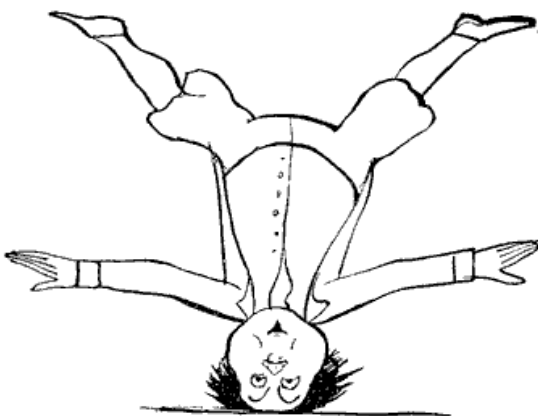


You are old, Father William....

"You are old, Father William," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head –
Do you think, at your age, it is right?"

"In my youth," Father William replied to his son,
"I feared it might injure the brain;
But, now that I'm perfectly sure I have none,
Why, I do it again and again."

From Lewis Carroll's poem.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library *The Dollywood Foundation UK (DWF)*

I expect many readers of this Parish Magazine will have heard of the singer Dolly Parton, known for writing and performing many hits including 'Jolene' and 'I Will Always Love You'. Her first album was released in 1966.

How many of us know that in 1995 Dolly created a Charitable Foundation to provide books for children from 0 – 5 years old? Upon registration each child receives one book every month until the age of five. Each book is age appropriate. There are also books available for blind or partially sighted children. Dolly was inspired to create the library as she realised the impact of being unable to read or write had had upon her father.

Since being established the foundation has sent over 90 million books worldwide. Over 3.1 million in the UK. There is no charge to the children or their families and works through sponsorship. Dolly Parton pays all staff and costs of the foundation.

If anyone reading this is interested in finding out more the website is: <https://imaginationlibrary.com/uk/> Also Paul Burke or Helen Hastle would be happy to provide answers to any questions

pburke@imaginationlibrary.co.uk hastle@imaginationlibrary.co.uk

Dolly is quoted on the website:- "I remain totally convinced that if we could do one simple thing to inspire kids and adults to learn more, it would be to inspire them to read more". The Imagination Library is certainly doing its utmost to inspire a love of books in children.



*Thanks for this
interesting piece Barbara!*

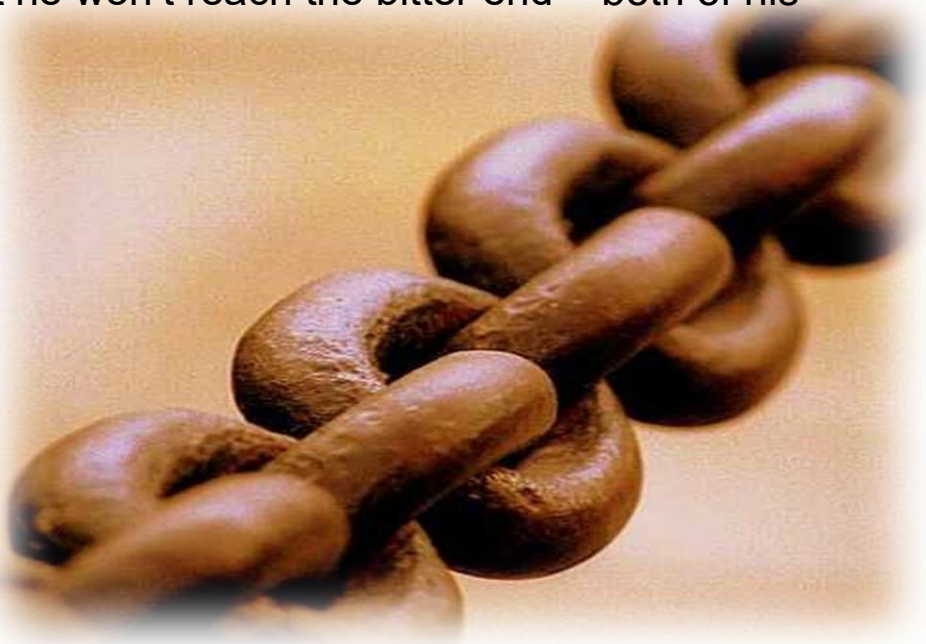
Service on the Seas

Ever felt at the end of your tether? A Naval equivalent is “to the bitter end”, an expression adopted into everyday use and suggesting that you are near breaking point. Where does it come from? A ship relies on engines, propellers and rudders to control directional stability (going where you want it to) and to stop when needed. When almost in the desired position (assuming the ship is not alongside the harbour wall) the anchor will be “slipped” which in turn allows the anchor cable (chain) to be laid neatly on the seabed where its weight holds the ship safely in the planned position. If the water is too deep or the tide and wind too strong more cable is needed to add more weight.

The anchor can also be used as an emergency braking system when the engines/propellers/rudders fail. This is an exciting and stressful evolution, usually performed in foul weather, in the dark, making full use of hand and torch signals. The officer whose career is most at risk is usually the Navigating Officer who prior to setting off on sea trials will have signed to say that the inboard end of the anchor cable is properly secured to a very strong part of the ship’s structure called a “*bitt*”. It is not unknown during this inspection for the Navigating Officer to have looked down into the very dark and possibly slightly rusty “black hole” that is the Cable Locker and decided not to risk his pristine white shirt and mirror-like boots and say “OK Chippy, I trust you.”

As the cable is hammering out and the ship’s nose pointing firmly at a line of surf he really hopes that he won’t reach the bitter end – both of his cable and his promotion.

“Chippy”



*Contributions from John C,
from his friends...*

“Perkatory”: The anguished, prolonged period spent waiting for a fresh pot of coffee to be ready!



Our reason for living..

When we touch something, we leave our fingerprint.

When we touch the lives of people, we leave our identity.

Life is good when you are happy:

but life is much better when others are happy because of you.

Nothing in nature lives for itself.

Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit.

The sun does not shine for itself;

Flowers don't spread their scent for themselves.

Jesus did not make his sacrifice for himself but for us.

Living for others is a rule of nature.

We were all born to help one another.....



Men's Group Update

Following the hiatus caused by unavoidable absences, holidays, Lent, Advent, New Year and a shortage of Saturdays this year it is planned to hold the inaugural get together of anyone interested (or just curious) on Saturday 1 Feb 2020.

It is likely this will just be a round table session to share a cup of tea and bacon roll and a chat. More details closer to the time.

Any queries to me - John H





🎄 Have you put your tree up already?

🎄 This is for you!!



🍀 Joy 🍀

🍀 Love 🍀

🍀 Hope 🍀

🍀 Union 🍀

🍀 Faith 🍀

🍀 Forgiveness 🍀

🍀 Fulfilment & Light 🍀

🍀 Respect & Harmony 🍀

🍀 Wisdom & Success 🍀

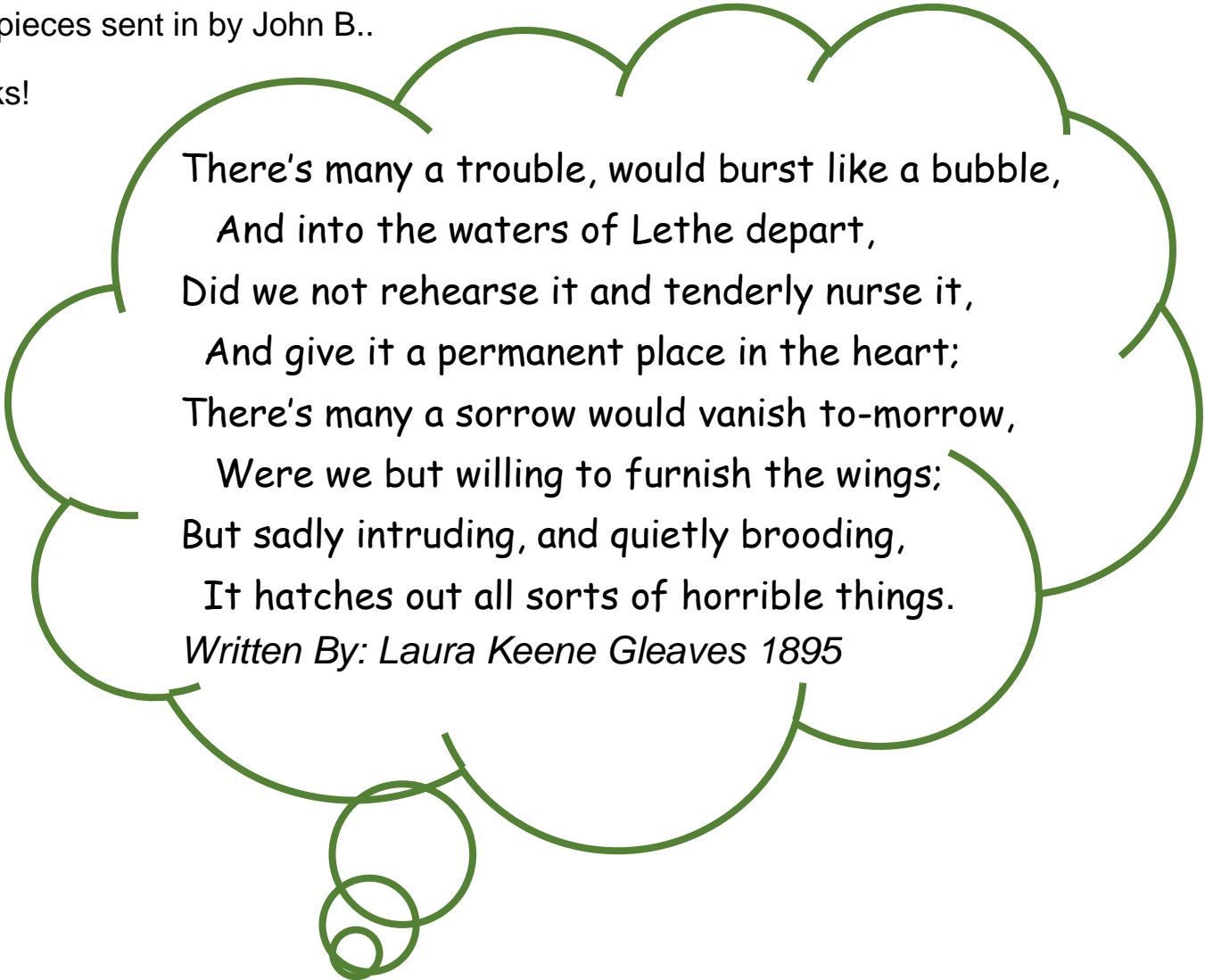
🍀 Goodness & Friendship 🍀

🍀 Strength 🍀

🍀 Jesus 🍀

Two pieces sent in by John B..

thanks!



There's many a trouble, would burst like a bubble,
And into the waters of Lethe depart,
Did we not rehearse it and tenderly nurse it,
And give it a permanent place in the heart;
There's many a sorrow would vanish to-morrow,
Were we but willing to furnish the wings;
But sadly intruding, and quietly brooding,
It hatches out all sorts of horrible things.
Written By: Laura Keene Gleaves 1895



Robert Runcie

**"The Church of England is like a swimming pool.
The noise is all at the shallow end."**

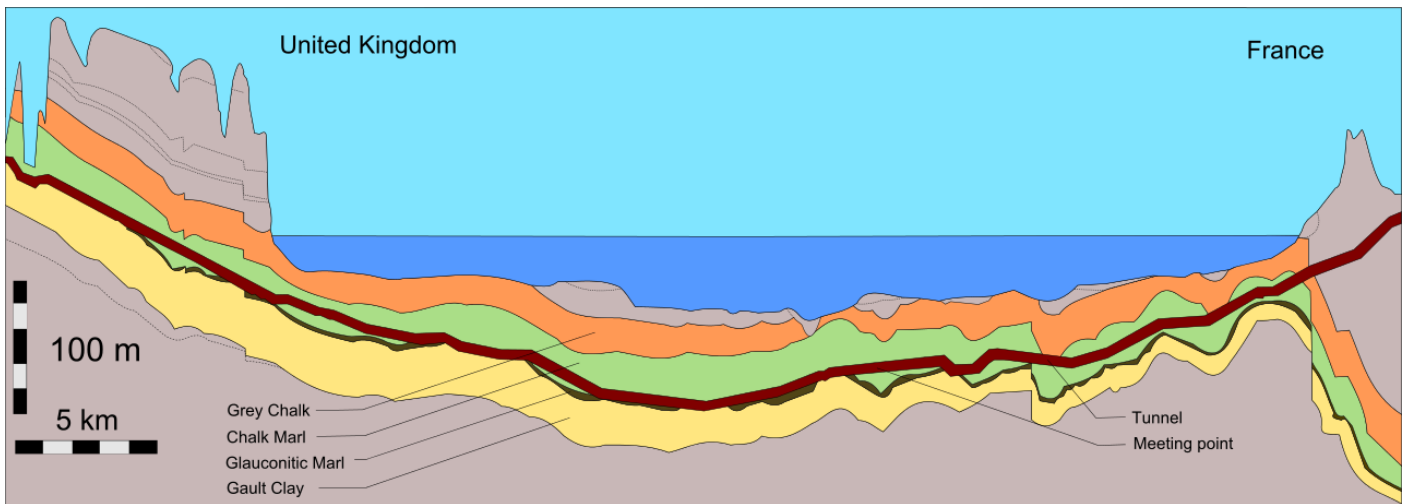
And these two from Barbara H... again, thank you!

**"Don't walk behind me, I may not lead
Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow
Just walk beside me and be my friend"**
Albert Camus, French Philosopher, author and journalist

Quote from Marie Curie born 7th November 1867...

**"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.
Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."**

On 1st December 1990, the French and British tunnels were joined (perfectly) to form the Channel Tunnel.
A truly amazing feat of engineering.



What am I?

I have rings but not a single finger to show
And I follow you wherever you go!!

ANS: mobile phone



A timely reminder of Health and Safety!!!



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

Please be advised that anyone planning to dash through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are required to undergo a Risk Assessment addressing the safety of open sleighs. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night.

While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all facility users are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks. The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that prior to shining his/her glory all around s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well publicised case, everyone is advised that EC legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr. R. Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr. R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift-bearing is commonly practised in various parts of the world, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded under provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Further, caution is advised regarding other common gifts, such as aromatic resins that may initiate allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent case of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly. Compliance of these guidelines is advised in order for you to fully participate with the festive spirit.

St Nicholas Loaf

– a delicious meat free alternative to the Christmas Turkey

3 Leeks chopped finely (15 ozs)
2 Courgettes chopped finely (12 ozs)
1½ teaspoons Cumin seeds
1 teaspoon dried Thyme
1½ ozs (dry weight) rice, cooked
2 ozs strong cheese grated
10 ozs shelled, chopped pistachio nuts
4 ozs mushrooms, chopped
Salt & pepper
Tablespoon olive oil
1 egg, beaten



Heat oven to 175° Gas Mark 3

Heat the oil in a large pan.

Add the cumin and fry gently for 2 minutes.

Add the leeks, courgettes, mushrooms and thyme. Fry on a gentle heat for about 10 minutes, until reduced, with little or no fluid.

Take off the heat and pour contents into a large cold bowl, add the nuts, rice, cheese, egg & salt & pepper. Mix well.

Grease a 2lb loaf tin, with a greased piece of greaseproof paper lining the base. Add contents to tin, packing in tightly. Place a piece of tin foil lightly over the top, place in the middle of the oven and cook for 35 minutes. Take out and remove tin foil. Return to the oven to brown the top for about 10 – 15 minutes, Do not allow to burn, but should it be set, with a cocktail stick coming out clean when pushed through the centre.

Allow to cool slightly before turning out onto a plate. This can be eaten hot, cold or reheated in the microwave later. Keeps in the fridge, wrapped in foil when cold, for a few days. Enjoy!!



Firsts in the House of Commons

November 1852 - The Press Gallery opened

December 1919 - Lady Astor became the first female Member of Parliament

1970 - 1973 - Betty Harvie Anderson became first female Deputy Speaker

1992 - 2000 - Betty Boothroyd became the first female Speaker of the House

2000 - 2009 - Michael Martin became the first Catholic Speaker of the House
since the Reformation

2009 – 2019 - John Bercow became the first Jewish Speaker of the House



'Having been bought up in Amersham Rectory from 1945 for 18 years, I have more than one story. That said the first one is nothing to do with my early life in the Rectory but a story I told Muriel P who insisted I write to you about (so am doing what I was told to do in no uncertain language!)' Richard S

ALLAH TO THE RESCUE!

Bibs and I have been to Africa many times and look to support remote schools in the Bush who are desperate for any kind of support in any way whatsoever.

On one such visit to the Gambia we travelled for the best part of a morning to a very remote area where a white man has been rarely seen. The school housed the best part of 150 children maybe all under 8 years of age. On arrival we stepped into what was more like a small holding with little facilities and the odd chicken and dog to keep the children company.

We came armed with giant suitcases we had bought over from the UK filled to the brim with everything a school of this nature could possibly require; Text Books / Crayons / Pens / Pencils / Rulers / Exercise books - you name it we had it.

On arrival a rather sad and dishevelled teacher appeared to greet us. On asking to see the Head Master/Mistress (being respectful you understand) we were told he had gone out into the road to pray to Allah. Upon his return he told us the story that very morning a little girl came to him to ask for a pencil, and he started to get emotional as he simply did not have even one pencil to give her .

He then went outside into the street and prayed. "Allah he said; Help me; All a little girl wants is a pen to help with her education and I cannot even provide that for her; what am I

to do/what am I to tell her? "
So, you know the rest yes?.....

There we were with
years and years supply
so maybe just maybe
.....Allah did listen.



CIRCUS IN TOWN



One early morning maybe around 1956 I remember my father who had just got out of bed remarked to my mother. "Joyce, Joyce there is an Elephant on our lawn". My Mother merely told him not to be so stupid and throw some water over his face and get a grip.

Dad went on to insist there was indeed an Elephant on the lawn. We were to learn later somehow the animal had walked through the streets of Amersham having escaped from a touring circus and ended up on the Rectory Lawn.

Dad was not well pleased, having devoted his day off for many years tending his loving lawn!

So yes you can believe what you see (sometimes)!

