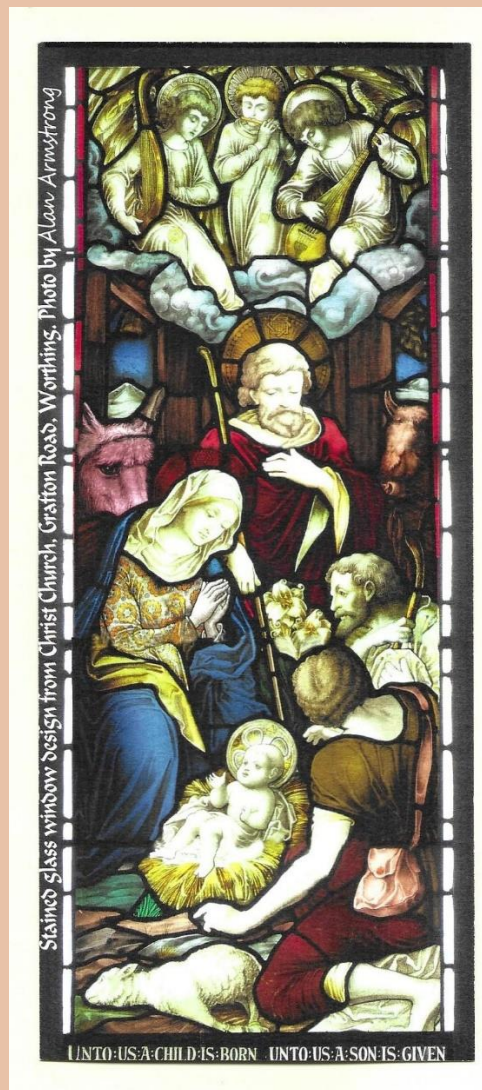


CHRIST CHURCH

Winter

2024-2025



VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

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**Parochial Church Council
of Worthing Christ Church**

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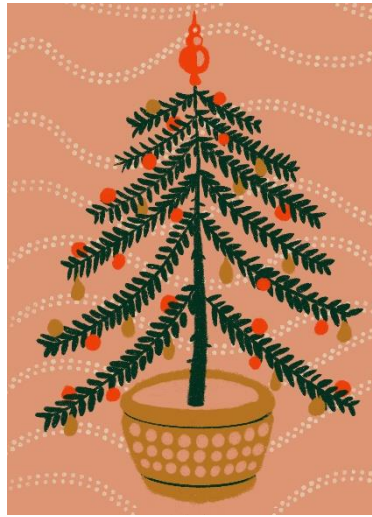
Worship in Christ Church Services for December

DECEMBER

- 1st 10.30am Holy Communion
6pm Evensong**
- 8th 10.30am Morning Prayer**
- 12th 10:30am BCP Holy Communion**
- 15th 10.30am Holy Communion
4pm Christmas Carol Service**
- 22nd 10.30am Morning Prayer**
- 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion**

29th 10:30am Holy Communion





Christmas Tree Festival

4th December – 6th January

We're open for coffee and a chat every Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 10.30 till 12noon

On Thursday afternoons between 2.30 and 4pm,
we open for "The Crafty Club" coffee and natter sessions, when you can bring anything you love doing, knitting, crochet, sewing, drawing, colouring... anything.

Enjoy chatting over a cuppa, or you can just pop in to talk with friends old and new, have a tea or coffee and biscuits and catch up.

Maybe you would just appreciate sitting in the church in quiet reflection... whatever you like, you are always welcome!

Several members of our church family have been busily knitting teddy bears for the seafarers at the Mission to Seafarers. I was delighted with the response and sent off a boxful of fifteen to their headquarters up at South Shields. We still have some patterns if any other knitters would like to have a go. They're very simple to make!

A big thank you to all contributors and also to Lorraine who has made individual bags for each one.

Dorothy



<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/at-church/knitting> is the link to their website, complete with downloads for knitting patterns.

All the patterns are fairly easy. This time, we have the hat pattern below. Pop in to the church with your finished item and meet us for a coffee!

Woollen Hat

You will need:

60g (2oz) double knitting or aran yarn

Size 4mm (8) knitting needles

Needle for sewing up

Cast on 120 stitches

Rib (2 knit, 2 purl) for 30cm (12 inches)

Next row: Knit 2 together to end of row – 60 stitches

Purl next row

Repeat these two rows once more – 30 stitches

Knit 1 row. Purl 1 row.

Leaving a long end for sewing up, cut yarn and thread through all stitches.

Sew up seam.

DO WE MAKE THE MOST OF THE OLD TESTAMENT?

The Church's Lectionary essentially provides, for each day and type of service, three readings, one each from the Gospel, the non-Gospel parts of the New Testament, and the Old Testament. But whereas the bulk of each of the three Synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, are systematically read through on a three-year cycle, how much of the Old Testament do we hear, Sunday by Sunday in our Communion Service?

I had a look recently at the current year's Lectionary, and came to the conclusion that the answer is, surprisingly little. Assuming that the Old Testament reading is selected in the Easter season (when there is also an option for the First Reading to be taken from Acts) and that Track 2 is followed post-Trinity, the congregation will hear passages from Isaiah on eleven Sundays, Genesis on nine, Jeremiah and Ezekiel on four Sundays each and Exodus on three. No other Book comes up on more than two occasions, and some do not come up at all. I haven't yet analysed the other two years of the Lectionary cycle, and some of the Books that we do not hear this year will come up then, but the reality is that lots of the Old Testament is never heard in church on a Sunday morning. As a result, the bulk of it can largely escape many Christians.

Our Old Testament reading on the First Sunday of Lent, the passage from chapter 9 of Genesis when God makes his everlasting covenant with “all flesh that is upon the earth” had me reflecting on whether we should look more closely at the Old Testament. It is a central element of our belief as Christians that Jesus came for all. But we also see him as the fulfilment of the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. The foundations of the Christian religion are undoubtedly rooted in Judaism. Jesus was, after all, born into an observant Jewish family; Joseph was of David’s line. And Matthew’s account of Jesus’ last words on the Cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” shows him reciting the opening words from Psalm 22.

Why might this matter? ‘The Jews’ certainly do not come out of the New Testament well, which at first sight is something of a paradox given the Jewish roots of Christianity. I suspect that the early Christians believed that Judaism would fade as Christianity grew, but it did not. Indeed it survived even the destruction by the Romans of its central feature, the temple. There then developed rivalry between Christians and Jews which, over the centuries, has become institutionalised, and seen Jews viewed as outsiders and problems, and by some as God-killers.

I am certainly not arguing for the reading of additional extensive passages in church on Sunday mornings! However, I agree with those who argue that a greater familiarity with the Old Testament, and its centrality to our faith, might lead to a greater understanding of the Jewish narrative and experience, and of Jewish fears. And such an understanding might be useful in helping to resolve the desperate problems in Israel and Gaza today.

Christopher Ward

Reader

In My Father's House.

Death is, in a way, a part of life; we cannot escape it and when it touches our lives it hurts, not only is there pain, confusion and bewilderment, but there is anger and a deep sense of loss. There are no words to take away the grief we feel. The month of November, when the days are getting shorter and the promise of Christmas is on the horizon, the Church remembers those whom we love but see no longer; those who have shared our lives and have died. It is appropriate that we take these moments to reflect on the gift of life, which brings with it the inevitability of death, before the season of Advent when we focus our thoughts on the birth of the Christ child. St. John's gospel contains the promise and assurance of eternal life given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Chapter 14 is part of Jesus' teaching including prayers for his friends and all those throughout history who will follow him. The disciples are in the upper room, Judas has left to betray Jesus to the Jewish authorities and Jesus knows his own death is imminent. He seeks to reassure them and to prepare them for what is about to happen. But they don't understand. Thomas speaks and asks for help. Jesus gives him the most comforting words that speak to us of God's love. Jesus tells them not to be afraid. He tells the disciples that they will not be alone; the Holy Spirit, the Comforter will be with them. Jesus will leave them his peace: which is very special and beyond anything they have ever known. He assures them that he goes to prepare a place for them and return to take them to that place. They will know where he is going.

How difficult it must have been for the disciples to understand what was going on. They were together to celebrate the feast of the Passover, and Jesus is talking to his closest friends: those who gave up everything to follow him and have shared his life for three years. Here

they were, just outside the city, and Jesus is trying to tell them what to do when the worst happens. The next day, on Good Friday, he will be arrested, tried and executed by crucifixion. His friends, the disciples will scatter and run away because they were frightened. It's understandable that Jesus' friends were frightened and unable to understand. The arrest and crucifixion of God's anointed Messiah could not possibly happen. For him to undergo such a painful and shameful death was unthinkable, it was a way of execution for criminals and those who had broken Roman law. Events unfold as Jesus predicted and on Good Friday, Jesus is alone and the disciples appear to have scattered, yet on Easter Sunday they are witnesses to the most amazing miracle, the triumph of the cross when Jesus appears to them having risen from the dead. They are amazed and there is no doubt in their minds that it is Jesus and he has risen from the dead. They are totally transformed from the frightened people they were who hid in a locked room for fear of their lives to the brave Apostles they became who went out into the world teaching the good news of the gospel that Jesus is risen from the dead. Like the disciples it is difficult for us to understand what happens to those whom we love who have died and it's then that we have to trust in those promises of Jesus. How much easier would it be if only we could be sure that they were somewhere else, that they were ok and that we would meet them again. But that is not available to us, we too, like Thomas and the disciples have to make that leap of faith that Jesus asks us to. He tells us that we are never alone, and that even through death he will come to us and take us to himself, that where he is there we may be also. The glory of God shines through the cross and Jesus through his resurrection offers us salvation and redemption. This is the Christian message of hope that shines in the darkness of death. We have no explanation of death, we have something more powerful than that, we have the promise of Jesus. "I

go ahead to prepare a place for you and I will come and take you to myself.”

Reverend Yvonne Murphy

From the sermon given at Christ Church on 24th November.

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking
along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that
during the low periods of my life, when I was
suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord, “You promised me
Lord, that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods
of my life there have only been
one set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?”

The Lord replied,
“The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you.”

– © *Mary Stevenson*

This poem was mentioned during the sermon.

The Oxen

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
“Now they are all on their knees,”
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
“Come; see the oxen kneel,

“In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,”
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Thomas Hardy, first published in *The Times*, 24th December 1915

Those Seasonal Plants - not just for Christmas!

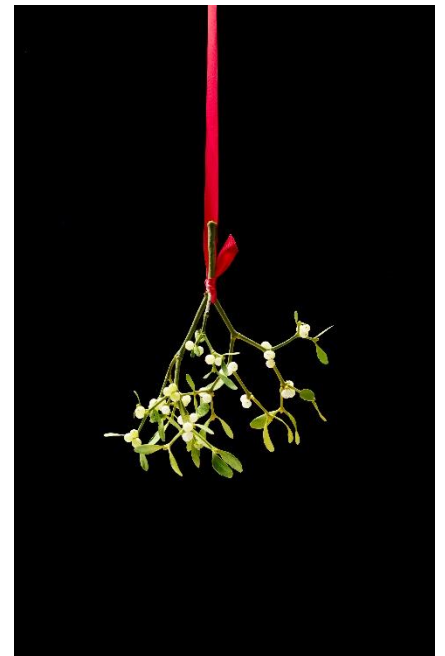
Advice from Catherine

Amarilis Bulbs (hippeastrum) – Most varieties take six to eight weeks after planting to flower. Some can take ten weeks. Plant with 1/3 of the bulb showing in a small pot; just 1cm around the bulb is fine. Dead head and trim the flower stem to an inch. Feed regularly to get into bloom again next year. In mid-August, reduce watering and let the foliage dieback naturally as the pot dries out completely. Store the

bulb in a cool, dark and dry place for eight weeks or longer to start the process again.

Poinsettias – After Christmas, start feeding your poinsettia with tomato food every four weeks. In April, prune to about 10cm and keep at 13°C. In early May, repot into a slightly larger pot with peat-free, loam-based compost and put it in a draught-free spot out of direct sunlight, no warmer than 18°C. Poinsettias develop when day length decreases. To encourage flowering by Christmas, you will need to mimic this by moving your poinsettia into a dark space for 12 hours each day with no artificial light from November, keeping it at around 18°C.

Hyacinth – Bulbs must be heat treated in order to flower for Christmas. They take 10-12 weeks to flower from planting but a lot of places will sell ready to grow. Keep this in mind for next year. Once planted, keep the bulbs in the dark and occasionally check that they are moist. When they are 5cm tall, you can move the pots out of the dark to somewhere cool, a room where you don't turn on the radiators, or a porch, for their leaves to green up. Then you can move them to where you wish to display them, but avoid radiators. Once they have finished, plant them out in the garden at a depth of two to three times their height, where they will flower again the following spring.



Don't forget Christmas decorations – holly, ivy, eucalyptus, pine, spruce, pine cones, rose hips, berries, mistletoe and pencil-thick cornus stems, which can be used as cuttings that will root by next Christmas and could be used as gifts!

Nativity 1!

During a Nativity production in Norwich, one of the wise men forgot his lines. “We bring you gold,” the first magus declared. “We bring you myrrh,” said the second. And then there was a long pause. Finally, the young actor went for: “Frank sends his love.”

Nativity 2!

Now that Jimmy was in Year 2, he at last had a speaking part in the nativity play. Jimmy had worked his way up from ‘back end of camel’ through ‘sheep’ to ‘second innkeeper’. He took his responsibility very seriously, practising his line over and over again. He watched his face in the mirror, trying to look as stern as possible. He sought the approval of Mum and Dad. Finally, he was sure that he could do no better.

The big day came, and parents gathered in the school hall for the performance. All dressed up, Jimmy waited for the knock on the inn door which was his cue. Pulling aside the cardboard, he announced, “There’s no room at the inn!”

Joseph put his arm round Mary. She sighed sadly and they turned to go. Jimmy felt so sorry for them.

“Wait!” he declared, “You can have my bedroom!”

Worthing Theatres and Museum

General entry to the museum is free. Look for workshops, talks and special showings of films such as Silver Screen at the Connaught Cinema on Monday mornings. Take advantage of off-peak ticket prices and discounts for seniors and students. This year the family pantomime, running from 5th December to 5th January, is Robin Hood. *Oh yes it is!* Visit the website via: <https://wtm.uk>

Advent

B Y Z M P Z N M L L S T N P T U U E M T V M Q H D
 P N B C A R O L S B D S S H E E P B W K W F A A N
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 X C I T R A R Y O M A G I O R E N H D X T T D B T
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 S I I V M N P X A N C A S U L T T L H Y P L C F H
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 K F D A O K Z D E N U D T P O U I U K S P H P P A
 M Q S Q S I B N O C W L A Y B P Z X G W C E M N Q
 K A O C A Q N S S N Y E R T V D P U C Y Y M G J H
 Q M R T O Y D V D G K Z A S J B H I L J O S E P H
 M E F Y H U F U I F B E J K M O H Z N J Y M E K J
 P I Z N H B N V O T Q N Y Q G Y U Y K G L A R H S
 T B U E J L L T Z W E T I X Q I E R G D C G E S X
 X V D E C R E E D L N S L Q R H W S N G W N I W B
 X W P W N J N C X O V Q E O J A L T Q E E I S K K
 M A Y H P H S F H R W N M W X E N A P P Y F A P H
 P S F X W G B R O K F N D H L E J B E P X I I E D
 L X B A O Q W T R E E M I F N Y N L P U K C A B Y
 I T P S H E P H E R D P R E P A R E P T Z A H J W
 J A H M S S V D A G B Q P B H C E N S U S T U Q U
 K E I D T O I J M A N G E R K U H Y Q Q T G K M S

MAGNIFICAT

PROPHECY

DECORATE

PREPARE

DONKEY

JOURNEY

CAROLS

OXEN

MARY

TREE

BETHLEHEM

SHEPHERD

SHOPPING

ISAIAH

DECREE

STABLE

HYGGE

CANDLE

PARTY

STAR

COUNTDOWN

NAZARETH

CALENDAR

MANGER

JOSEPH

INVITE

SHEEP

CENSUS

MAGI



Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Did you know that we have peregrine falcons living on the church tower? The peregrine is Britain's biggest falcon. It has broad, pointed wings and a relatively short, square-ended tail. Blue-grey



on top, with a blackish top of the head, its obvious black 'moustache' contrasts with its white face. It has jet-black eyes, with a striking yellow eye ring, base to beak and yellow legs. The breast is finely striped. Females are bigger than males, but otherwise they look alike. Juveniles have buff-coloured underparts, with dark streaks rather than barring on the chest and belly.

It is swift and agile in flight, chasing prey. The strongholds of the breeding birds in the UK are the uplands of the north and west and rocky seacoasts. Peregrines were at a low point in the 1960s due to human persecution and the impact of pesticides in the food chain. Improved legislation and protection has helped the birds to recover and they have now expanded into many urban areas. But they are still persecuted – birds are illegally killed to stop them preying on game birds and racing pigeons. They also have eggs and chicks taken for collections and falconry. Peregrines are a Schedule 1 listed species of The Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Information thanks to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/peregrine-falcon>

The World of Work!

At my first job, I was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. I just couldn't concentrate.

Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

After that, I tried being a tailor, but I wasn't suited for it, mainly because it was a sew-sew job.

Next, I tried working at Starbucks, but I had to quit because I got tired of the same old grind.

Then I tried being a chef. I figured it would add spice to my life, but I just didn't have the thyme.

Next I tried working in a deli, but I couldn't cut the mustard.

My best job was as a musician, but I eventually found I wasn't noteworthy.

I studied for a long time to be a doctor, but I didn't have any patience.

Next up was a job in a shoe factory. I tried hard, but I didn't fit in. After that I became a fisherman but discovered that I couldn't live on my net income.

Next I managed to get a job at a pool maintenance company, but the work was too draining.

So after that I got a job at a gym, but they said I wasn't fit for the job.

After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian, but I realised there was no future in it.

My last job was when I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was too exhausting.

So I tried retirement. And found I'm PERFECT for the job!

Do you have a joke, favourite quote, photograph, article, poem or picture that you would like to share with us?

Email christchurch1843@gmail.com



Christ Church Concerts 2025

**4th February Caroline Goodwin - Soprano singer
accompanied by Zhanna Kemp – Dashkovskaya - Pianist**

25th February Clelia Iruzun - Pianist

18th March – Serenata Jazz Band

**8th April – Sylvia Akagi and Peter Golden - classical,
traditional, blues and original music, singing,
with Guitar and Flute**

**May – John Collins – Organ and Paul Gregory Guitar
and friends – A Tribute to Richard Bowen**

June - The Brighton Guitar Quartet

8th July - Yoko Ono - Piano

August – South Downs Folk Singers

September – John Collins - Organist

**October - Evelyn Harrison, Beatrice Sales &
Zhanna Kemp-Dashkovskaya**

Piano, Clarinet, Flute and Viola

**4th November – Rob Campkin and James Buckham -
violin and piano**

2nd December – Angelina Kopyrina - pianist