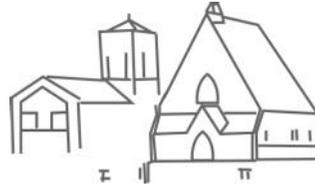


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# The Messenger

Issue 332 December 2018

Published free for Holy Trinity, Cleeve and St. Barnabas, Claverham  
Please take with you to share with friends



## December

Revd Nigel Thomas writes -

### Seasons Greetings

As I get older, I find there is something increasingly satisfying about observing the three seasons in the Christian calendar as they run one into another, Advent into Christmas into Epiphany. It's a full on two months which gives

opportunity in Advent for readings of prophecy, songs of promise, and prayers of preparation punctuated with the Children's Society's own services – 'Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ!' It is a challenge to hold it together, to be patient until the 25th, but it is well worth it if we can as it makes the celebration, like the cake, all the sweeter. Our churches, like most of our homes, will be lovingly prepared, then as Midnight Mass concludes with 'Sing choirs of Angels,' we shall welcome the Christ-child and wish each other, 'Happy Christmas,' We do have angels in our two churches, just not whole choirs of them but you and yours are welcome to come and sing with us. Then during twelve days of celebrating, we will keep looking to a star, a light, to guide us into the new year and Epiphany. Week after week, from

6th January until the start of February, the stories we hear help us answer the question, ‘Who is this whose coming among us is so celebrated?’. The baptism in the Jordan, the miracle at Cana form part of our own discovery and re-discovery of Immanuel, the God who is with us. Candlemas brings the season to a close with a last look over our shoulder at that pivotal event following Christ’s birth, his dedication. Old Simeon stands in the temple, infant in his arms and tears in his eyes, saying ‘Now my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people, a light to reveal you to the nations.’ As one season ends, so another begins.



May we not be so dazzled by the illuminated houses and flashing tree lights that we cannot see the light that is in this one, unique life. May we not be so deafened by Slade or dulled by constant carols that we miss the angels’ song. May we not leave the baby in his cradle but let him grow strong in grace and favour and decide to follow him through

the back streets of the towns and villages, on the road to Jerusalem and beyond. For the whole story really has no end.

*Peace and Joy*

## Remembrance Day

The 11th November was exceptionally poignant this year as it was 100 years since the end of the Great War. The churches of St Barnabas and Holy Trinity were packed, with those who wished to pay tribute to those that had lost their lives in the service of this country. Nigel spoke of the Unknown Warrior – that unidentified soldier who died in

France and is buried amongst the great and the good in Westminster Abbey representing all the unknown fallen.

In the afternoon the church was open for those who wished to read the wartime



Photo  
Andrea

stories of local people and family members. Poems and prayers were read to the large number of people who attended.



Holy Trinity was decorated with poppies and flowers which made a fitting setting to the wartime accounts recorded by local people which were displayed around the church. *Ed*

Court de Wyck School when they come to the School's Carol Service at Holy Trinity

To support the work of "Love Into Action" at 7pm on 13th December 2018 at the Church Room, Holy Trinity, Cleve there will be a fundraising evening for the charity. The event will cost £5 per person, to include a simple two course supper and a talk from Laurence Garrett, one of the charity's founders who works in Palestine.

## Love Into Action evening - 13th December 2018



There is still time to purchase a ticket to learn about the Charity "Love Into Action" and the work it does with families, and people with disabilities, in the Palestinian territories, and all the issues that they encounter in this difficult environment.

Learn about the production of wooden Nativity Christmas Tree decorations, made in Bethlehem, which we give to every child at

The whole ticket price will be donated to the charity. To purchase a ticket please contact Lin Mortimer on 01934 838515.

## Cleeve & Claverham MU -



In our October meeting we invited Zoe Copeland to come to St Barnabas church for a session on Meditation and Stretching. The church is small and intimate and so was ideal for our speaker. A lot of us were very calm afterwards and felt that we could have drifted

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off if we had not to bring the session to a close.

In November we were privileged to have Margaret Hendy on one of her last visits before moving on from her role of Diocesan president, in the movement. She explained the different layers that make up the MU Family i.e. UK, World wide, Provinces and Own Diocese and then she shared with us some of the highlights of her six year term in office. She told us of her many travels around the UK and Ireland representing the Mothers union. She has also been awarded the World Wide

President's award presented to her by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was lovely that the members of Yatton MU could join us for her talk and have the opportunity to meet Margaret if they hadn't previously done so, over a lovely cooked lunch.

Tuesday 4th December many of our members enjoyed a super Christmas lunch at the Bucket and Spade in Locking Castle and apart from the delicious food, it was a lovely sociable get together with much fun and laughter especially over Sheila's dessert! (See photo) Again our ladies have shown their



Photo - Gill

generosity by buying raffle tickets to support MU's work World Wide and sending Christmas gifts and vouchers to The Gemini Refuge South West.

Our next meeting will be in the New Year, with our AGM and communion on Tuesday 15th January starting at 11:45am in Holy Trinity's church room. where hopefully next years programme will ready to hand out. Can I take this opportunity to thank the committee for all the thought and hard work they put into putting the programme together.

*Gill*

## FOCOS Christmas party

All at the Focos Christmas party had a great evening on Saturday 1st December, (Jack and the Beanstalk will never be the same!) Poor Nigel and Nickie experienced the mayhem of the annual Christmas panto first hand!!! Amazingly all the tickets have already sold out for the repeat performance in January 2019.

A great big thank you to all involved in making the evening such a success from the Guides and Brownies, to the kitchen staff, to the sound and lighting team, to the director/writer to all those silly enough to get up on the stage and make fools of themselves! We couldn't do it without you .



Photo - Gill

## God resigns?

Last week at Holy Trinity we had one of my favourite hymns, 'Our God reigns.' As well as enjoying the words and tune it always makes me smile. Some time ago I read an article on church 'bloopers' which related the story

of a misprint on the hymn sheet that listed one of the hymns for that morning as 'Our God resigns!'

I don't think that He has thrown in the towel yet, thank goodness, but when I watch the news I sometimes wonder if He isn't tempted!

## Services from the second week of December until the second week of January 2019

### The second Sunday of Advent

**PURPLE**

2nd Sunday	9th December	09.30	Holy Communion	Claverham
		11.30	Holy Baptism	Claverham
2nd Wed	12th December	19.00	Carol Service	Claverham
2nd Thurs	13th December	09.30	Prayers for Healing & Wholeness	Cleeve

### The third Sunday of Advent

3rd Sunday	16th December	09.30	Holy Communion	Claverham
		16.00	Christingle Service	Cleeve
3rd Thursday	20th December	09.30	Prayers for Healing & Wholeness + Holy Communion	Cleeve
		13.30	Court de Wyck School Carol Service	Cleeve

### The fourth Sunday of Advent

4th Sunday	23rd December	09.30	Holy Communion	Cleeve
		10.00	Simple Team Communion	Yatton
		19.00	Carol Service	Cleeve

### Christmas Eve

Monday	24th December	16.00	Crib Service	Cleeve
		22.00	Christmas Eve Eucharist	Claverham
		23.30	Midnight Mass	Cleeve

## Christmas Day

Tuesday 25th December 10.00 Family Service with Holy Communion Cleeve

## The first Sunday of Christmas

5th Sunday 30th December 10.00 Team Service Yatton

## The Epiphany

1st Sunday 6th January 09.30 Holy Communion Cleeve  
 11.00 Informal Holy Communion Claverham  
 16.30 Epiphany story Claverham

The fourth wise man. (suitable for secondary school age and adults)

## The second Sunday of Epiphany

2nd Thursday 10th January 09.30 Prayers for Healing & Wholeness + Holy Communion Cleeve  
 2nd Sunday 13th January 09.30 Holy Communion Claverham

## Clevedon Food Bank

Many thanks to everyone who has donated so generously to the Food Bank this year both at church and in local supermarkets.

These are some of the items they are most in need of according to their Facebook site. -

UHT milk, Rice pudding, Sponge pudding, Jars of pasta sauce,

Jam, Instant mashed potato, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Loo rolls, Toiletries, Household cleaning things. Tinned Fruit Tinned Custard, Coffee, Washing liquid/powder, Tinned veg(not chickpeas or kidney beans.)

There is always extra need during school holidays as children will not be getting their free school meals. *Ed*

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## Holy Trinity's Autumn Fayre

The Fayre on the 17th November was a huge success this year.



Photo - Andrea

Such a lovely atmosphere and so very well attended. A big thank you to everyone for their help, contributions

and hard work behind the scenes not forgetting all those who came



I wonder if Nigel read the small print in the job application!

Photo - Gill

along to support the event on the day.

The sum raised was over £1,800 all of which will go to the refurbishment of the church room.

*Diana*

And thank you Diana for organising this very enjoyable event. *Ed*



Also a special 'Thank You' to the catering team!

## Chalice Handbell Team

Because of Geoff's health problems it was doubtful whether the Chalice Handbell Team would be able to take 'near Christmas' bookings this year, but they have been encouraged to do so by a sudden rush of requests!



They have already performed at Somerset House with a mixture of song tunes, carols and Betjeman poetry, and at Derham Court in Yatton, and are due to ring at the Yatton Market in the village hall on 8th December.

If anyone would like to give them any booking dates now, or throughout the year, they are open to offers. There is no charge but

they willingly accept contributions to their chosen charity for the year 2018 which is Weston Hospice. A cuppa and any other refreshment is always welcome as are any new recruits after the Christmas bookings. Please phone Geoff Marchant or Eleanor on 01934 834550.

## St Barnabas and Claverham news

St Barnabas will be holding its Carol Service at 7pm on Wednesday **12th December**. Everybody welcome.



The **Christmas Eve** Eucharist will be at 10pm as usual and we look forward to seeing you there.

On Sunday **6th January** there will be a special Epiphany event at 4.30pm at the church when Nickie will be telling the story of the Fourth Wise Man. The story is suitable for older children and adults. Come and join us on the journey!

This month's Village market will be on Saturday **15th December** from 10am-12noon in the village

hall. There will be plenty of stalls, including some new ones as well as the popular St Barnabas cake stall and Trevor's plant stall, but no special visitor this year as there are very few children coming to the market these days. Where have they gone? There are still lots of interesting stalls so do come along, meet your friends, browse round and have a cup of tea!

The January market will be on **19th Jan 2019** as long as we are not all snowed in!

There won't be a lunch club in December as it will be Boxing day, but at the end of January we will have been in existence for ten years so we are all going out for a celebratory lunch! *Jean*

## Get your walking boots on and join us for a New Year's Day Family Walk



Everybody is welcome to join us on a two mile circular walk around Claverham village.

We are starting from St Barnabas

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at 2pm and it will be easy walking round the lanes, suitable for children and dogs!



We shall finish back at St Barnabas with drinks, cake and prayers. If anyone not walking would like to join us there please come along. Phone Nigel - 01934 283340 if you need more details.

## The Fourth Wise Man

An Epiphany story told by  
Nickie Fidgin



A tale both old and new with which to start the new year. Will you join us for the journey? Suitable for older children and adults.

Sunday 6th January 4.30pm  
St Barnabas, Claverham.

## Treasurer's news

### Holy Trinity Autumn Fayre.

Thanks to lots of hard work by many people, the Autumn Fayre raised the monumental figure of £1815 after paying for use of the Village Hall.

This is an amazing £266 up on the great figure raised in 2018.

## Common Fund

Last year, at this time we looked at the Common Fund figure that Cleeve & Claverham were going to have to pay in 2018. The 2019 figure has just been published and no surprise, that figure has increased per person per week. Let's take a look.

The Common Fund is an amount of money that each PCC pays to the Diocese which, in simple terms, makes up the salaries, pensions, housing etc. for all the Clergy in the Diocese.

The Common Fund is based on the number of 'Regular Worshippers' that each Parish has attending. A 'Regular Worshipper' is someone who attends Church at least once a month.

The payment scale for 2019 shows an increase from £10 per week to

£10.57 per week for every Regular Worshipper!

Therefore our overall payment for 2019 is £21998, which equates to our 40 'Regulars'.

So, if like Linda and I, you look in December to see what Charities to support for the forthcoming year, please think about topping up your payment to the PCC.

One of the problems over the whole Diocese is that decreasing Church membership means that, even with cost savings by the Diocese, there are fewer people across the Diocese [and in most Parishes] paying to 'keep the show on the road'!

Just to put things into overall perspective don't forget that the Common Fund is only around two-thirds of the total outgoings that the PCC pays for – there are utilities, insurance, maintenance, music, services, and many more basic necessities that we have to pay for each year!

As last year, when I see how all the finances have gone in 2018, I will write to all our Regular Worshippers during Lent.

Best wishes

*Dave*



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005  
AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

## Green tips...

### Co-op green bags.

Brownie points to the Co-op in Yatton who have changed their usual plastic bags to green compostable ones. At 5p each they are half the price of the compostable 'bags on a roll' I have been buying to line my food waste bag!

### Christmas wrapping/cards

#### Tis the season to be aware of recycling!

You can tell if wrapping paper is plasticised by doing the 'scrunch test,' If it bounces back into shape when you scrunch it then it has plastic in it and will have to go into the normal household waste.

If it stays scrunched then it can be recycled in your green box!

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Christmas cards and their envelopes can go in the recycling boxes but not if they have any Glitter, ribbons or plastic on them. The glittery bit can be torn off and the rest recycled though. So if you are buying cards and wrapping paper it is better to avoid shiny and

glittery ones no matter how Christmassy they look!

*Ed*

## Thank you

Thank you to everybody who has helped me to produce the Messenger for the past year with your articles, photos, news and jokes, even the naughty ones I couldn't put in but still gave me a laugh!

*Ed*



I wish all readers of the Messenger a wonderful Christmas filled with love and joy.

Articles for the January edition should be with me, Carole Perrott by Wednesday 9th January. They can be e-mailed to [carole.perrott@gmx.com](mailto:carole.perrott@gmx.com), put through the door of 15 Chestnut Drive, Claverham, or given to me at church.



*Myra & David  
Birdsall*

would like to wish all their Church family at Cleeve and Claverham churches a Holy and Happy Christmas They are sure that you will understand why it is not possible for them to send individual cards this year.



## Holy Trinity Cleaning Rota

Sarah Cush Nick Cush	December 16th
Andrea Stoddart Lin Mortimer	December 23rd
Enid Pring Ron Pring	December 30th
Kath Hunt	January 6th
Gill Roe	January 13th