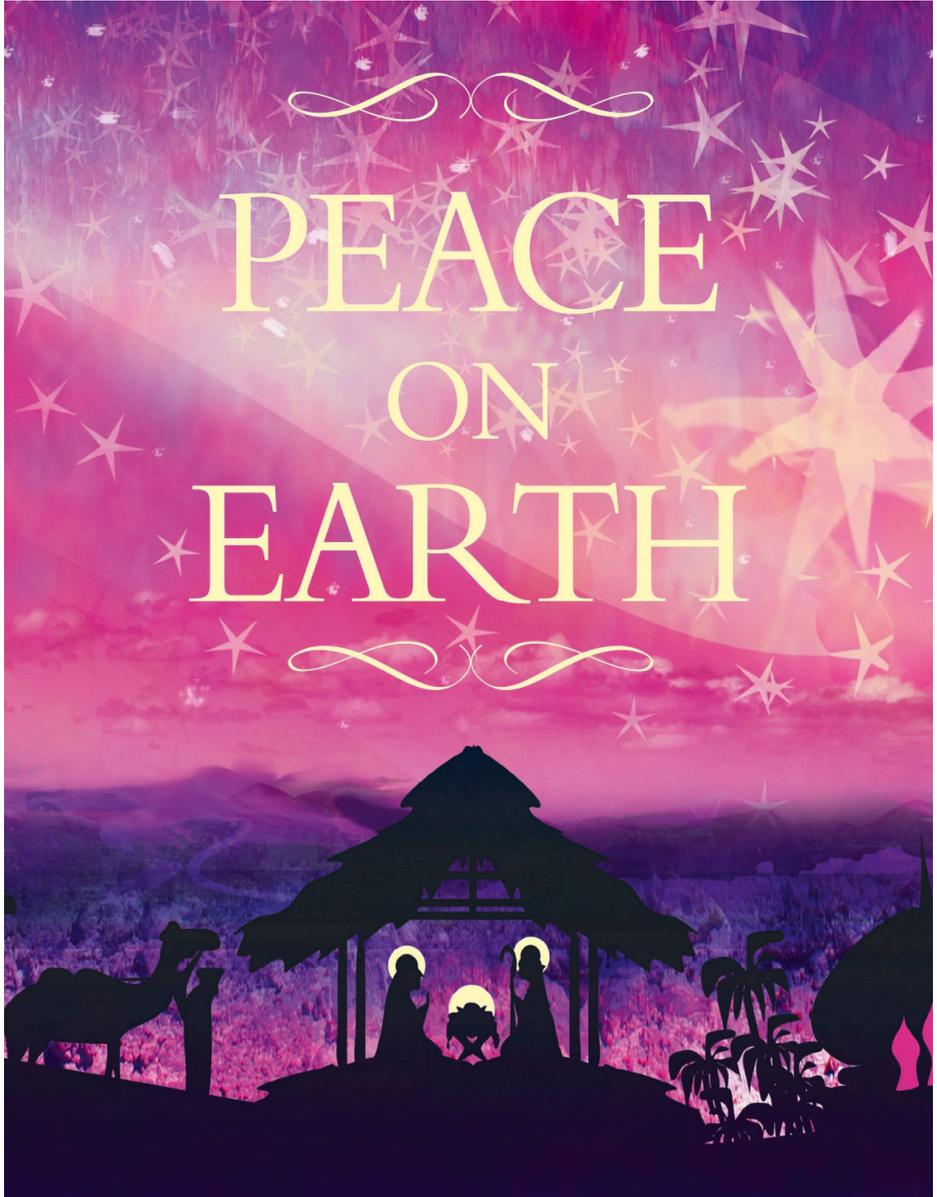


St Michael's, Oulton

December 2018



Services and Events for December 2018

Sunday 2nd December: First Sunday of Advent.

9:00am Book of Common Prayer and Holy Communion with the Rev. Nick Ktorides.

10:00am. Morning Prayer led by the Rev. Nick Ktorides and Debbie Allsop.
Sides persons: David Boyce and Karen Langfield.

Thursday 6th December: 'Women's Own'.

2:30pm at 1, Elmhurst Avenue. Carol Service.

Sunday 9th December: Second Sunday of Advent.

10:00am: Holy Communion led by The Venerable David Hayden and Jill Pirrie.

Sides persons: Stella Saunders & Elissa Norman.

Thursday 13th December—Limes Academy Carol Service.

10:30 am: The Limes Academy cordially invite you to attend their rehearsal for their Carol Service at the new school.

Sunday 16th December: Third Sunday of Advent.

10:00am Holy Communion led by the Rev. Nick Ktorides and Debbie Allsop.
Sides persons: Jill Pirrie and Carol Keightley.

Monday 17th December 'Knit and Natter' Group.

1:30pm: Meet at 1, Elmhurst Avenue, Oulton Broad.

Saturday 22nd December—Christingle Assembly.

10:00 am: We are seeking volunteers to help with the assembly of the children's Christingles. If you are able to help please let Debbie, know and I am reliable informed tea / coffee and cake will be provided—yippee!

Sunday 23rd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent.

10:00am: Carols and Lessons led by the Rev. Nick Ktorides and Jill Pirrie.
Sides persons: Tim Jones and Carol Keightley.

Monday 24th December: Christmas Eve.

4:00pm: Christingle Service led by the Rev. Nick Ktorides. Come along and bring the children and grandchildren to this special family service.

11:30pm: Midnight Service and Holy Communion led by Rev. Nick Ktorides and Debbie Allsop.

Tuesday 25th December : Christmas Day.

10:00am All age Holy Communion led by The Venerable David Hayden and Jill Pirrie.

Sunday 30th December : First Sunday of Christmas.

10:00am Service and Holy Communion led by the Rev. Nick Ktorides and Debbie Allsop.

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The Reason for the Season.

Well where on earth has 2018 gone to? It's has certainly been an interesting year what with suffering the ignominious 'Beast from the East' followed by a splendid summer, and here we are just a few weeks away from Christmas Day. We set the scene recently with the annual Christmas Coffee Morning which was wonderfully supported by both visitors and helpers alike and I am reliably informed that we raised £779:42p in the process which has to be something of a record—well done to everyone!

It's difficult to not get caught up in the advertising hype that seems to bombard us from every angle in the build up to Christmas which can detract from 'the real reason for the season'. I share with you the following Christmas prayer and with it I send the best wishes from the PCC and Clergy here at St. Michael's.

Loving, generous Father,

This Christmas, please help us to keep you at the centre of our preparations and celebrations. May our thankfulness for the gift of your precious son, Jesus, motivate all that we think and say and do. May the joy of His coming shine from us and attract those who don't know what Christmas really means, so that they want to find out!

In Jesus' name and for His glory,

Amen.



Famous Christians.

Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles.

As a young lad we had a young probationary minister allocated to our church who as you might expect was excited and inspired by the ministry of St. Paul and his enthusiasm was certainly contagious, but just who was this divine man who was known originally as Saul of Tarsus?

He was a Jew who served as enforcer for the Sanhedrin against the Christian sect following the crucifixion of Jesus. Around 33 AD he experienced a dramatic conversion experience while on the road to Damascus, a revelation of the Christ. He became a tireless Christian evangelist to the gentiles of the first century Roman world, putting his considerable theological training and logical skills to work developing a faith that could move well beyond its regional host to become the primary religion in the western world for the better part of two millennia.

Paul's letters to the churches he visited or established survive in the New Testament canon, in places contradicting certain events recorded by the physician Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. Thirteen of the epistles are traditionally attributed to Paul, but only seven are considered unquestionably authored by him by Biblical scholars. These letters were widely circulated in the early Christian communities and considered divinely inspired scripture from the beginning. His letters are accepted by most critical scholars as the earliest written books of the New Testament. Paul never met the man Jesus of Nazareth, and little about Jesus' life can be learned from his writings. His focus was on the redeeming power of the Christ and the justification of believers through grace. Paul's letters reveal a remarkable human being: dedicated, compassionate, emotional, sometimes harsh and angry, clever and quick-witted, supple in argumentation, and above all possessing a soaring, passionate commitment to God, Jesus Christ,



and his own mission. Fortunately, after martyrdom at the hands of Nero one of his followers collected some of the letters, edited them very slightly, and published them. They constitute one of history's most remarkable personal contributions to religious thought and practice. Of the many letters and quotes attributed to St. Paul I have chosen to conclude with the following immortal words:

‘Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own [will], is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.’

Paul the Apostle

The Enquirer

We recently welcomed Nick Ktorides and his wife Shuba to St Michael’s to work with David as interim priests. I asked Nick if he would share his thoughts as we approach the Christmas season.

“When they saw the star they were overjoyed...they saw the child with his mother and they bowed down and worshipped him”.

The Church of England’s Christmas proclamation to ‘Follow The Star’ is intensely topical as Advent and the Christmas season verge upon us.

This New Bright Star in the dark sky 2000 years ago, directed the Magi or wise men to the baby Jesus lying in a Manger or Crib and we are told they worshipped him.

Today 2000 years on, we too are directed to the encapsulation of the time when baby Jesus lay in a manger. We recap this historic moment at Christmas time in ‘Crib’ and ‘Carol’ services, and on the numerous Christmas cards we will send and receive.

But, can we take the next step the Magi took and enter into their eye opening experience of recognising who Jesus is, and adore him?

The Magi came in the belief that the study of the stars helped them on their way to getting to true interpretations of life. But upon finding Jesus lying in a manger their eyes were opened to the ultimate truth.

They recognised that the light of the star had led them to the true light - Jesus, The Way, the Truth and the Life. Thus, they worshipped him.

If we will lift our eyes in the midst of the darkness of the world around us and allow our hearts to be focused on to the light of Jesus, we too will be led to recognise that God had indeed come down to be with us in the baby Jesus 'Emmanuel' or 'God with us'.

The Magi had been on a quest for the truth of ancient prophecy regarding the Messiah. The star didn't remain in the sky leading the Magi for the rest of their lives on the quest. No, they moved on from following the guiding star to following Jesus.

Like the Magi we too may find that old ways of searching for meaning, significance and value in our lives have left us in the night sky among wandering stars. And so we too may need to turn away from futile lights and be re-directed more specifically and precisely to the Star of stars - Jesus. In their search the Magi stopped at the 'bright lights' of



Jerusalem thinking it was the place they would find the new born King: that is until they discovered in the writings of the OT prophet Micah (written hundreds of years earlier) that the specific geography was Bethlehem where they would find the new-born King "Emmanuel" or "God with us".

Then it is that we realise God is with us in this dark world as it really is, and with us as we really are. Then it is that we lose lofty unreal projections we may have of ourselves and of life. Jesus came down to the reality of life on earth to lock us into ultimate reality and not ultimate futility.

And so from following the light of the star leading us to Jesus, we move on to follow Jesus who becomes our light for the rest of our lives. The Psalmist speaks of God and his word as being a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. While we may wish that the whole of our lives were mapped out

clearly before us so we are driving with a divine 'sat nav', God only gives us enough light to direct us step by step. So we drive by faith and fix our eyes on Jesus, not on a road map.

But the closer we strive to follow Jesus by faith the surer we can be that we are going the right way. Though we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, for the way further ahead can become clearer only as stay close to Jesus. As goes the story of the man (or was it a woman) who was stopped for speeding in a 40 MPH zone,:- she / he said to the officer, "I can't have been speeding I would have hit the car in front - they were definitely only going at 40 MPH or you would have stopped them, first." And the officer pointed out: "the car in front was 1/2 a mile in front of you".

Christmas is here! - so we look forward to the merry festivities:- the Christmas stocking with a customary orange, inside, the Christmas crackers with 'hilarious' jokes - "why did the Orange take a prune to the Christmas party? Because he couldn't find a date", "what happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 24 days". And whatever other traditions you have in your home- enjoy!

But let us also look forward to marking day by day the 12 days of Christmas that will bring us into the New Year, following the light of Jesus. In the midst of the merry festivities let our song also be "Oh "Dear Lord three things I pray : to see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly follow thee more nearly Day by Day".

Nick Ktorides.



The Venerable David Hayden welcomes Rev. Nick Ktorides to St. Michael's, Oulton.

In the News

Christingle50 campaign

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Children's Society bringing Christingle to this country with a service held in Lincoln Cathedral in 1968.

To celebrate this landmark anniversary, the Children's Society is running its #Christingle50 campaign, which aims to support vulnerable young people through raising funds at Christingle events and a collaboration with The Royal Academy of Music.

Some 200,000 10 to 17-year-olds in the UK are experiencing emotional neglect on a regular basis, and many are also struggling with other difficulties at home. The charity found that:

11% of 10 to 17-year-olds experiencing emotional neglect also do not have their own bed; 21% 10 to 17-year-olds experiencing emotional neglect had also been homeless in the last five years; and 20% of 10 to 17-year-olds experiencing emotional neglect also lived in a household that had used a food bank in the last five years.

Matthew Reed, Chief Executive of The Children's Society explains: 'Too many young people will wake up on Christmas morning like any other - feeling alone and unable to cope.'

The Children's Society has created an original song for schoolchildren, congregations or community choirs to include in their Christingle services. The song, 'Light a Candle', is available to download and listen to or learn for free from The Children's Society website.

You can support young people by donating to the #Christingle50 campaign, or by attending a local Christingle Service. For more information, visit www.christingle.org.

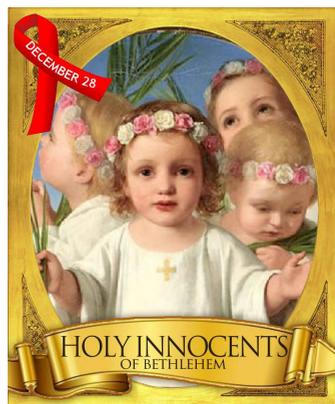


(Editors note: Don't forget our Christingle Service being held on Monday 24th December at 4:00pm).

The Massacre of the Innocents.

On December the 28th, we celebrate The Holy Innocents, the day when the Holy family escaped from Bethlehem to Egypt. King Herod sent his soldiers to Bethlehem, and its region, to slaughter all the baby boys under the age of two. Sadly little is made of this special day. Most Christians simply pass it by. Who wants to remember a time when a jealous king who was so afraid of loosing his throne and power to another Greater King, sent an army to kill children so that he would be sure of his throne? After all said and done, we are still in the season of Christmas when we eat and drink more than we should, while many of us, and I include myself in that, have little thought for the children in the world who are being slaughtered in a painful way, through famine and lack of clean water: and it doesn't stop there.

The war against ISIS in Iraq saw some of the most intense fighting since the Second World War. For those on the ground the horrors must have been unimaginable. The Foundation for Reconciliation in the Middle East, founded by the Revd. Andrew White, recently visited a trauma centre in the village of Alqosh. This centre serves a wide region including villages captured by ISIS. It has a particular focus on children. The trauma



counsellors and therapists visit schools throughout the area. They work with children of all ages who have witnessed inhumanity, which has caused them lasting psychological damage: their lives will never be the same again. Children in these villages were often forced to watch gruesome and vindictive public executions which were often broadcast on large screens in public squares where all including children were forced to watch. Despite this, many will not seek help for the trauma they feel.

One of the counsellors interviewed in Alqoas said that people with mental health issues, even victims of ISIS, are stigmatised. If a person is suffering they will not talk about anything-if they talk about personal issues, people around them will think they are crazy. For children, the trauma is particularly bad as it scars them at an impressionable age. Some trauma specialists in Iraq have reported that children are both terrified and fascinated by the atrocities they have seen, even mimicking knife-wielding executions with sticks and threatening to behead members of their own families.

The Foundation for Reconciliation in the Middle East want to raise funds for the trauma centre in Alqoas because they can see how vital the work is. Art therapy, music, dance and resilience workshops are offered to children. Shockingly, such centres are not funded directly by the Iraqi government. If you as a concerned

Christian would like to support this initiative or any of The Foundation for Reconciliation in the Middle East's projects please would you pass on ant donations to John Worsfold who will see it reaches their UK Headquarters.

Over two thousand years ago children were slaughtered because those in authority were frightened of losing power. Today children are still being slaughtered because evil people still crave power in the same region of the world. Let us remember all those children throughout the world who are victims of abuse, in any form from those who seek power and gratification.

Pause for thought.

This month John continues with his the life of St Francis of Assisi.

This month I want to tell you about St. Francis and Christmas. One day near Christmas Francis and some of his brothers were walking towards a small hamlet called Greccio. A small community that has now become famous for a very special reason. When they reached Greccio all the people there were overjoyed to see and talk with Francis and his companions. The hamlet rested on a rocky elevation; a bare mountain cut in a series of steps. Francis asked for a cowbell, and he rang it as he made his way to the main plaza. Soon all the people were gathered around him and the brothers with him. My children, 'Francis began, 'a child is defenceless. Hence a child is innocent. He lives in the oceans of freedom. He receives everything, whether it is earned or merited. He receives everything freely. He or she is loved freely. This is how we are in the hands of God. What joy! God carries us in his bosom, He carries us in His arms.' At that knowledge Francis and every one cried. There were caves further up the mountain, where Francis went alone to pray. The brothers separately found a cave to pray in silence before God. After some days Francis called all the brothers together and said, " I want to show these people what it was like on that first Christmas, when God sent His only Son to redeem us." Francis told Brother Angelo to go and gather as many brothers from far and near to join in their Christmas celebrations, and all the villagers too. Just before midnight on Christmas Eve, the brothers witnessed a spectacular event. The mountain was shimmering in white light. In neighbouring villages surrounding Greccio, men women and children abandoned their homes, raised torches large and small, and came to the cave amidst songs of joy.

The brothers had prepared an enormous Nativity scene with hay and straw at the entrance to the cave. A gentle yet hungry little donkey stood on one side of the manger chewing lovely fresh hay. An ox that was no less gentle stood on the other side. The poor man, calm yet overjoyed, stood beside the crib ready to begin the liturgy. He announced the Good News of the Birth of Christ. Francis approached the crib. He kept saying Love, Love, Love. Later on he began to say these words repeatedly: Infancy. Poverty, Peace, Salvation. Time and again Francis would find himself very tearful. He

became completely absent - a marvellous heady feeling had taken possession of him. He was oblivious to the congregation and began to direct his words to, 'someone' who was in the manger. He pronounced 'Jesus Child of Bethlehem' with his ineffable eloquence. Francis leaned over the crib as if he



were about to kiss a child, or take a baby in his arms. John Vellita, who was there that holy night, could have sworn he saw the sleeping Baby Jesus with his own eyes. Upon feeling the loving strokes of Francis' hand, the Child awoke and smiled at Brother Francis. John Vellita swore it happened. It was one unforgettable night. To all of the inhabitants of Greccio, the Grotto (Cave) was the new Bethlehem. They all talked about miracles.

If you go to Greccio today, and they do get thousands of visitors every year, there are many shops selling Christmas Cribs, some are hand carved, others made of clay. Some cribs sell for thousands of pounds, some for a few pounds. If you go to a Franciscan Friary at Christmas, you will always find in their cribs, some big some small, a statue of St. Francis. Most churches have a Christmas crib, but many don't realise that it was St. Francis who made the first one with living animals, and so the tradition has come down to us through the ages-for over eight hundred years. At St. Michael's we have one of the most beautiful cribs I have ever seen. Last month I said that I would tell you about Francis' visit to the Pope and how that meeting has changed the Church; I will tell you next month. In conclusion may I wish you Happy Christmas from all Third order Franciscans in Lowestoft.

My Favourite Hymns.

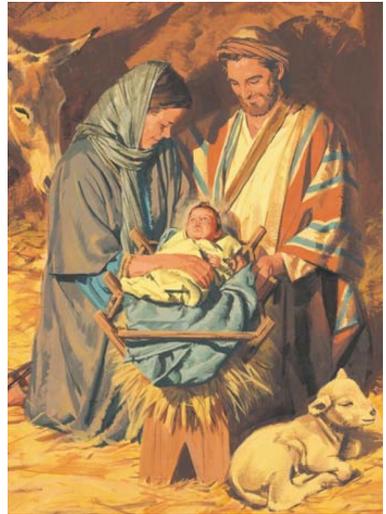
Being Christmas I thought it might be appropriate to ask Elissa Norman what are her favourite Christmas Carols; this is what she said.

“Christmas Carols are truly special and it is hard to pick just one favourite. Away in a Manger is for most of us the first Carol we learn as children and it carries through our lives. I can remember first singing it at primary school during our visits to school and later playing it in our school Orchestra in the town centre at Christmas. As an adult it is a yearly comfort and reminder to me of the meaning of Christmas and the gift we were all given in our Lord Jesus Christ. I like to think the words

I love you lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Have a deeper meaning that the night Jesus
was born.

I also love 'O holy night' again the words remind me of the joy and celebration of Christmas for us all and it is hard to not be overcome with emotion whilst attempting to sing it. Especially if we are lucky enough to sing it with a large number of people.”



Thank you Elissa. The history of Carols is interesting. They originally were songs sung by pagans at major festivals such as the winter solstice. The word Carol means ‘dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols were originally sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived. This was mainly brought about by St. Francis when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy (see *John’s article*). The people in the plays sang songs or ‘canticles’ that told the story during the plays. Sometimes, the choruses of these new carols were in Latin; but normally they were all in a language that the people watching the play could understand and join in!

The following poem is dedicated to the late Sue Parish 1940—2018

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend ..
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the dates of birth and spoke of the following date with tears ..

But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own the cars, the house, the cash .. what matters is how we live and love and how we spent our 'dash.'

So think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change? .. for you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real ..and always try to understand the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more .. and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile ..remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash ..would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

– Linda Ellis



This month we welcome Shuba Ktorodes, the wife of Nick who amongst other things has a passion for the poets, especially John Milton.

“They Also Serve”

When I consider how my light is spent
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide,
And that one talent which is death to hide
Lodg'd with me useless, though my soul more bent
To serve there with my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide,
"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"
I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent
That murmur, soon replies: "God doth not need
Either man's work or his own gifts: who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is kingly; thousands at his bidding speed
And post o'er land and ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait."
(by John Milton (1608 - 1674)

This is one of the most famous sonnets in the English language, translated into many languages and studied all over the world. It was written by John Milton during a pondering search for answers and re-appraisal of his own life when he had become completely blind around the age of forty-two. Milton has been, in my critical assessment, largely set aside or ridiculed post-sixties in his own country. Nevertheless he has, today, international acclaim as one of the greatest poets of all time. The thriving guild of Milton scholars and academic discipline called ‘Milton criticism’ bears witness.

I remember Simon Jenkins in an article in the Guardian (12 Dec, 2008) calling Milton a ‘prig and a bore’ who cannot compare with ‘our poets’ of today. But I consider this just another populist label from those who have failed to understand Milton at the depth level.

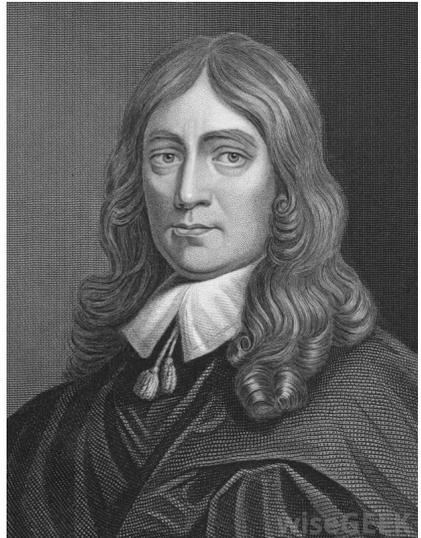
Certainly, 'our poets of today', are easily dwarfed by Milton, at least in literary output. And certainly if one were acquainted with Milton's massive systematic biblical theology, the "De Doctrina Christiana", the label "prig" would be a misnomer borne of misjudgement and ignorance. In one of his fiery pamphlets advising the removal of "hirelings out of the Church" (1659) Milton insists just having a university education could not make "a minister of the gospel", albeit he was one of the foremost scholars of the century. In another tract "Animadversions" (1641) he insists that ordination (to priesthood) did not necessarily mean God-ordained because "(ordination) creates nothing, it confers nothing; it is the inward calling of God that makes a Minister, and his own painful study and diligence that manures and improves his ministerial gifts".

But it is not my intention here to debate whether the revolutionary and visionary, John Milton, was a raving and ranting puritan fanatic or a godly idealist, whose one disciplined aim in life was to see the establishment of God's rule in England, so that he could, in his own words, "sing and celebrate (God's) divine mercies and marvellous judgments in this land throughout all ages".

This poem, which I first encountered a very long time ago during my A-levels, held a fascination for me - though I was brought up in a non-Christian background. Milton had about the best education available in all Europe and nursed, from a very young age, great aspirations to do mighty things for God and country. But towards forty he lost his eyesight and so was no longer able to fend for himself, and worse of all, to do his writing. Milton's question appeared earnest and genuine to me as it arose out of his personal dilemma - "why has this happened to me?" and "what do I do now?". Through this heart-searching he came to the astonishing conclusion: nothing! I re-phrased the last lines as: "I am already serving and fulfilling my course in life during this standstill, because it is not only action that God needs to fulfil His purpose but non-action: those who only stand and wait are also serving Him".

Throughout my life this poem never lost its ability to speak into a range of perplexing personal circumstances - though not always in the same way. Recently, when I went to the wall in a difficult personal situation, the poem arched back to a biblical scenario: that of John the Baptist. When it was revealed to John that Jesus was the one about whom he had been preaching, and for whom he had been preparing his countrymen, John knew he had come to a 'pause' position - waiting for the next move of God. This appeared to be 'do nothing' rather than 'keep calm and carry on'. From now on John would draw to a virtual standstill, while Jesus's light burned brightly and overshadowed him: "he must increase ...I must decrease". John saw his base crumple as his followers flocked over to Jesus (John3:26). But for John it could not have been better. As he watched Jesus grow in stature and fame his joy was boundless. In that waiting, watching and rejoicing lay John's final service to God.

So I learn that in the standstill or 'immobilised' position God would keep us serving and burning. I wonder how many of us have to come to that place of being stranded only to find other joys, we would not otherwise have found, had we not been standing still? Be it because of misfortune or disability or illness or age, by standing still gradually but surely we see new forms of 'being who we are' emerging, as well as rejoice in seeing dear ones, in whom we have invested, blossom and achieve.



John Milton.

The twist in the poem from frustration, 'I am useless', to enlightenment is quite dramatic: "who best bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best." To be able to tolerate the situation in which Milton found himself, totally blind in a frightfully dark world, never to see the light of sun or moon again, incapacitated and helpless was indeed unimaginable. But Milton's discovery that by God's grace such a situation could be tolerable ('mild yoke') led also to the amazing realisation that he was thereby serving God as best as he possibly could!

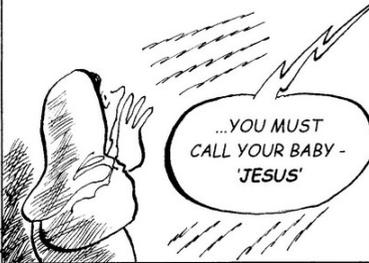
Shuba Ktorides.

The First Christmas

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



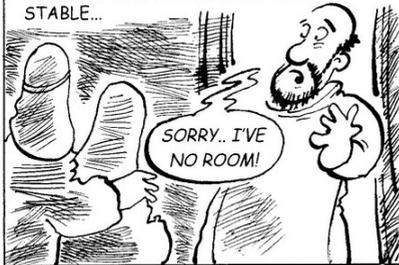
AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE VERY SPECIAL BABY



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE BY THE CENSUS.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL... THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...



...WHICH IS WHERE THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY. AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAS BEEN BORN.





**MOVIE
MOMENTS**

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

Everything I need?

Disney's *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is a visual and auditory feast that will both delight the senses and stimulate the brain as it explores the essential human question: 'What is everything I need?'

Building on Tchaikovsky's famous ballet score and Hoffmann's lesser known story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* this delightful film draws us into the mind of Clara, played brilliantly by the teenage actress Mackenzie Foy. Deeply upset by the recent death of her mother, Clara has retreated to an attic, where she uses her precocious skills in science and engineering to build a fabulous contraption for catching mice. Demonstrating this to her younger brother she recounts Newton's Third Law of Motion - that every action has an equal and opposite reaction.



The wider social and cultural application of this principle gradually becomes evident as Clara then journeys into a fantasy world where the inhabitants of four realms (flowers, snowflakes, sweets and amusements) are at war. Clara has entered these realms in search of the key to a locked egg-shaped box that was left to her by her recently deceased mother, who said 'everything you need is inside'. But what is everything I need? What formula will be unlocked by this key? Gradually she discovers that the solution is not simplistic and one-dimensional, indeed there is much to learn even in the process of the quest itself.



This evocative film offers great opportunities for a stimulating shared experience. As well as marvelling together at the beautiful sets, costumes and dance it provides an excellent post-viewing opportunity to discuss what might be 'everything I need', and what we also can learn from our own quest for answers to life's big questions.

**ETHOS
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



Released on November 2nd

The Final Word.

I have recently returned from a very special journey co-leading a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land with my brother, John. It was a journey by plane and coach, involving passport checks, and exchange of pounds into shekels and considerable organisation.

As we begin Advent, we remember the special journey that Jesus made coming to earth as a baby and the journey He will make when He comes back at the end of time.

So much of what we saw helped the Bible to come alive in a new way. We all enjoyed a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee as the sun was setting and remembered the journeys that Jesus and the disciples had made.

Bethlehem, the place of the birth of Jesus, is now a bustling town packed full of other pilgrims. The site which has been recognised as the place where the birth took place is no longer anything like it would have been as it is covered by a very large church. But under the church there are still caves which are likely to be at the level of the ground in the time of Jesus. We journeyed to the site of the shepherds' field to see where they would have been when the angel announced the birth of Jesus.

Advent is the start of a new Christian year when we start again our journey, not just in organising the wrapping paper and pudding but reflect on how much God loved us and still does today.

Let this Advent be a time when you become a pilgrim.

We had striking views over the mountainous barren area where Jesus would have walked to go from Galilee to Jerusalem and there to the Cross.

Our whole life is a journey and the wonderful thing about this journey is that we can know how much we are loved by Almighty God and we can share our journey with Him until we see Him in glory.

David Hayden



'May we offer a very warm
welcome to all of you
worshipping with us today.
Please join us after the
service for tea or coffee
and a chat.'

**If you have any contributions for the next monthly publication,
please send your material to Robin Keightley.**

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