December
2019

St Michael's, Oulton.

Services and Events December 2019.

Sunday 1st December: First Sunday of Advent..

10:00am Morning Worship led by Debbie Allsop with Jackie Makower preaching.

Sides persons: Karen Langfield and Carol Keightley.

Thursday 5th December: Women's Own Meeting.

2:30pm: Christmas Carols—Meeting at 1, Elmhurst Avenue, Oulton Broad.

Sunday 8th December: Second Sunday of Advent.

10:00am Holy Communion led by Debbie Allsop with the Rev. Helen Jary preaching.

Sides persons: Elissa Norman and Stella Saunders.

Sunday 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent.

10:00 am : Holy Communion led by Debbie Allsop with The Venerable David Hayden preaching

Sides Persons: Carol Keightley and Carolyn Woodcock.

Monday 16th December: Knit and Natter Group.

1:30pm: Meet at 50, Elmhurst Avenue, Oulton Broad. *(Please note change of venue).*

Sunday 22nd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent..

10:00am: Nine Lessons and Carols with the Rev Marilyn Zipfel.

Sides Persons: Tim Jones and Jane Boyce.

Tuesday 24th December: Christingle Service .

6:00pm: Led by Debbie Allsop and Jackie Makower.

Sides persons: Carol Keightley and Esther Krykant.

11:30 pm: Midnight Communion: The Venerable David Hayden.

Wednesday 25th December—Christmas Day.

10:00am: Christmas Morning Worship led by Rev. Helen Jary.

Sunday 29th December: First Sunday of Christmas.

10:00am: Holy Communion: Led by Debbie Allsop with the Rev. Jo Fowler Preaching.

Famous Christians.

That wonderful Carol, 'Good King Wenceslas' is a seasonal favourite of that I'm sure. It is slightly unusual in as much as its is a Carol for the Feast of St Stephen with no mention of the Nativity.

But who was this good King Wenceslas—was he fictional character or a historical figure? In fact he was the later. Wenceslas was a 10th-century Catholic Duke of Bohemia also known as Vaclav the Good, and was martyred after being assassinated by his wicked brother, Boleslaw the Bad. Wenceslas's remains are interred in St Vitus's cathedral in Prague, and he was recently made patron saint of the Czech Republic. His Saint's Day is September 28.

The Carol is the work of John Mason Neale, an eminent English clergyman and author, the son of Rev. Cornelius Neale, he was born in London on Conduit Street January 24, 1818. The charitable giving which the carol promotes is an old part of Boxing Day tradition, now unfortunately replaced by the manic Christmas sales. But nobody has ever understood why Neale makes Wenceslas feel impelled to take pine logs to a peasant who already lives next to a forest, nor is it clear what significance should be ascribed to the footprint in the snow mentioned in the last verse.

The tune selected by Neale, "Tempus Adest Floridum", comes from a collection Piae Cantiones, published in 1582, where it is a spring hymn, clearly intended to accompany energetic dancing. Its roots are thought to be Scandinavian.

It was famously parodied by Spike Milligan in Goonish voices as "Good King Ecclesias" and has been covered by musicians including Joan Baez and REM.

On the Beatles' first Christmas flexidisc, sent to their UK fan club members in 1963, the group performed several brief renditions of the carol, in a variety of arrangements, with John Lennon at one point singing a satirical set of lyrics, incorporating the names of several Hollywood stars.

Experience the Joy of Advent

Norma Murrain, of silverfishjewellery.com, encourages us to make the most of Advent this year.

'Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.' Luke 2:10

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The word 'Advent' is from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming'. Sometimes called 'Little Lent', it's a time to prepare our hearts for the future Second Coming, as well as the birth of Christ.

We celebrate the season with advent calendars, candles and evergreen wreaths - symbolising Christ as Light of the world, bringing new and everlasting life.

Here are seven simple tips to help you experience and share the joy of Advent!

1. Connect with your inner child: Think back to the time when you were a child, on the simple things that made you happy at Christmas. Focus only on the good and feel the joy of Christmas come flooding back!

2. Keep it simple: This year, go for gifts and cards that share the meaning of the season, shop early and stay within your budget.

3. Be people focused: Remember the story of Mary and Martha – keep meals simple and allow yourself time and space to focus on enjoying the company of your guests.

4. Make Room for Jesus: Take some time at the beginning of each day to read your Bible, meditate on Scripture and pray. Focus on giving thanks to

God for His gift of Christ to the world and for all He has done for us.

5. Me Time: God wants us to prosper in body, soul and spirit, so try to eat healthy, don't overindulge, take time for long walks and enjoy the good and simple things in life!

6. Wear a smile and share the Joy! Finally, being joyful is a choice, it's not about your circumstances. So, decide to be thankful this season. Wear a smile, act and talk positively, do small things with great love, be on the look-out for opportunities to do good to people. Give to the homeless, visit the sick, or take gifts to lonely neighbours.

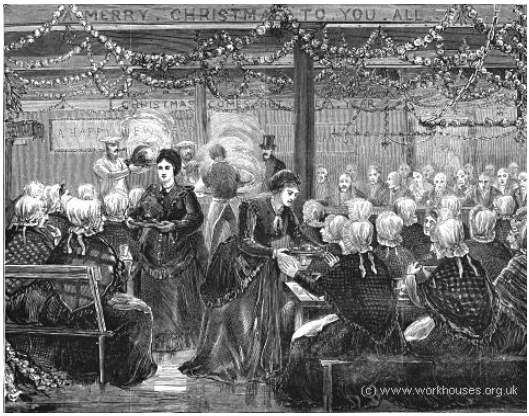
If people ask you about your joy, don't be afraid to share your faith. Simply explain to them that 'Christ lives in my heart, and He can live in yours too.'

'A Very Warm Welcome to Helen.'

We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Helen Jary as Team Rector to our new Benefice of Oulton Broad. St. Mark's was full to the gunnels at Helen's Institution on Monday 4th November. The inspiring occasion was led by the Revd Dr Alan Winton and the Venerable Steven Betts. Welcome Helen and we pray that your Ministry with us in the group will be long and blessed.

Christmas Day in the Work-House.

The following newspaper report appeared in the Lowestoft Journal on the 4th January 1879 and describes Christmas Day at Oulton Workhouse. I'm sure life was pretty difficult in the Union Workhouse but this report indicates that great effort was given to make the lives of the residents somewhat joyous on Christmas Day, but was it all sweetness and light or media hype?



Christmas Day of 1878 was celebrated at the Oulton workhouse by each inmate being provided with a first-class dinner of roast beef, plum pudding and supplemented by vegetables, light dumplings, and ale. Each old gentleman was given tobacco and those who did not use it, 8 pence in cash instead. The women and children also had pence given to them. All appeared to enjoy the good things provided and gave evidence of their appreciation by heartily cheering those who had so kindly ministered to their enjoyment and endeavoured to make it a happy day for them. No pains were spared with this end in view, the whole day was giving up to providing for them, and everything was as usual most satisfactory and sympathetically carried out under the able and much respected Master and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Drewell. Dinner was served up in two spacious dining halls, the tables being decorated with flowers and especially laid for the occasion, and all was done that could make those present as cheerful in appearance as possible. Every available space in those apartments was most beautifully decorated by the family of the Master and Matron and the school mistress in a most praiseworthy and artistic manner. Many of the mottos and designs being of a most effective and novel construction.

The evergreens were chiefly and kindly provided by Mrs Johnson of Blundeston Lodge and Colonel Leathes of Herringfleet Hall, to whom thanks are due and hope that future years may see all as happy as on the present.

Two years earlier campaigning journalist George Robert Simms published the dramatic monologue 'Christmas Day in the Workhouse'. It is a criticism of the harsh conditions in English and Welsh workhouses under the 1834 Poor Law. As a popular and sentimental melodrama, the work has been parodied many times. Space doesn't allow me to include it in full but it opens with those immortal lines:

Tis Christmas Day in the Workhouse,
And the cold bare walls are bright
With garlands of green and holly,
And the place is a pleasant sight:
For with clean-washed hands and faces,
In a long and hungry line
The paupers sit at the tables
For this is the hour they dine.
And the guardians and their ladies,
Although the wind is east,
Have come in their furs and wrappers,
To watch their charges feast;
To smile and be condescending,
Put pudding on pauper plates,
To be hosts at the workhouse banquet
They've paid for - with their rates.

The sad thing is 140 years later, Lowestoft still has its poor. Spare a thought this Christmas or those who have fallen on hard times, and maybe bring a few extra groceries for the foodbank box at the back of the church.

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas. Just think! No Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been colour coordinated, the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected was allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long it would happen unexpectedly would have been decided by a committee and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

The one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous

breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Christmas Fayre Success!

The morning of the Annual Christmas Fayre broke damp and grey but the inclement weather didn't deter an excellent turnout for our bi-annual coffee morning. Even Father Christmas made a fleeting visit in order to see who had been 'naughty or nice' over the past 12 months and issued sweets to all those children between 0 to 90 who'd made the grade.

Many thanks to everyone who made it such a successful event which raised an amazing £761 for much needed church funds. Thank you and well done!

Hello everyone. It's good to have officially started at Team Rector of Oulton Broad and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all. Coming to Oulton Broad is, in some ways, like coming home. You probably know that I was Curate at St. Mark's and St. Luke's, July 2007 to January 2011, but you may not know that I grew up in this locality. Well, almost 'this locality' as I'm a Norfolk girl! I grew up and went to school in Gorleston, and my parents still live there. When I was eleven years old we bought a sailboat, which was built in a local boatyard, and moored there for many years. And so, I spent a lot of time in Oulton Broad during my childhood and teenage years.

It's going to take a bit of time to get up to speed with everything here but I'm looking forward to seeing where God leads us all together. I feel enthusiastic about Team Ministry, having served in one for over 8 years. I know that change and transition can be a little challenging at times – I feel that too! – but being a united Benefice can mean that, under God, we become 'more than the sum of our parts'; and that is my prayer for us all.

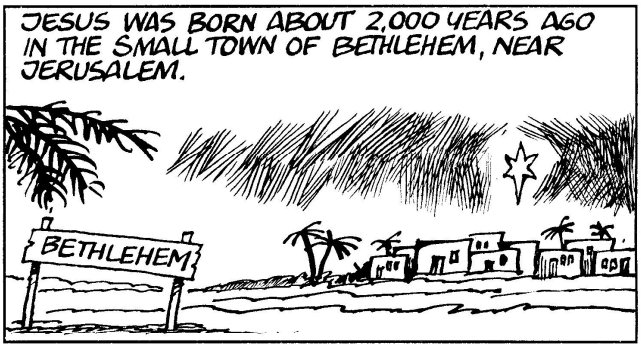
Blessings,
Helen.

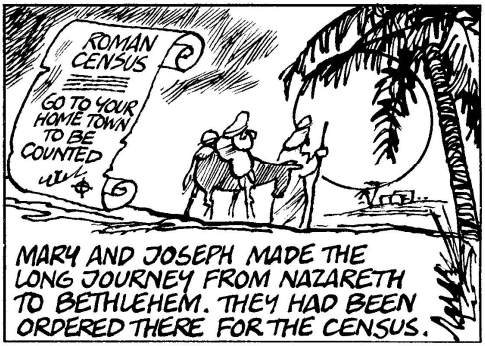
Request from Helen:

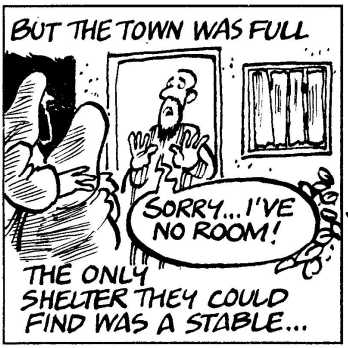
If you have the technology (and if you can bear it!), please could you email me a photo of yourself, along with your name and the congregation that you are usually a part of, to revhelenjary@gmail.com Could you do that even if you've already introduced yourself? I really would like to get up to speed with names and faces …and I'd also like a 'rogues gallery' that I can be praying for (just for personal use)! Thank you.

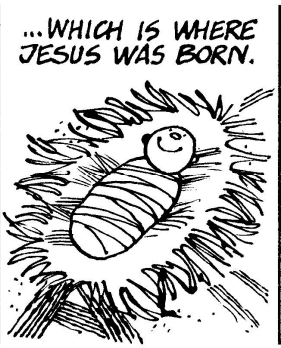
(Editor—If you would like me to take your photograph and send it of to Helen please see me after service and we can undertake that very easily—Robin).

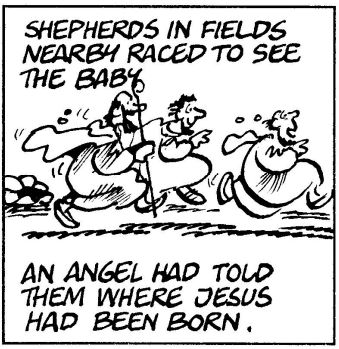
A Very Special Baby











Ethical Christmas presents

How much damage to the earth will we manage to do this Christmas? Those hundreds of millions of presents we are going to buy come from somewhere – usually raw resources. Are the presents worth the strain on our already struggling planet?

Here are some alternative presents, that are eco-friendly, useful, and fairly traded.

Christian Aid (christianaid.org.uk/christmaspresents) invites supporters to send them a donation, and in return, they will send a 'lively' personalised card to your friend or relations, describing the gift you have chosen to give on their behalf.

Send a Cow (sendacow.org/gifts) also invites supporters to send a donation for a range of practical gifts, for use in helping people from Ethiopia to Zambia.

Traidcraft (traidcraftshop.co.uk) offers everything from bamboo tights to clocks to food and cosmetics.

WaterAid (shop.wateraid.org) provides sanitation equipment (such as taps to promote hand washing) to villages in Africa, Asia or Central America. The person you nominate will receive a card to let them know this has been done in their name.

World Vision (musthavegifts.org) offers you the choice of sending various specific items from mosquito nets to garden tools, all of which they say are specifically asked for and needed.

With WWF (wwf.org.uk) you can adopt a wild animal, from a dolphin to an orangutan. WWF will send your nominated person an adoption certificate and even cuddly toy.

‘Knit and Natter Group’ craftwork.

When Sue Simpson sent me the above photographs for inclusion in the ‘Pew News,’ I was reminded of a quote from the poet and writer, Khalil Gibran who once said, *“Let me, O let me bathe my soul in colours; let me swallow the sunset and drink the rainbow.”*
Powerful stuff and more than appropriate on looking at the colourful and skilful work undertaken by the ladies of the ‘Knit and Natter Group’.

Not only are the blankets extremely colourful and bright they also serve to keep the elderly recipients warm in the cold winter weather.

If you would like to join the group, regardless of your skill level they would be more than willing to welcome you to their monthly meetings, details of which can be found in the Notice Section of this publication.

Pause for thought.

John Worsfold continues his account of the life and times of Rev. Wilson Carlile,

After his conversion Wilson Carlile said, “I had met the risen Lord. He touched my heart, and that on his touch, all the old desires passed away and, in their place, came the one desire to serve him and the men and women He so loved”.

He was first attracted to the Plymouth Brethren. The members of this small sect were greatly astonished when the young city man, with a glossy top hat in his hand and a flower in his button-hole, entered their dingy little chapel in the Blackfriars Road, London and asked to be allowed to join in their worship and work. Wilson Carlile smiled away any suspicion they might have had and was entrusted with a Bible class for the young hooligans of the neighbourhood. “Here was I,” he related, “out on my own for the first time with a gang of the roughest and jolliest lads you ever met. I was supposed to teach them the Bible, but they cannot have known less about it than I did!” He carried on in constant mayhem but met with a measure of success.

One Sunday his father asked him if he would go to Holy Trinity, to a communion service, and Wilson agreed and went along with his father where he received Communion. His action came to the ears of the Brethren and Wilson was dismissed from their congregation as being a disorderly brother. The end result was that Wilson Carlile and his wife were confirmed at Clapham parish church by the Bishop of Rochester.

From this time on the church commanded all Wilson Carlile’s time and energies. He soon acquired an understanding and deep veneration for the churches Sacraments and both as a layman and later as a priest, he remained the churchs’ loyal and obedience son.

He went to the church at Richmond, and started a Sunday evening school in a derelict school-room in the poorest part of London for the same class of lads he tried to influence in the chapel in Blackfriars Road, but he had little success in teaching, but none the less, boys loved him because of his good humour, and acceptance of them. Gradually the Sunday evenings became a success and the vicar asked Wilson Carlile to start a day Sunday school.

Wilson Carlile continued working for his father's firm during the week, and was successful in that, while in the evenings and at weekends he continued to study of the Bible and work in the parish. He went on to launch a weekday school for the boys.

In 1875 American evangelists, Dwight Moody and Ira Sankey, held their first London mission at Islington and people were invited to form a choir and Wilson played the harmonium for the mission services. When Moody and Sankey left London, Wilson Carlisle kept the choir together and arranged his own missions in tents and halls throughout London where he often preached.

After two years he joined the Evangelisation Society. Wilson Carlile believed fervently in one Catholic and Apostolic church and was convinced that his missions must attract the outsiders into the church. This part time work was all well and good, but he felt called to full-time ministry and ordination into the priesthood within the church of England. Bishop Thorold who had confirmed him was sure of his vocation and in October 1878 Wilson Carlile became a student at the London College of Divinity at Highbury. He found the full time studying difficult, but he worked hard and was eventually ordained Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral by Bishop Jackson in Lent 1880 and was sent to St Mary's Abbotts church in Kensington to work with a large team of clergy under the Rev. Carr Glyn who eventually became the Bishop of Peterborough.

St Mary Abbots attracted large numbers of the very rich, however Wilson Carlile felt called to preach and serve the poorest in the parish. After evensong in church Wilson would preach in the streets attracting crowds of the poorest. The simple earnestness, the love of souls and the desire to win souls for the Lord Jesus, combined with his good nature, unconventionality, and courtesy were the qualities which God used. Wilson went to the poorest in and roughest districts in the neighbourhood to hold outdoor services.

There were rough hooligans in Kensington as well as in Blackfriars Road. They wanted to be amused and this strange clergyman agreed with them and began to attract rough and ready people into the church hall for a service by starting off by showing comic lantern slides on the screen and then switch to pictures of the Stations of the Cross and the Crucifixion with a lady singing "There is a Green Hill faraway. "However, his main ministry was preaching on the streets.

He felt that the strain was too much for one man and so he set himself the task of training men to become lay preachers and in so doing began the Church Army. As the lay preachers increased, they were sent out to hold other meetings in the slums that were prevalent in the northern part of the Royal Borough of Kensington. Soon crowds would come to his services, sometimes resulting in signs being put up outside the halls saying "House Full!"

Training of the Lay Preachers would often take place in the Vestry Hall. Someone very unkindly said at the time, "He has got a number of men with him whom he inoculates with his love for these wretched roughs and outcasts and then he sends them to all the low places around; and indeed, he is bringing the very scum of society into Kensington!"

The Rector of the parish in 1882 asked Wilson Carlile to discontinue his work outside the church, but it was seen in such an important ministry that it was decided the Wilson should found a Franciscan brotherhood, but this was discounted because it sounded too Roman Catholic. Finally, he joined up with another group of clergies who saw the importance of reaching the very poor with the Gospel. Wilson Carlile become the chief secretary and it was at that point that the Church Army was born in 1882.

Men who wanted to become Church Army officers were given proper training and sent to the poorest areas of the United Kingdom to work amongst the poor and preach the Gospel. The church saw that the training was thorough, and Bishops gave their authority for Church Army to work in various parishes. One of the first places Church Army was sent to by the Bishop of Norwich was Lowestoft.

Some favourite Carols – by John Hunt

After Robin asked me to do this article I spent some time (possibly too much time!) trying to decide if I have an outright favourite. I came to the conclusion that I do not think I do, mainly because the Christmas period consists of separate phases which are identifiable on their own; broadly, the Advent period, Christmas itself, then post- Christmas and Epiphany. Each period has much to commend it, along with some lovely carols.

I always find Advent a really magical time in itself – we have all the anticipation, getting ready, shopping, sending and receiving cards, the rest of the "run-up to Christmas" with events, bazaars, parties, carol services and concerts, children's end-of term and nativity plays. These events seem to multiply each year. Not to mention of course the domestic chores and foody considerations associated with family and guest visiting. The rush and pressure can easily distract from the true meaning of Christmas.

The Advent season at church brings with it the plethora of Advent hymns and carols. It would be remiss of me not to cite first "O come, O come, Emmanuel" which the English Hymnal declares is compiled from the ancient monastic antiphons. This is not really a favourite of mine but it brings to mind (as many hymns and carols do these days) my time at school back in the 50's when we used to have Tuesday singing practice for 45 minutes, rehearsing the hymns for the forthcoming week. I can remember the music master haranguing us for getting the punctuation wrong! However, I think my favourite for Advent must be "Lo, He comes with clouds descending". This has a very attractive and memorable tune (Helmsley) as well as really expressive lyrics penned by the Master, Charles Wesley.

Moving on into the Christmas period we have all the carols favoured at

Church and carol services and concerts. Again I am reminded of my schooldays, this time more primary school related, when we had to practise singing. We did not have Christingle at that time, this is a more modern phenomenon encouraged by the Children's Society, and I only came across it after moving to East Anglia in 1977. (I have just Googled it and it seems the custom started with the Moravian Church, the first C of E service was in 1968!) So -in connection with Christingle and children I cannot help a mention of "Away in a Manger" and what a joy it is to hear young children sing this and the look on their faces reflected in candlelight in a darkened room or church. The origin of this carol is surprisingly obscure considering it is as recent as the late Victorian era. It has been attributed to Martin Luther (early versions were called "Luther's cradle song") but it seems to be agreed this is spurious. The original is almost certainly American and the third verse ("Be near me Lord Jesus") was added later. Strangely, despite its popularity, "Away in a Manger" is too new to feature in my 1963 version of "Hymns Ancient and Modern", nor in my 1957 version of the "English Hymnal". However it does feature in my "Songs of Praise" dated 1958 (Prize given for regular attendance of Sunday School at Holy Trinity Church, Sutton Coldfield!)

Moving on, I have a particular favourite that, whilst not in hymn books nor regular carol sheets, retains its popularity ever since it was composed in France in 1847. This is "O Holy night" which has both a beautiful melody and meaningful English lyrics set down in 1855. It sounds wonderful sung as a solo either by Soprano or Tenor. This carol is one for listening to as part of a concert rather than joining in.
Before leaving the Christmas period (or more strictly St Stephen's Day) I wanted to mention "Good King Wenceslas". Subject to possible criticism these days as not being entirely politically correct, to me it remains a really good sing in a group, especially when the high voices sing the part of the page boy, the men the part of the King and everyone as the narrator of the story. PC or not it does remind us of some of the responsibilities we carry.

Epiphany can be quite an anti-climactic period by comparison – Christmas is over, the family and guests have gone home , the Christmas decorations have to come down and it is time to resume more normal activities. Spirits, however, need to be buoyed by memories of a well-spent period of celebration.

For carols at this time I should mention “We three kings of orient are” which again is a good sing if the parts are delegated. My school experiences come to the fore again. We were always castigated for singing the “One in a taxi, one in a car” version. Being a boy of the Midlands we were always going to Perry Barr in that carol. Where do they go to in North East Suffolk? However I think my favourite Epiphany carol is “Brightest and best of the sons of the morning” which again combines a distinctive tune (“Morning Star”) with meaningful lyrics.

I hope this has given you a flavour of some favourites from just one member of the congregation. May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

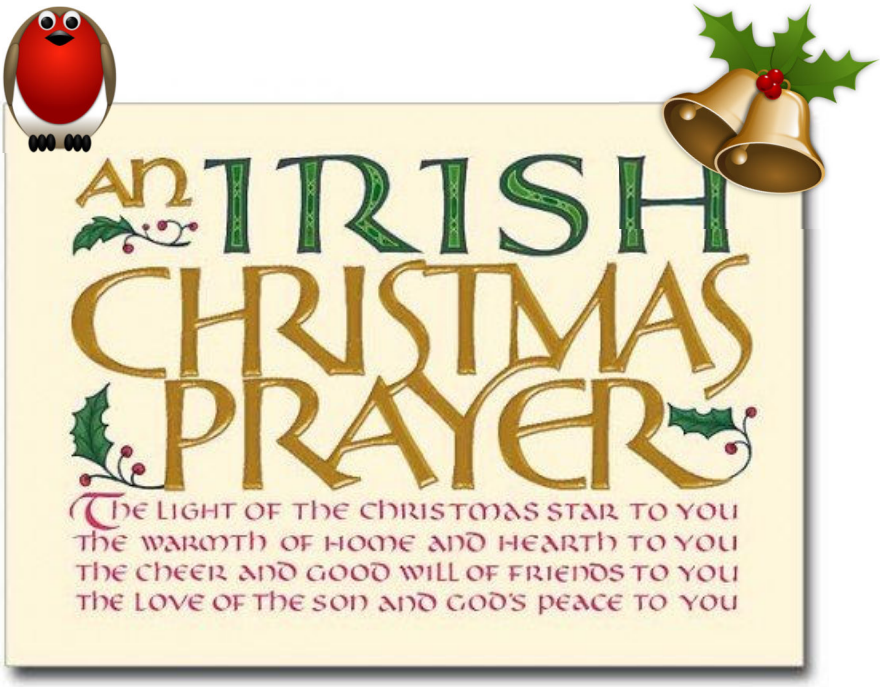
———————————————————————

‘And finally a Christmas Prayer.’

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. “Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!”

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

by Daphne Kitching



'The Ministry Team and PCC pray that the Lord grants you and your loved ones, love, joy and goodwill this Christmas and throughout all the New Year.'

If you have any contributions for the next monthly edition of the 'Pew News' please send your material to Robin Keightley

robinkeightley175@btinternet.com