

January Letter

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again when the newspapers entertain us with pictures and quotations to remind us of the year just gone. It can be interesting to see how attitudes have changed in the last twelve months, or how fashions have moved on. Sometimes it jogs our memories of half forgotten speeches and how subsequent events have shown the speaker to have been very perceptive, or extremely misguided. This year we have the added pleasure of moving on from the 'noughties' so these retrospectives take us back over a full decade.

Reminders of recent history may bring to mind milestones in our own lives, or even trivial but personal incidents. I'm sure we have all been involved in things which, with hindsight, we are justly proud of or perhaps somewhat ashamed of. Nothing wrong in that unless that is the end of the matter. When we remember our successes why not build on them and achieve something even better and, similarly, thinking of our failures, do we learn from them and work out how things could have been handled better to produce a more satisfactory outcome?

So we move into the new year, not blindly feeling our way but, with the confidence of past experience, ready to accept the challenges which will inevitably be thrown our way. Give your hidden talents a chance. Looking back can be fun but as a grumpy old man said, 'Nostalgia isn't what it was!'

Happy New Year

Patrick

JANUARY PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 3RD EPIPHANY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 5th	7.00 p.m.	Standing Committee meeting
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 6th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 7 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 10TH BAPTISM OF CHRIST

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 12th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 13th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.00 p.m.	Worship Committee at Vicarage
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 14th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 17TH 2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion
Tuesday 19th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 20th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 21 st	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 24TH 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 25 th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 26th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsals
Thursday 27th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer

**SUNDAY 31ST PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE/
CHRISTINGLE**

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Christingle

On January 31st the church celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple - also known as Candlemas. In Biblical times, women who had given birth were considered unclean until they had been to church for a purification ceremony 40 days after the birth of a boy, 60 days after the birth of a girl. On the same day she was purified, Mary ritually presented Christ to God in the temple. She was met by Simeon and Anna, who hailed Christ as a Light to the World and on this day all the candles for the year were blessed.

Many Christingle services are held at Christmas, but at St. Saviour's we prefer to hold ours at Candlemas. All are welcome to join us for this celebration of Christ as the Light of the World on January 31st at 9.30 a.m.

Day & Night Blessing

May God's blessing be yours,
And good be it sent;
May Christ's blessing be yours,
And good be it meant;
Spirit's blessing be yours,
For life's good intent,
Day arising indoors,
Night lying down spent.

5th January - Simeon Stylites (390 -459)

Quite frankly, this hermit was about as weird as they come. But he loved God, and God blessed him, strange though he was. So perhaps Simeon Stylites should be the patron saint of all REALLY eccentric people.

Simeon was the son of a shepherd on the Syrian border of Cilicia, He joined a monastery near Antioch, where he practised mortifications and penances that nearly killed him. When the abbot dismissed him in disgust as crazy, Simeon moved on to Telanissos (nowadays Dair Sem'an) and spent his first Lent there in a total fast. He was found unconscious on Easter Day. After three years in that monastery he felt life was too easy, and moved himself to the top of the nearby mountain, where he chained himself to a rock. He began to be talked about, and more and more people came to see him. Simeon did not want their company, and so planned his escape: to the top of a pillar. For the next four years he lived on top of a pillar that was nine feet high. More people came, and so Simeon in desperation added to his pillar, until it grew to be 18 feet high. Still people came, and so Simeon built himself a real skyscraper – a pillar 33 feet high, from the top of which he enjoyed 10 years of comparative solitude.

Still people came to see him – both Christians and pagans, and so Simeon decided to somehow to build a pillar that was 60 feet high and six feet wide. Here he found peace and quiet, and so here he lived for the last 20 years of his life. People still came to see him, and tried to catch the 'sacred' lice that fell off his body. They enjoyed his twice daily exhortations to everyone below. Even the odd emperor came by for a look – Theodosius, Leo and Marcian.

A scholar has written of Simeon: “His preaching was practical, kindly, and free from fanaticism. ... In an age of licentiousness and luxury he gave unique and abiding witness to the need for penance and prayer; his way of life provided a spectacle at once challenging, repulsive and awesome.”

Simeon finally died and was buried at Antioch. Perhaps he would have enjoyed the recent chance to take the plinth at Trafalgar Square!

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Delia Versus the Real Women...

Delia's Way

Stuff a miniature marshmallow in the bottom of a sugar cone to prevent ice cream drips.

The Real Women's Way

Just suck the ice cream out of the bottom of the cone. You are probably lying on the couch with your feet up eating it anyway.

Delia's Way

Wrap celery in aluminium foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

The Real Women's Way

It could keep forever. Who eats it?

Delia's Way

Brush some beaten egg white over piecrust before baking to yield beautiful glossy finish.

The Real Women's Way

Sainsbury's frozen pie directions do not include brushing any egg white over the crust so I don't do that.

Delia's Way

If you have a problem opening jars, try using latex dishwashing gloves. They give a non-slip grip that makes opening jars easy.

The Real Women's Way

What's the point of blokes then?

And finally the most important tip - Delia's Way

Freeze leftover wine into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.

The Real Women's Way

Leftover wine!! Hello!!

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Re-Creation

Feeling low.
To do: too much!
Progress: too little.
Life is hard, but
Help was at hand
from our

Churches Together Quiet Day,
St. Saviour's, November 29th:
Warm welcome to all.
Great meal (home cooked).
No washing up!
Feeling better!

Stories of amazing folk—
Saints from three centuries;
Inspiring lives, quotes, prayers.
Here and there,
A thought to treasure
for future days.

Then "Prayer Stations"
Around Church and Chapel;
Pictures, books, music, manger-scene,
Pebbles, water, candles' glow;
Each a voice to speak God's message
To the listening heart.

So to life's challenge we return
With thankfulness and praise,
Nurtured and inspired,
Understanding, experiencing
A little more
of God with us.

With gratitude to the Revd. Richard Bailey, Mrs. Jean Bailey and Mr. Andy Thurlow who prepared, presented and led the event (and washed up!)
Joyce Ashton

New year, new job?

Starting a new job can be more stressful than visiting the dentist, more scary than going on a first date, and more nerve-racking even than taking an important exam.

A study by Office Angels has found that the first week is a minefield. Three quarters of us commit a gaffe: anything from being late, to arriving in the wrong sort of clothes, to mixing up colleagues' names, to mistaking a senior colleague for a junior one. Some of us even manage to get totally lost in the new office.

Office Angels advises that when you begin a new job remember the SMILE code of conduct:-

Smile at your colleagues, even if you are nervous. It will make you at least appear friendly.

Make an effort to learn the names and roles of your colleagues.

If in doubt, ask. They don't know that you don't know, so tell them.

Listen: employers notice when you show an interest.

Enthusiasm is crucial – show you want to be there and want to do a good job. © *Parish Pump*

Real comfort on a plate

Here's a question every mum has asked herself at sometime or other: what is the most comforting food to feed your child when they are feeling a bit desolate? Chicken soup or chocolate cake? Cottage pie or ice cream?

Now the neuropsychologists have become curious as well, and so scientists at the University of Sussex calculated a formula to measure foods on a 'Comfort Indeed.' After exhaustive research they came up with two top results: baked beans on toast or macaroni cheese. Presumably they work on adults, too.

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*In order to unite with one another, we must love one another;
in order to love one another, we must know one another;
in order to know one another, we must go and meet one another.*

These words, known as the "Testament of Cardinal Mercier," are an impetus for the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The week (actually an octave, eight days) has been celebrated continuously since 1894. However, the Week was a dream of many Christian leaders since the early years of the 19th century.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is now celebrated around the world in January, with this year's theme "You are witnesses of these things". (Luke 24:48)

As in previous years, Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green have organised a series of services and lunches at the various churches in the group. At the time of going to press, some of these dates remain to be confirmed, but a preliminary timetable is:

Monday 18 th	Café West, Wanstead Crescent (to be confirmed)
Tuesday 19 th	Allerton Methodist Church (to be confirmed)
Wednesday 20 th	St. Peter's Church., Allerton Road (to be confirmed)
Thursday 21 st	Bethel Baptist Church, Sandy Lane
Friday 22 nd	St. Matthew's, Saffron Drive
Saturday 23 rd	St. Saviour's
Sunday 24 th	Allerton Congregational Church (at 6pm)

Apart from the service on Sunday at the Congregational Church, all start at 12.30 p.m. and involve a short service and lunch of soup and a roll. Everyone is most welcome to go to as many as they wish.

46th Bradford North Scout Group

The County Gang Show, which was held from 26th - 28th November at the Victoria Theatre, Halifax was a truly brilliant affair with great singing and dancing routines and plenty of good humour. It was a joy to see our Cubs, Ella, Eryn and Jessica thoroughly enjoying taking part.

The Cubs have been completing activities towards their Promise Challenge Badge. In their teams the children had to look at the components of the Cub Promise and Law and then say how they could keep up to these requirements. We now have a Cub Charter located on our display board detailing their thoughts.

Attending Church including Parades services, explaining their faith, learning about other faiths and helping to run Pack meetings are some of the other requirements of this badge.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will celebrate the beginning of 2010 with a party on Thursday 7th January from 6.15pm - 8pm. We will be playing games and having some festive snacks to keep the energy levels going.

At present there are 52 members in our Group: 18 Beavers; 21 Cubs and 6 Scouts plus 9 leaders.

Bev Howard **GROUP SCOUT LEADER**

World Leprosy Day: 31 January

World Leprosy Day is celebrated around the world on the last Sunday of January (31st this year.) Its aims are to encourage people to pray for those affected by leprosy and to raise awareness about the disease.

This year for World Leprosy Day, The Leprosy Mission is focusing on leprosy in Nepal and money raised will be going to The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban hospital in Kathmandu. This is the largest leprosy hospital in the country and provides medical care and counselling. It also provides education support, housing support and small business loans through its community rehabilitation projects.

Leprosy still affects millions of people around the world – there were over 4,700 new cases diagnosed in Nepal alone in 2008. There is a cure for leprosy, a course of drugs called multidrug therapy. However, unless the disease is treated in the very early stages, it can cause permanent nerve damage and eventually deformities and disabilities will develop. It can also cause intense social exclusion.

Archbishop welcomes the work of microfinance charity, Five Talents

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been promoting the benefits of 'microfinance' for the poor, through the work of the charity, Five Talents. Currently supporting 12 microfinance projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, Five Talents provides loans and training to over 20,000 entrepreneurs in 10 countries – helping them to build their businesses, create jobs and improve family livelihoods in a sustainable and dignified way. Each partner is linked with the local Anglican church, which helps provide oversight and effective delivery.

The Archbishop, Dr Rowan Williams, said: "Five Talents' approach to microfinance brings dignity and economic sustainability to some of the poorest communities in the world. I am delighted to endorse its programmes, working through established church networks, which bring hope and a route out of poverty for thousands of people."

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British Library to return stolen missal

A new law comes into force in January 2010 governing items looted during the period 1933-45. The Benevento Missal was stolen from a cathedral in southern Italy soon after the allies bombed the city during the 2nd World War, and has been in the British Library ever since. The Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) Act only affects the Nazi period, so items from different periods held in museums up and down the country will not be affected.

The missal dates from the 12th Century and is in the local script of Benevento, a small town to the North-East of Naples. It was written at the scriptorium of the monastery of Santa Sofia for the nuns of St. Peter Intra Muros and bought by Capt. Douglas Ash, a British Intelligence officer. According to a report in The Times, Capt. Ash wrote in his diary :“I bought an old book in Naples in April 1944, knowing nothing about it, except that it was very old, being described by the second-hand bookseller as *molto antico* ... I am interested in anything old and have a collection of swords and armour, but this book is completely beyond me.”

There is no suggestion that Capt. Ash acted any way but honourably, buying the book at an open sale and later auctioning it in London, but it has been judged that the book rightfully belongs to the Beneventan cathedral and chapter and will be returned there in due course.

Great writing

There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer. When asked to define "great," he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream in disbelief, cry in despair, howl in pain, and vent their anger in ways they've never dreamed of!" He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.

Signs & Symbols: Church Design

Today's church buildings are rich and varied in their designs, sizes, materials, plans and groupings; from large cruciform churches to simple single room designs; from red brick to stone, and so on.

Since buildings were first specifically designed and created as places for Christian worship – churches – they have undergone numerable changes and additions. When you look carefully at a church more than a few hundred years old in any part of the world you can trace the development of its use by its architecture. Perhaps you'll see a door or window bricked up or a new one opened. The widening of the nave by the addition of arches and one or more aisles. Change in stone or building materials as later technology was available or even a change in design as new techniques came into safe use.

The closest we get in England to very similarly designed churches are those known as the Commissioners' Churches - 600 of which were constructed during the early to mid 19th century using £1 million from the Church Building Act 1818 and a further £1/2 million in 1825.

Parliament made this Act following the battle of Waterloo, when increasing populations were moving into towns and forming suburbs because of the industrial revolution and there was real concern that social upheaval might erupt in England. Ensuring that there were enough Anglican churches in the freshly created towns and suburbs was a chosen method to help prevent people from becoming involved in likely unrest.

The Commissioners laid down specific stipulations as to design and personally approved the plans of all churches funded by them., but the Victorians regarded them as cheap and unworthy. Their design did not fit in well with developments in the Anglican liturgy and although many survive only two are known to be unchanged— Christ Church, Acton Square , Salford and Christ Church, Hilderstone.

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That's telling

Young Jimmie finished his Christmas holiday and headed back to school. Only two days later his teacher was on the phone, telling his mother that he was misbehaving. "Wait a minute!" protested Jimmie's mum. "I had him here for two weeks over the Christmas break, and I never once rang YOU when he misbehaved!"

Prayer changes things

The little girl had been so naughty during the Christmas break that her mother decided to give her the worst kind of punishment. She told her she couldn't go on the New Year's Day family outing. But when the day finally came, her mother felt she had been too harsh. When she told her daughter that she could go after all, but the child's reaction was one of gloom and dismay. "What's the matter? I thought you'd be glad to go," her mother said.

"But it's too late now!" the little girl protested. "I've already prayed for rain."

Incentive to succeed

An old gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery. He had insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, should perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son, to encourage him. 'Don't be nervous, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, and something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife.'

After dinner speaker

As part of his talk at a banquet, our minister told some jokes and a few funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at a meeting the next day, he asked reporters covering the event not to include them in their articles.

Reading the paper the following morning, he noticed that one well-meaning cub reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation: "The minister told a number of stories, but they cannot be published."

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Where will good news come from in 2010?

For many of us, our first interaction with the world each morning is to tune into the news, whether by radio, TV or on-line. Sadly, some mornings it is so dreary or even appalling that our first reaction can be to want to go back to bed and cancel the rest of the day.

As January 2010 begins, much of the news coming in from around the world is bad. The war drags on in Afghanistan; politicians continue to argue, an election is looming, the economy is struggling. There doesn't seem to be a lot of good news about!

Perhaps, though, there is a different way of thinking about good news. Nowhere in the Bible did Jesus say that we should be looking to political leaders and our society for good news. Instead, he put the responsibility for bringing hope to people firmly on US, in the living of our everyday lives.

'For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' (Matthew 25:35-36 NLT)

What a challenge! Jesus put the responsibility on US to BE good news to other people, and to show his compassion in the ordinary actions and relationships of life. Sure he expects some of us to be involved in impacting the 'big issues' of society and government. But for most of us, our challenge is more straightforward, more immediate..

So today, ask yourself: 'The world may be a mess, but for whom can I be good news today? Who will have cause to be thankful today, whose life will be a bit brighter, who will be given fresh hope because of something I have done in the name of Jesus?'

Bringing good news to someone today.... that is the responsibility of each one of us.

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January Roll of Remembrance

1st	Grace Barnett	(1972)
2nd	Sarah Jane Tonge	(1953)
3rd	Tony Hayes	(1997)
4th	Frances Dare	(1969)
	Clarence Cooper	(1969)
5th	Elsie Davis	(1984)
	Charles Edward Cooper	(1945)
	Alice Robinson	(2001)
6th	John Hodgson	(1957)
	Rebecca Wigglesworth	(1968)
7th	Donald Arthur Jackson	(1986)
11th	Walter George Hartley	(1961)
14th	Arthur Jones	(1960)
17th	Edith M. Jones	(1951)
18th	William Sadler Stannard	(1978)
19th	Harry Butterfield	(1968)
20th	Gladys Gwendoline Richards	(1980)
21st	Alice Ferguson	(1981)
	Winifred Dare	(1985)
22nd	Bernard Norton	(1992)
23rd	Ritty Hill	(1966)
	Jack Blackburn	(1996)
26th	John William Barratt	(1939)
	Albert Hammond	1970)
27th	Harold Potts	(1982)
29th	John Ayres	(1971)
	Hilda Dennett	(1978)
	William & Emily Spence	(1998)
30th	William Dennett	(1978)
31st	Doris Gibson	(2001)

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