



Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield

**'Joyfully
Serving
Jesus'**

**Parish magazine
February 2020**

50 pence

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Marking the Year

Dear Friends,

Since its earliest days, the Church has marked the year with different Festivals and Commemorations. Many are fixed to particular dates and others move according to the Sunday on which Easter falls. In all this we take on the traditions of the mother faith of Christianity, Judaism.

This year, February is marked by two such festivals at either end. The beautiful Feast of the **Presentation of Christ in the Temple** (*Candlemas*) always falls on February 2nd (forty days after Christmas Day) – a lovely climax to the end of the Christmas and Epiphany seasons. I am old-fashioned enough (!) to desire that our beautiful church crib remains in view until then as a reminder of ‘Emmanuel - God with us.’ **Ash Wednesday** – the start of our forty-day Lenten journey – is observed on 26th February, governed by Easter which we will celebrate on 12th April.

Far from being ‘churchy’ or old-fashioned ways of engaging with our faith journeys, I believe that the marking of the year with such festivals and saints’ days offers each of us earthy and embedded yearly opportunities to contemplate and deepen many aspects of our faith in the knowledge of connection in knowing that we all are part of the Body of Christ. In doing so, we have continual encouragement to reveal the Light of Jesus Christ in all that we do.

Have a great 2020 – and mark it well!

With love,
Michael

CANDLEMAS – A REFLECTION

Nunc Dimittis *The Song of Simeon* - one of the great 'hymns' of the Church – uses the words spoken by Simeon when he met the infant Christ in the Temple at the time of the Lord's Presentation. His parents were fulfilling the requirements of the Biblical Laws of Torah. This beautiful account is found in Luke's Gospel 2: 22-41. Do read it if you have an opportunity. The Feast is known in the *Book of Common Prayer* as the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, something which was always part of the journey of a mother after childbirth within Judaism. Some may remember the *Churching of Women*, in the BCP – a Christian version of the same ceremony after the birth of a child. Nowadays, we focus on the sense of the journeying of the Holy Family, together with the appearance of the Lord in the Temple. The recognition of both Simeon and Anna of the Christ child is intensely moving. Luke writes to enable us to grasp that in Christ we know not just the fulfilment of the Biblical journey of Faith but find true contentment and the fulness of life lived in this knowledge. It is a call for all Christians to recognise and reveal Jesus in the same way that Simeon and Anna did.

The great commentator Origen (184-253AD) reflected on this Temple meeting and wrote:

He entered the Temple in the Spirit of God.....If you wish to hold Jesus, and to embrace him with your hands, you must try with every effort to possess the guiding Spirit. Just come to God's temple. See, you stand now already in the temple of the Lord Jesus, his church. This is the temple built from living stones.' (Homilies on the Gospel of Luke)

Origen reminds us that we are each vital parts of this temple – the church. It may have (sometimes annoying) organisational and hierarchical tendencies, yet ultimately is about our belonging – it is enriched by our presence. We are living stones within the temple, of which Jesus Christ himself is the chief cornerstone.



Tract. 8.
N Unc di-mit-tis = servum
 tu-um, Dómi- ne, se-cún-dum verbum tu-
 um, in pa- ce. ∇. Qui- a
 vi-dé-runt ócu-li me- i sa- lu-tá- re
 tu-um, ∇. Quod pa- rá-
 sti ante fá- ci- em ómni-um popu-ló-
 rum. ∇. Lu- men
 ad re- ve- la- ti- ónem gén- ti- um, et
 gló- ri- am ple- bis tu- ae * Isra- el.

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Christmas Thanks

Christmas proved to be a great joy at Holy Trinity, from the various Carol Services, to the Crib and Stable services, as well as the Cuckfield Nativity and our regular worship. We were again greatly blessed by the huge number of people we encountered. However, none of this would have come about without the dedicated service of so many within our church community: wardens, bell ringers, side-people, servers, cleaners (coping with those huge numbers during inclement weather!), together with our fantastic choir and musicians. To all – heartfelt thanks.

Thanks for the Trees!

The Tree Festival was a great success again, with over £7,000 donated to *The Alzheimer's Society*, and just over £6,000 for Holy Trinity. The planning which goes into this is extraordinary when one considers that virtually all the furniture in the church is moved in one way or another! Huge credit is due to Paul Goldfinch and the whole committee who undertake the master plan, as well as those who help in setting up and then returning the church to normality afterwards in the space of a few hours. The task of stewarding during the festival and providing excellent refreshments offers us the opportunity to engage with thousands of people – a great blessing to our community. The church looked beautiful, and the imagination of those who dressed the trees never seems to lack flair or imagination. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work!

Church Lights

It has been a revelation over the past few weeks to see the beauty of the church enhanced by the new lighting system. The great roof is now wonderfully illuminated, including the chancel which had been dark for several years. The way in which many of the wall monuments are now lit enables one to see their beauty. I have been particularly taken with the rather 'gormless' cherubs on the plaque in the easternmost bay of the south nave! We still await the new spots for the angels on the roof structure, but I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who enabled this project to come to fruition. Many thanks to Brian Cutler for his time and energy in overseeing the work and sourcing funds from various grant-giving bodies. May I also thank individuals who gave generously, together with the contractors who worked with such consideration.

(continued on page 9)



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BRUSH



Stonework

Having completed the lighting, we now turn to stonework repairs. We have decided that before the roof is tackled (and we do hope that an appeal will be launched as soon as we have honed our approach for major funding), we must take on the question of work to the exterior of the building, most notably the tower. After the Second World War, much repointing was carried out. Alas, this was carried out using hard cement, and over the course of the decades severe weathering of the stonework has taken place because the pointing is much harder than the stone. This sounds like rather unglamorous work, yet our beautiful tower dates largely from the 1200-1300s and is substantial by Sussex standards. Our next project therefore must be to repair and halt any further deterioration of its structure. The cost is something in the region of £200,000. Obviously, this is a substantial sum, but please think of ways in which we might start the ball rolling to enable this vital work to be accomplished. You will find an article further in the magazine about this work.

Lent

As mentioned in my letter, Lent starts at the end of the month. I am delighted to say that this year we shall be following a Lent Course especially written for us by Ian Walden. The theme explores our call to discipleship expressed through journeying together as people who gather around the Table of the Lord. It promises to be very rewarding. As we have done over the past few years, there will be sessions of Wednesday evenings (weekly from March 4th–April 1st) in the Old School, repeated on Friday afternoons (March 6th–April 3rd) in church. Please do support this excellent opportunity to explore both our individual and common journeys of faith.

Loss

We were all shocked to hear that Matthew Gallagher died suddenly between Christmas and the New Year. A big personality, he grew up just a few doors from the church, and played an important part within the family funeral business. We extend our deepest sympathies to Pat and Sandy, his parents, and Lajos, his partner. We also extend our sincere condolences to Clive Simmonds and his family on the loss of his mother Jean shortly after the start of the New Year. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

Deanery Day

The Cuckfield Deanery Day takes place at All Saints, Lindfield on February 8th when the Bishop of Blackburn, Julian Henderson, will be discussing ***Bridging the divide - Proclaiming Christ within a secular society***. All are welcome to what promises to be an interesting day – just bring a packed lunch. Details of times nearer the date.

emmanuel
G O D W I T H U S

kaitlynbouchillon.com

THE PARISH MAGAZINE Copy Date

The copy date for the **MARCH 2020 Magazine** is no later than
MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

Please email contributions *in WORD format (no PDFs, please)* to:

duty-editor@holytrinitycuckfield.org

CLOSED FOR ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Looking after a beautiful and much loved ancient church such as Holy Trinity will always be a challenge. The majority of the building is between five and eight hundred years old and not surprisingly needs regular care and attention.

During November last year, a sign was posted on the north door announcing that the church was ***closed for essential maintenance***.

However, this had nothing to do with the ancient fabric of the building. The lighting, which had been installed in 2002, had failed, and technically was no longer the most appropriate way in which to light the interior.

By switching to an LED system, we have provided adequate light levels throughout the church, removed the low white tracks from the aisles, saved on running costs and reduced our carbon footprint.

The PCC is very grateful to the *Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust* and other donors who made this work possible.

The wardens, supported by the PCC, are now turning attention to the next major fabric project at Holy Trinity, the refurbishment of the stonework. Unfortunately, the soft sandstone is easily damaged by the prevailing weather, a process exacerbated by the use of hard cement mortar. Although this technique was popular in the post war years, it is now apparent that it reduces the ability of the stone to breathe, traps water within the stone, and causes it to fracture during the winter frosts.

Following competitive tendering managed by our Inspecting Architect, Jonathan Cerowski, the PCC has selected a preferred contractor for this project. We now need to obtain the necessary permissions and to find the funding. ***The Friends of Holy Trinity*** have generously pledged an initial £40,000, and the PCC can identify a further £47,000 from its own resources and known grant funding towards **the total of £200,00** likely to be required. We will be applying for a number of grants over the next few months and will naturally be open to any specific donations that anyone would like to make.

And of course, there is still the roof! But more of that another day.

Brian Cutler



WANTED! HELP TO DEVELOP THE UNDER ONE ROOF PROJECT.

The Roof Group is looking for help to develop the ***Under One Roof Project*** that plans planned to perpetuate the artistic heritage of Charles Eamer Kempe, develop an appropriate 21st century expression of that heritage, and preserve the Kempe ceilings by refurbishing the Horsham stone roof of the church.

***If you would be interested in helping please contact Brian Cutler
cutlerbriandavid@gmail.com 01444 412790***

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WOMEN'S SECTION

After a lot of discussion over the last two years, last September the ***Cuckfield Women's Section Royal British Legion*** closed after over 74 years (we were formed in February 1945).

A service was held in our lovely Holy Trinity Church to lay up our Standard when Revd Michael Maine officiated. Evelyn Stenning, our *Standard Bearer* for many years, Tina Owens *Vice President* and Rosemary Carter *Vice Chairman* handed the Standard over for safe keeping in the church.

Evelyn who had been Chairman for 22 years outlined some of group's achievements. She thanked everyone who had made the afternoon a memorial one: The Revd Michael Maine, Richard Jenkinson, Ros Longfield, Gill Squires, Mothers Union, and Jane Berkley for the floral arrangements.

From the retiring collection we were able to give £130 to the church and the rest to the *RBL Womens Section Benevolent Fund*.

This is why in future you will not see us at Remembrance Service. I would like to thank RBL Branch, all the people of Cuckfield, the ISOC for supporting us over many years.

Evelyn Stenning

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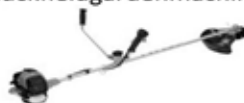
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Cuckfield Museum reopens on 15th February with a new exhibition to celebrate 2020:

A History of Cuckfield in 20 Objects

It features our most recent acquisition, a silver pair case pocket watch dating from 1793 inscribed Edward Bates, the renowned Cuckfield clockmaker.



With its original key, we can confirm that the watch still keeps perfect time! Cuckfield was a centre for clock making for nearly 400 years and the Bates family business ran from the 1790's to the 1930's. Come and see this and the other 19 objects which tell the story of our village.



Our first Museum talk of the year, ***The Revd Francis Sewell - Benefactor***, a talk by Richard Bryant of the Lindfield History Project Group, will be on **Thursday 5th March at 2.30 p.m.** at The Queen's Hall. Richard looks at the life of the Revd Francis Sewell, born in 1815 in India of a wealthy family, and his personal

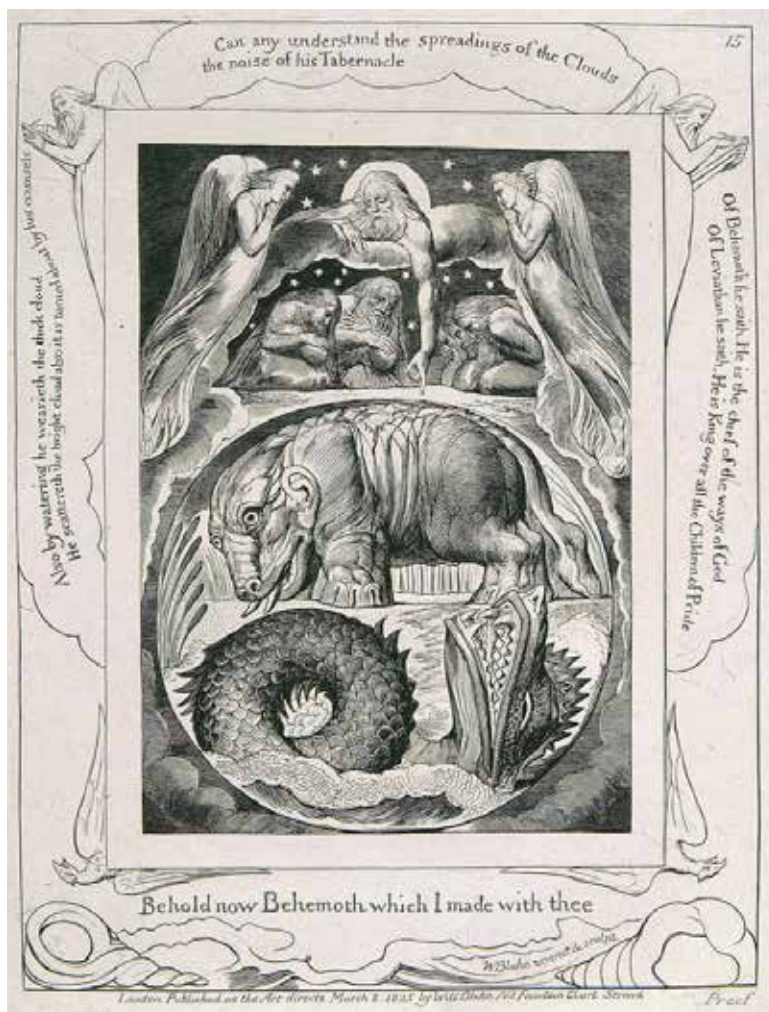
involvement and benefaction in financing a major restoration of All Saints Church, Lindfield, and his impact on the village and its community.

To book a place, please phone Mike Nicholson on 01444-457448 or email events@cuckfieldmuseum.org

Museum opening hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10.00-12.30 p.m.
Saturdays 10.00-3.00 p.m.

More information from www.cuckfieldmuseum.org

GOD IN THE ARTS



‘He gave us eyes to see them’: William Blake’s engravings of Job

The canticle we call the *Benedicite* began its life as the *Song of the Three Holy Children*. In the midst of their terrifying ordeal in the burning fiery furnace, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego praise God. They call on the sky above, the seasons, and all that grows and moves on the earth to join them. Their song invites the whales in the sea, the birds of the air and all creatures to echo their praise. Finally, they ask all people who are holy and humble in heart to bless God the creator of all that is.

That song of praising is born of pain and testing, the theme of another book in the Old Testament - Job. While he was an upright, blameless man, he suffered. That pain tested his faith and he demanded an explanation from God.

The book of Job inspired the visionary work of the poet and painter, **William Blake**. In 1823 he began creating a series of 22 engravings illustrating Job which were based on earlier water-colours. *Plate 13* depicts God answering Job out of the whirlwind. We can read of this in Chapters 39-41. God asks Job if he was present at creation. Indeed, can he even begin to understand the marvels of this world - the mountain goat giving birth, a horse running through a meadow, or the eagle soaring in the sky. They praise God like the creatures in the *Benedicite* by their very being. And finally, God points to Behemoth and Leviathan - the hippopotamus and the crocodile - who are symbols of power and brute strength. They are shown in *Plate 15* and fill the orb of the world, just as they dominate creation.

God answers Job with this catalogue of wonders to assure him that He is the Creator, but He does respond to the cry of humanity. Job may not understand the stars above nor the earth beneath his feet, but through meeting God, his life has gained meaning and value. His fortunes are restored, and he ends his days as one of the holy and humble of heart who praise God in the *Benedicite*. The Three Children of the fiery furnace and Job assure us that the world is full of wonder and glory, and that we will join them in singing hymns of praise and thanksgiving.



MODERN SALVERY & THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

At our last meeting for 2019, Ros Thunder gave a talk representing Mothers' Union in Chichester Diocese. This was called *Awareness and Action*, concerning different forms of gender based violence, and particularly looking at modern slavery in this country. The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England has set up ***The Clewer Initiative*** which works within and seeks to help potential victims of modern slavery.

Most dioceses in England are involved in this initiative which seeks to raise awareness and encourage action in supporting the victims and survivors of modern slavery. Representatives from the Diocese may attend an annual meeting or join at networking events or awareness raising evenings, or promote victim identification efforts. The next planned step is towards supporting those caught up in modern slavery, which includes labour exploitation, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

People from countries where there is little work and living standards are very poor can become victims of human trafficking and modern slavery: they are offered a job, a chance to make money and build a new life for themselves.

Very often they are hopeful of being able to send money back to help their families at home. Those who offer these opportunities often organise their travel to the UK but control every aspect of the administration and paperwork. The jobs they have been offered turn out to be a lie, and instead they are forced to live and work in degrading conditions with little or no pay. Sexual exploitation happens, with women and

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girls being forced into abusive or non-consensual sexual acts. Domestic servitude is where someone is forced to work in a private household with little or no freedom of movement.

These things are horrendous and not what any of us would want to see happening in this country. Those caught up in modern slavery cannot speak out for themselves because of the fear of deportation, threats or risk of violence to themselves or their families. The subject of this talk was not comfortable or inspiring, but the title *Awareness and Action* was well chosen. Mothers' Union headquarters in London have a dedicated member of staff to contact regarding instances of modern slavery and this information is relayed to the appropriate member of staff of The Archbishops' Council at Church House in Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ.

Heather Hollis



FSW JANUARY UPDATE

Dear Friends,

We had an extremely busy December, making sure that all of our families could enjoy Christmas despite their difficult circumstances. We held Christmas parties in every area we work, some of our families enjoyed trips to the pantomime, and we were able to distribute 100 fresh turkeys in addition to 109 Christmas hampers so that everybody could enjoy a proper Christmas dinner.

Now the excitement of the Christmas period is over, we are looking ahead to the rest of 2020 and how we can continue to progress with our plans. We have received many new referrals over the last couple of weeks and are working hard to accommodate them all.

Unfortunately, a large funding application we submitted in late summer was rejected just before Christmas – this would have enabled us to further expand our work to new parts of Sussex, so we are now taking some time to reassess our plans.

We have a busy events calendar in 2020 which includes our annual sponsored ***Easter Walk on Monday 13th April***. We are also holding two lunches in February – one in **Worthing** and one in **Hastings** – to give people the chance to meet a practitioner and learn more about our work in the local area. **Please get in touch with Melissa on 01273 832963 if you would like to know more about any of these events.**

December's work in numbers

- 192 individual meetings with families supporting 191 parents, 16 grandparents, and 216 children
- 42 supported meetings with other agencies
- 24 group sessions supporting 432 parents, 17 grandparents, and 584 children
- 193 food deliveries made

Nikki Kerr - FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing



EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP – SUNDAY TO SATURDAY

Hello, my name is Janet Knight. I am married to Alan, have two daughters and nine grandchildren (6 girls and 3 boys). My husband and I are primarily sheep and beef cattle farmers, and many of you will know me through my Donkey, Dorcas, and the sheep that we bring to the Christmas and Easter services.

I have always been part of the farming community, coming from a farming family, and produce all of my own meat, fruit and vegetables. I have been a regular church attender all my life, brought about by my membership of the GLB (Girls Life Brigade) when I was young.

As a working woman, I worked as a Civil Engineer for West Sussex County Council. I was always amazed at how often I met other Christians in my work, but now, as I dedicate all of my time to farming, I feel privileged and grateful that my faith journey has had many twists and turns, but always gaining more and more depth.

It is my personal opinion you cannot work closely with animals, and as close to nature as I do, and not feel God's presence constantly. Perhaps I am being dramatic, but in the depth of a cold night, when delivering triplets, up to my elbows in gore and things are looking bleak, the number of times I have prayed and asked God to help me and He has answered, is quite astounding. It is at the times when you feel you have done everything you can that something miraculous happens. God is always present at the start of a new life and, even if there is death, He is there. When delivering calves, when on numerous occasions the vet has been called and we have done everything we can humanly do to get the calf out, and/or save the cow, we often state "it's up to God now". Then 'life' happens. As yet, I have never lost both a cow and a calf and I just know – that is God's way.

He is there at the amazing birth of the lambs, calves and piglets and He is also there at the sad times of their dying. Death is not something to be afraid of, it is part of the cycle of life and our rich journey, and God's peace can be keenly felt at both the beginning and the end, He is the creator and giver of life and its many cycles. When walking around the farm out on the fields amongst nature and checking the animals or, through the farm buildings full of lambing ewes, you sense it is all God given, and a privilege.

I hope you have enjoyed reading my very short piece and a look through a little window into my life and so I will close with a line from one of my favourite hymns, 'Just as I am':

*Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come*

You are all welcome to come and see the animals, especially as lambing season is about to start. Please let my daughter Helen, one of the HT Family Ministers know, and she can organise this for you.

Wishing you a Happy Healthy New Year.

Best wishes
Janet Knight

Haywards Heath Friends of St Catherine's Hospice

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A WARM WELCOME TO THE CORPORATE FRIENDS

The Friends of Chichester Cathedral have marked the start of their 9th decade by launching *The Corporate Friends* – a new membership category especially for the local business and commercial community.

During the eighty years of its existence the Friends have played a major role in supporting the Cathedral. Over the last three years alone the Friends have contributed over £375,000 towards projects as diverse as a new choral scholarship, new chairs throughout the cathedral and sponsorship of the 2019 Southern Cathedrals Festival.

The Cathedral is central to the wider community in Chichester primarily, of course, as a centre for Christian worship. However, it is also a major feature in the Chichester landscape, attracting many visitors and enterprises to the city and surrounding region each year from which the local business and commercial community derives considerable benefits.

Membership of the Corporate Friends provides businesses and enterprises with the opportunity to support the Cathedral and to ensure that it continues to thrive and serve the local community.

Corporate Friends membership subscription costs £100 per year and, in addition to contributing to the funding of the Cathedral, Corporate Friends enjoy full Friends' membership benefits as well as an annual invitation to a Corporate Friends' Reception.

Chichester Cathedral Friends very much hope that the local business community will support this important new initiative.

Prospective Corporate members can join online at:

<https://chichestercathedralfriends.selz.com>

The Friends are a registered charity. For more information on The Friends in general visit: <https://chichestercathedral.org.uk/get-involved/chichester-cathedral-friends> or email: friends@chichestercathedral.org.uk



HAYWARDS HEATH MUSIC SOCIETY

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Saturday 15th February 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

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Further information from Christine Colbourne: 01444-456227, or

www.haywardsheathmusicociety.org.uk

HOLY DAYS FOR FEBRUARY

- 1 Brigid of Ireland - Abbess of Kildare, c 525
- 2 **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas**
- 3 Anskar – Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary in Denmark/Sweden
- 3 Blaise - Bishop of Sebastea
- 4 Phileas – Christian bishop/martyr of Egypt
- 6 The Martyrs of Japan - courage amidst persecution
- 14 St Valentine's Day
- 17 Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, martyr, 1977

- 23 Polycarp - the faithful servant who would not deny his Lord
- 24 **Matthias the Apostle**
- 25 **SHROVE TUESDAY**
- 26 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 27 George Herbert, priest and poet
- 29 Oswald of Worcester

6 February - The Martyrs of Japan: courage in persecution

Persecution of Christians in various countries is making the headlines these days. Believers facing such opposition might well find inspiration from the courage of the Japanese Christians of the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

The Jesuit Francis Xavier had first brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, when he persuaded Shimazu Takahisa, the daimyo of Satsuma, to give him permission to build the first Catholic mission in Japan. All went well at first, and the Japanese responded to the message of Jesus Christ more warmly than anyone could have foretold. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that there were nearly 300,000 baptised converts to Christianity in Japan.

But soon the very success of the Japanese Church led it into trouble: its vibrant growth as an indigenous community believing a faith brought in from the West meant trouble. It was caught up in a maelstrom of tensions between the shogunate, imperial government, Buddhist monks, Shintoists, and colonial ambitions of Spain and Portugal. Gradually, the Japanese rulers came to see Christians as a threat. So, Christianity was banned, and those Japanese who refused to abandon their faith were to be killed.

Trouble flared at Nagasaki on 6th February 1597, when six European Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits and 17 Japanese laity, three of whom were young boys, were executed in a form of crucifixion by being elevated on crosses and then pierced with spears. Within a year, more than 130 churches had been burned. The persecution subsided, then flared up in 1613. Japanese Christians were beheaded, burned alive or imprisoned. They responded with courage and a willingness to sing praises and preach the gospel even as they were led to their deaths.

Such was the brutality of the persecution that by 1630 the Japanese Church had been driven underground and was thought to be lost. So, when missionaries arrived in the 19th century, they were astonished to find a community of Japanese Christians. It had survived for 250 years without clergy, churches, the Bible and only a sketchy idea of the Christian faith beyond one main thing: that Jesus Christ was Lord.

23 February – Polycarp: faithful servant who would not deny his Lord

Polycarp (c. 69 – c. 155) was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus, the most influential of the Gnostics. Irenaeus of Lyons, who as a boy had known Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness and majesty of countenance.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival. The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called ‘atheists’. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his interrogation.

All the pagans’ threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: ‘For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me? I am a Christian: if *you* wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it.’

The crowd were outraged and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt. Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and

buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind.

In England there are no ancient and only a few modern churches dedicated to this deeply courageous saint of the Christian Church.

29 February - Oswald of Worcester - the saint for Leap Year

There is a saint for Leap Year: he is St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising 'leaps', all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald's great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald's uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.

Oswald was popular as an archbishop, and always washed the feet of the poor every Lent. On 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester when he collapsed and died. In later years, Worcester adopted both him and Wulfstan to be its two chief saints: they flank the tomb of King John, which is before the high altar in the cathedral.

TOAD: THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Ensnconced in my corner of a Sussex pub, I didn't look far for inspiration for this month's article. The clanging of brass on lead alerted me to a couple of lads playing that most Sussex of pub games – *Toad in the Hole*. The perfect excuse for some sycophantic toadying to an amphibian I adore, warts and all.

Toads are beautiful. Yes, I know they have lumpy, poisonous skin. Yes, I know they have a face like Ena Sharples. But that eye. That amazing eye. Next time you see a toad, get right up close and allow yourself to be hypnotised by that mesmerising golden-ringed eye. Fellow toad lover George Orwell called it *about the most beautiful eye of any living creature*.

In February, that beautiful eye blinks open as toads awaken from their winter hibernation. From under stones, logs and leaves they emerge and start the long walk home – back to the pond where they were born. They proceed on this pilgrimage with a determined, unsteady gait – like one of those old men you see gingerly crossing the shingle on his way to his annual New Year's Day dip. But once the Toad hits the water he is rejuvenated and has one thing on his mind. Croaking and brawling, a peaceful pond is transformed into a Club 18-30 pool party as male Toads squabble over females in a writhing ball of amorous amphibians.

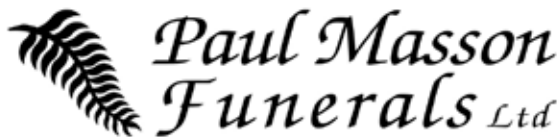
The results of this Bacchanalian bonding are long polka dot ribbons of spawn (unlike the Frog's shapeless tapioca blobs); and, by May, the parent Toads have left their breeding ponds

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to lead a more respectable life on dry land until their next winter hibernation. Amazingly these animals can live for over 40 years.

With their primordial appearance, annual gatherings and rituals, there is a touch of evil about the Toad. Throughout England's history they have been vilified, linked to witchcraft and strange superstitions. And, when it comes to folklore, there's nowt so queer as Toads. Rubbing Toads on your body could cure cancer, a live Toad in your mouth could cure skin infections. Precious jewels (toadstones) were reputed to be hidden in a Toad's head. Immortal toad-eaters were a sideshow attraction at country fairs. Travelling Toad doctors could heal you with Toad hearts and legs. The mysterious Toadmen used Toad potions to cure horses (a practice that allegedly continued until the 1930s in some English counties).

It took Kenneth Grahame's beloved *The Wind in the Willows* to finally drag the Toad out of the dark ages, putting him in a tweed suit and in the hearts of the nation. Keep an eye out for these amazing animals around Sussex in the coming months as they return to their ponds.

Michael Blencowe - The Sussex Wildlife Trust
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

FEBRUARY GARDEN NOTES

Happy New Year! As 2020 begins, the mild, wet conditions of November/December continue with plenty of grey misty days and no sight of snow. The heady scents of Daphnes, Sarcococcas, Winter sweet (*Chimonanthus*) and *Lonicera fragrantissima* can be enjoyed with cyclamen coum, snowdrops and early narcissi at ground level.

Where you have bulbs popping up in mixed borders, ensure you have cleared dead growth from herbaceous plants and pruned back evergreen shrubs such

as *Euonymus* and *Hebes* which may have encroached upon them. Cut off old leaves of *Hellebores* that produce flowers from ground level (e.g., *niger* and *orientalis*) to expose the flowers. Grasses like *Stipa* and *Miscanthus*, which you may have left for winter interest, can also be cut back now before the new growth emerges.

Whilst it's too late to plant spring bulbs, snowdrops are one bulb best planted 'in the green', i.e., with leaves intact, just after they have finished flowering. Pot grown ones (or a section of a large clump a friend may be happy to divide and give to you) guarantee the best results. You may also like to fill in gaps or add extra colour and interest with late spring and summer bulbs such as *Alliums* (there are many species), *Galtonia*, *Gladioli*, *Nerines*, *Rhodohypoxis*, *Tritelia*, *Camassia* and *Crinum powellii*. Inspect stored tubers of *Dahlias*, *begonias* and *Canna Lilies* for rots.

Jobs before the beginning of March include pruning apples and pears, cutting down autumn raspberries, tidying up strawberry beds (if you didn't tackle it in the autumn), mulching flower borders and vegetable gardens. Buy seed potatoes and chit them. Sort out seeds, chucking out old packets (especially parsnip and lettuce which lose viability in 1-2 years), checking they haven't been attacked by mould or mice. Plant out autumn-sown broad beans and sweet peas at the end of February, if the ground is not waterlogged or frozen. For sweet peas and edible peas, erect netting, canes or whatever supports you usually use. Sow *Aquadulce Claudia* broad beans, early lettuce, radish, rocket, coriander, spinach carrots and beetroot under cloches or fleece.

Clean out water butts and greenhouse/house gutters, clean greenhouse glass and tidy/wash pots and seed trays you may want to use this season. Treat slippery paths with an anti-algae product (e.g., *Algoclear*, *MossOff*, noting that *Armillatox* is no longer available). With all the rain, untreated York stone paving can be somewhat hazardous to walk on. Milder springs mean cutting grass before March, so make sure you have your mower and other garden machinery serviced before the first cut, but remember to start on a high setting. Spring lawn treatments can begin in March but always read the manufacturers' directions as to dosage and weather conditions.

Prune winter flowering *Jasmine* and winter heathers after flowers have faded, also *Viburnum bodnantense*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Mahonias*, *Cotoneasters* and *Pyracantha* as needed.

Lindsay Shurvell



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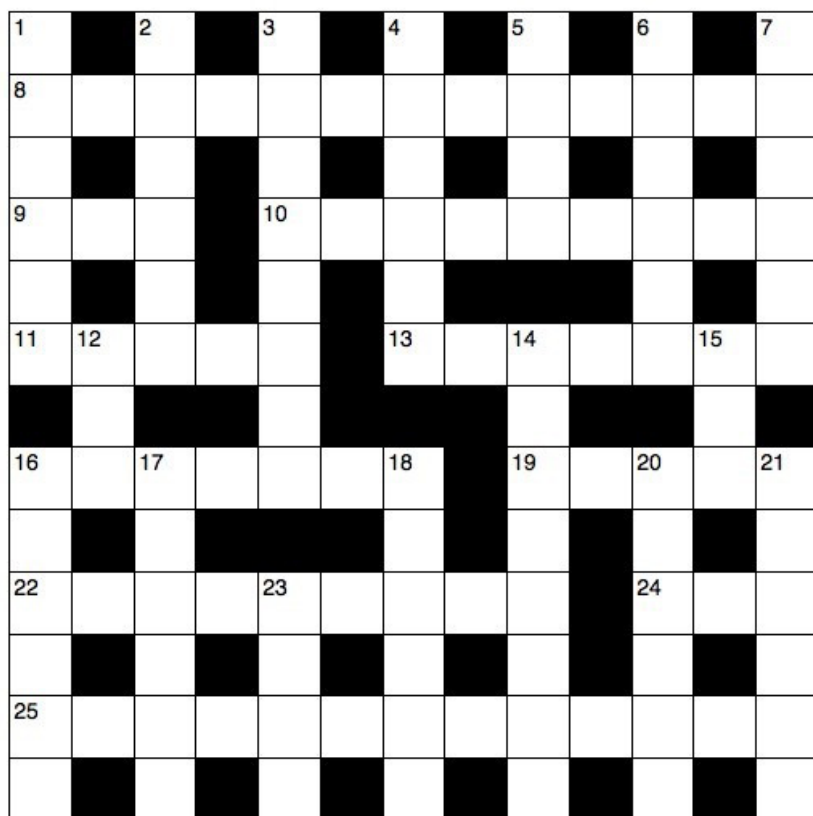
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February Crossword



CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

DOWN

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

(Answers on page 41)

What's on Around Cuckfield...

Friendship Club Ansty Village Hall

2.30 to 4pm on 1st Tuesday in month. Please come, have a cuppa and cake and a natter. Enquiries 413061.

Ansty Village Hall

CARD & TABLE GAMES. The third Thursday of the month at Ansty Village Hall, from 2 – 4 including tea and cake £2. Not a serious card school – much laughter. Tel 413061

Ansty Garden Club Wednesday 26th February

The Story of Kew Gardens – Sarah Oldridge, Adult Education Coordinator Kew Gardens

Ansty Garden Club meets in the Village Hall at 7:45pm on the last Wednesday of the month – with the exception of June when we have an outing and July when we hold an outdoor summer supper at another venue. A coffee morning and plant sale is held in June at the village hall and we have a varied programme of events including speakers on garden related topics throughout the rest of the year. Membership is £10 per year. Visitors are charged £2 per evening visit. Refreshments and raffle are available at each meeting. New members always welcome. For further information please contact Chairperson Derry Baillieux 01444 474660.



HOLY BAPTISM

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IN MEMORIAM

Anthony (Tony) Granham GILES
Jean NOTRUMS

Aged 90
Aged 93

Regular Events

Bellringers	Thursday evenings 7.45–9.15pm.
Choir	Choir practice Friday evenings 7.30 for 7.45–9pm. (There are no practices during August) Choir Club for children and young people from age 7 - 8 upwards. In the Old School 6.30 (doors open 6.15) - 8pm on Fridays. (<i>Not during Half Term and school hols.</i>)
Holy Trinity Mens Group	Wednesday 19 February – Skittles at The Bull, Henfield For more information contact Clive Simmonds 01444 454481 or email: clivesimmonds@btinternet.com
Home Groups	<i>Alternate Thursday Evenings (2 groups), 8pm</i> call Clive & Isobel Simmonds 01444 454481 Tuesday, 8.00pm (in term time). David and Ros Thunder, Wayfarers, South Street, Tel. 417103.
Prayer Group	<i>Prayer Group is not meeting at present.</i> <i>Tel. Pam Sagar 01444 414409</i>
Mothers' Union	Tuesday 11 th February 10am – Developing Confidence (MU Theme for 2020) Venue: Wayfarers, South Street Please contact Ros Thunder 417103 for more details

FEBRUARY 2020 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

Regular Events (continued)

Cuckfield Crafts and Vintage Market

Queens Hall

Next Market will be on 17th April from 9.30am to 1pm

For more details or to book a pitch contact Marie Dormer email: marie.c.dormer@gmail.com

Cuckfield Local Market

9.30am to 12.30pm. Food Market at The Talbot, High Street, Cuckfield. (Monthly)

Cuckfield Evening Flower Club

Friday 14 February – SURPRISE SURPRISE
Venue Haywards Heath Methodist Church 7.30 for 7.45pm

Cuckfield Ladies Group

Tuesday 4th February 8pm – Games Evening
venue to be decided
For more details please contact Jan Bryan 414891

Solo Lunch

The next Solo Lunch will be on Sunday February 10th. Tickets £6 available from the Church

Cuckfield Evening WI

Tuesday 18 February – Food & Drink
Meetings take place at 7.30pm at the Cuckfield Baptist Church, Polestub Lane.

The master pages (including adverts) used to print this magazine can be viewed at www.holytrinitycuckfield.org/directory/parish-magazine/

Items carried in the Cuckfield Parish Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Holy Trinity PCC, the Vicar or the Editorial Team. The Editorial Team reserves the right to decline to publish any item or to amend or shorten material. For that reason we do not accept copy in PDF or file formats other than Word.

We are very pleased that the parish magazine is seen as a good vehicle for advertising by local traders and others but readers must accept that the Editors do not vouch for or in any way warrant the individuals, organisations, products or services advertised here.

February 2020 Calendar & Readings for Sunday Services

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY - CANDLEMAS

- 8.00am Holy Communion
*Malachi 3: 1-5; Hebrews 2: 14-end;
Luke 2: 22-40*
- 9.45am Family Service
- 11.00am Sung Holy Communion (Traditional language)
Hebrews 2: 14-end; Luke 2: 22-40
- 6.00pm Choral Evensong
Haggai 2: 1-9; John 2: 18-22

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY – THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
*Isaiah 58: 1-9a; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12;
Matthew 5: 13-20*
- 6.00pm Evening Communion

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY – SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
*Genesis 1: 1-2: 3; Romans 8: 18-25;
Matthew 6: 25-end*
- 6.00pm Sung Evensong
Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; Revelation Chap. 4

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
*Exodus 24: 12-end; 2 Peter 1: 16-end;
Matthew 17: 1-9*
- 6.00pm Sung Evensong
2 Kings 2: 1-12; Matthew 17: 9-23

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

SUNDAY SERVICES & MAJOR FESTIVALS FOR THE MONTH *(SEE INSIDE)*

WEEKDAY SERVICES – NORMALLY IN THE LADY CHAPEL

Monday	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Coffee & Cake Evening Prayer
Thursday	9.00am	Holy Communion
Friday	11.00am	Holy Communion, BCP
Saturday	8.45am	Morning Prayer

FOR CHILDREN - IN THE OLD SCHOOL – SUNDAYS

Noah's Ark	ages 0 to 3
Children's Church	ages 3 to 10
Xplorers	action for 11 to 13 year olds.

except for 1st Sunday of each month when all join the Family Service
and during the school summer holidays.

**NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME
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