

# LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Plwyf

Parish Magazine



*Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland. See page 16.*

**50p**

**January 2014**

# Services

## Holy Trinity Church, Mostyn Street

### Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>  
& 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)
- Matins followed by  
shortened Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer
- 6.00 pm Exploring Worship - in  
Church Hall (2nd Sunday  
unless notified otherwise)

### Weekdays

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer (Tue, Wed  
Thurs & Fri)
- 9.00 am Holy Eucharist (Wed)
- 11.00 am Holy Eucharist (Thurs &  
major saints' days)
- Holy Eucharist in Welsh  
(Sat)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer (Tue, Wed,  
Thurs & Fri)

oOo

The Rector is in Holy Trinity church on most Saturday mornings from 11.30 - 12.00 to see parishioners on any matter – for confessions, spiritual guidance, the booking of baptisms or weddings etc.

## St. Tudno's Church, Great Orme

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer (Sat)
- 11.00 am Open Air Service (Sun  
from end of May to end of  
September)
- On the first Sunday of  
each month, the service is  
followed by a shortened  
Eucharist in the church.

The pattern of Sunday and Weekday services sometimes changes. Please check the calendar in each month's magazine and the weekly bulletin.



Plwyf Llandudno  
Parish of Llandudno

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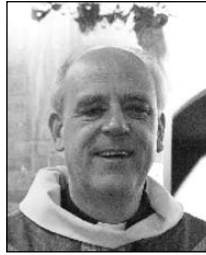
The deadline for copy for any edition is the 7th of the previous month. Please leave copy in box near pulpit in Holy Trinity Church or e-mail:

[editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk](mailto:editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk)

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## From the Rectory

I was rather surprised to see on TV recently a children's nativity play in which the 'Kings' offered not gold, frankincense and myrrh but instead brought to the infant Christ an i-phone, an X Box One, and a Play Station 4. At first I was shocked that in this particular nativity play these gadgets had 'replaced' the three gifts the Magi actually brought. But then I remembered that for most of our young people these gadgets are 'must have' items which are really central to their lives. To see these things offered as gifts to the Lord would make much more impact on them than gold, frankincense and myrrh. If it helps children to understand something of the



meaning of the Epiphany then maybe its worth 'adapting' the story in this way.

The Feast of the Epiphany may not have the kudos and excitement of Christmas but it is nevertheless an important day in its own right.

'Epiphany' means 'a showing forth' or 'a manifestation'. So at the Epiphany we are celebrating the showing forth of Christ as the Word made Flesh. The story of the visit of the Magi is indeed a beautiful moment in which he was showing forth.

The significance of the visit of the Magi (whoever these mysterious figures actually were) is firstly that Christ is revealed to the world outside Israel – to the Gentiles. These men (we assume there were three because they offered three gifts, but there might have been more of them!) also represent the wisdom of our world, and if you think of them as 'Kings' the political power of our world. All this is brought to the feet of Christ and offered to him. Of course each of the three gifts have their own particular meaning – but together they represent the offering to Christ of the things which mean the most to human beings (hence the relevance of i-phones etc.)

We normally keep this great feast day on the nearest Sunday to the traditional



'It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab that pew by the electric socket.'

date of 6th January so giving everyone the opportunity to celebrate it. What better way to start a New Year than with this Feast in which we celebrate Our Lord's showing forth to the world and are challenged to offer him not

three gifts but ourselves.

Happy New Year – and a joyful Epiphany-tide!

**Fr. John**

## News and Notices

### Farewells

This month we say farewell to two local priests. Canon Bob Griffith is leaving our neighbouring parish of Rhoscystennin to take up the position of Archdeacon of Wrexham. Canon Bob has been Rector of Rhoscystennin (& its predecessor the parish of Llanrhos) for sixteen years and has become very much part of the scene in and around Llandudno. I first met Bob when we were both students in Bangor staying at Church Hostel, the University Chaplaincy. One of the joys of working in Llandudno has been the opportunity to work together and I shall miss him, as of course will his parishioners and many others in Llandudno. Bob certainly deserves this new position and will make an excellent Archdeacon.

Also leaving this month is Fr. Clive Hillman, Vicar of the Betws-y-coed group of parishes who is to become incumbent of the parish of St. Clement, Leigh on Sea in Essex. Clive's ministry in the Betws group has been very fruitful – among other things he has presided

over the re-opening of the church at Penmachno – not many clergy can claim to have re-opened a church these days! I have greatly valued Fr Clive as a colleague in our deanery and also as a fellow member of the Bangor chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests.

We commend both Canon Bob and Fr. Clive to God's keeping as they move on to new stages in their ministries.

**Fr. John**

### Thanks

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus.

Thank you very much for the cheque of £891.00 from Llandudno Parochial Church Council to the Barnabas Fund. We greatly appreciate this most generous gift to assist with emergency aid for Christian victims of Typhoon Haiyan (Project 42-845). We are so glad that you share our concern for these needy brothers and sisters. Gifts made

through the Barnabas Fund make a real difference to people who often have nobody else to help them.

Please pray that aid will quickly reach those in most acute need so that further loss of life can be prevented. Pray also for those who have lost loved ones and/or homes; pray that they will receive comfort and support to bear their distress. Remember also aid workers in the Philippines; pray that they will have strength and wisdom as they face such enormous suffering. Our South-East Asian Coordinator is currently in the Philippines to liaise with our partners on the ground.

Thank you for the support for the Barnabas Fund,

Yours sincerely in His service,

**Rosemary Sookhdeo**  
**Director**

## **150 Club**

On Wednesday 11th December during the Winter Warmers coffee morning in the church hall, Rev. John Nice drew the first draw of the 150 Club.

Three numbers were drawn and the winning details were:

- |      |                 |           |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1st. | £50.00p         | Number 28 |
|      | Joyce Greatorex |           |
| 2nd. | £25.00p         | Number 18 |
|      | William Maidlow |           |

- |      |                 |           |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| 3rd. | £10.00p         | Number 66 |
|      | Marlene Simpson |           |

This is a very good start to this new venture and we were able to pay £77 into the 150 fundraising fund. Not bad for the first month.

The next draw should have prize monies totalling £100. This will take place on Wednesday, 8th January 2014 during the coffee morning about 11am.

It is not too late to join the 150 Club. Forms are available at the back of the Church. The more people involved means bigger prizes.

I wish to thank everyone for their help in getting this project up and running. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and wish you all a very happy and wealthy new year.

**Terry Dewar**

## **The Big Trough**

Now that the troughs have arrived, your Churchyards Committee is hoping they meet with your approval. The idea, as I explained in last month's Magazine, is part of our broader plan to brighten up the Churchyard at Holy Trinity. However, we are also keen to involve Church members, and we would very much like to know what you think we should plant in the Big Trough – as you will have noticed there's plenty of room for lots of flowers, especially when we get to the planting season in the Spring.

Our plan is to rename the trough the Memorial Trough, which sounds a lot better than the Big Trough, and what we would like to do is invite Church members to donate plants in memory of a loved one. If you'd like to commemorate someone, please have a chat with one of our Committee members, Jennifer Fossi, Terry Dewar, Christine Jones, or with me, William Maidlow. With your help I think we can create something that looks really special, and a fitting tribute to a loved one.

**William Maidlow**

### **St. Tudno's Church**

On 24 November the monthly service celebrated Christ the King with a Eucharist and was attended by 22 people. In January, the service will be on Sunday 26th at 11.00 pm and will be a celebration of Epiphany. Throughout winter the church is open weekends, Wednesdays and Bank holidays, weather permitting. On Saturdays Morning

Prayer is said at 9.00 am, following a Benedictine liturgy, but over winter please check with the Rector that there will be a service.

**Christine Jones  
Shirley Georgeson**



*"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric*

## ***PARISH REGISTER***

### ***Holy Baptism***

***December 1st: Lewis Andrew Graham Dance &  
Jordan Paul David Dance***

***December 8th: Finn Kirk Gardiner***

# Calendar for January

Weds 1st      **Naming of Jesus (New Year's Day)**

11.00 am      Holy Eucharist

**Sun 5th      Epiphany Sunday (Second Sunday of Christmas)**

Services at usual times for the 1st Sunday.

Mon 6th      2.30 pm      Mothers' Union AGM

Tues 7th      10.00 am      *'Julian' meditation group at Stella Maris*

Thurs 9th      10.00 am      St. Raphael Guild Meeting

11.00 am      Eucharist with Ministry of Healing

**Sun 12th      The Baptism of Christ (Epiphany I)**

Services at usual times for the 2nd Sunday. The Blessing of Water takes place during 10.30 am Choral Matins.

Tues 14th      2.30 pm      Parish Fellowship AGM

Thurs 16th      7.30 pm      Friends of St. Tudno's Church Committee

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Sat 18th – Sat 25th**

Sat 18th      10.30 am      *Week of Prayer Service at St. David's, Penrhyn Bay*

**Sun 19th      Epiphany 2**

Morning services at usual for the 3rd Sunday.

6.00 pm      *Cytûn President's Service at St. David's Methodist Church, Craig-y-don*

No 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Holy Trinity.

Mon 20th      10.30 am      *Week of Prayer Service at the Coptic Church.*

Tues 21st      10.30 am      *Week of Prayer Service at Gloddaeth United Church*

Weds 22nd      10.30 am      *Week of Prayer Service at Our Lady Star of the Sea*

Thurs 23rd      10.30 am      *Week of Prayer Communion Service at Llandudno Baptist Church*

Fri 24th      10.30 am      *Week of Prayer Service at Salem Church*

Sat 25th      **Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle**

10.30 am      *Week of Prayer Service at Emmanuel Christian Centre*

11.00 am      Bilingual Eucharist

**Sun 26th      Epiphany 3**

Services as usual for the 4th Sunday with the

		addition of 11.00 am Morning Worship at St. Tudno's (A celebration of St. Paul)
Mon 27th	7.30 pm	150th Fundraising group
Thurs 30th	7.30 pm	150th Anniversary Planning group
Fri 31st	2.30 pm	St. Raphael's Guild Eucharist at the home of Dennis Wiley

*All calendar items at Holy Trinity Church or hall unless indicated otherwise.*

## Attendance Figures

November 1st		Eucharist at the home of Dennis Wiley	8
November 1st	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist	7
All Saints Day			
November 2nd		Requiem Eucharist	75
All Souls Day			
November 3rd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
Kingdom 1	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	77
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	7
November 7th		Eucharist at Ysgol San Sior	33
		Other weekday Eucharists	10
November 10th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	15
Kingdom 2	9.45 am	Civic Remembrance Service	377
	10.55 am	Act of Remembrance and Holy Eucharist	28
	5.00 am	Evening Prayer	1
	6.00 pm	Exploring Worship	25
		Other weekday Eucharists	24
November 17th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
Kingdom 3	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	97
		No Evening Prayer due to Car Rally GB	
		Other weekday Eucharists	21
November 24th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	16
Christ the King	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with laying up of the Korean War Veterans' Standard	129
	11.00 am,	Holy Eucharist at St. Tudno's	24
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5
		Other weekday Eucharists	31



# Sunday Rota

## 5th Jan

Reader Peter La Trobe  
 Sidespersons Joyce Crosby  
 Ray Millington  
 Linda Blundell  
 Cath Lloyd  
 Eucharistic Ministers Marion Heald  
 Angela Pritchard

## 12th Jan

Readers John Ridler  
 Pat Ridler  
 Sidespersons Doug Prichard  
 Barbara Yates  
 Angela Pritchard  
 Vernon Morris  
 E' Minister Marion Heald

## 19th Jan

Reader Anne Rimmer  
 Sidespersons Ben Edwards  
 Dorothy Trent

Terry Dewer  
 Ron Ilidge  
 Cath Lloyd  
 John Ridler

Eucharistic Ministers

## 26th Jan

Reader Marion Heald  
 Sidespersons Judith Williams  
 Ben Edwards  
 Dorothy Trent  
 Terry Dewer  
 Eucharistic Ministers Maggie Leitch  
 Stan Whittaker

## 2nd Feb

Reader Christine Jones  
 Sidespersons Ron Ilidge  
 Wendy Stewart  
 Annabel Jones  
 William Maidlow  
 Eucharistic Ministers Angela Pritchard  
 Cath Lloyd

# Carry on ... .. pilgrims

Early last month (celebrating All Saints' Day), three of the hymns had been tinkered-with or rewritten for the hymnal editors. Two were plainly the result of intolerance to militarism.

The introit was 'For all the saints'. The revision, though essentially the same hymn, has been amended to remove what the editors consider unacceptable. Saints are no longer associated

with soldiers (of Christ) but with pilgrims. Their fortresses have become refuges. Credit is given to the original writer though the publishers have seen fit to copyright the whole hymn.

The offertory hymn had received a more radical solution. The hymn we sang was ostensibly a new one: 'Onward Christian pilgrims'. However, this hymn bore an uncanny resemblance to an old

favourite: 'Onward Christian soldiers' a processional hymn originally written for Sunday school children.

A thought struck me: if 'For all the saints' and 'Onward Christian soldiers' could be demilitarised, then there were surely others in the firing line! And so it has proved. 'Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross!' is now 'Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand up before his cross' – which has become 'an instrument of torture, inflicting pain and loss.'

Less controversial one might have thought would be Luther's 'A safe stronghold' (other translations exist) – but seemingly not. Now we are offered 'God is our strength from days of old', a 'new' hymn. But the reference to Psalm 46, yet alone the retention of Luther's own tune, proves that the hymn is not completely new but a derivative influenced by the original.

Apart from 'For all the saints', the hymns mentioned so far are printed in our existing hymnal without any acknowledgement to the originals on which they are obviously based.

'Oft in danger, oft in woe' remains in a heavily modified form, soldiers having morphed, inevitably, into pilgrims. Rather than 'maintain[ing] the strife', Christians now have to 'endure' it.

'Fight the good fight' has survived more or less intact but 'Captains of the saintly band' and 'See the conqueror mounts in triumph' have disappeared

as has Charles Wesley's 'Soldiers of Christ arise'. In modern usage, the last mentioned uses less than a quarter of Wesley's original lines. Nevertheless, plenty of theology remains: 'Soldiers of Christ arise and put your armour on' (2 Timothy 2:3: 'Endure hardship like a good soldier of Christ Jesus' and Ephesians 6:11: 'Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.')

The analogy of God's Army triumphing over evil is well established theology so why cannot the publishers get their heads around this? They do a great disservice to the Church Army and the Salvation Army as well as any church parade held by our armed forces and cadet corps.

There is a scene at the end of the film 'A Canterbury tale' where a modern day soldier, Dennis Price, a cinema organist by trade, receives his blessing by playing the Cathedral organ at a service for his regiment prior to its embarkation overseas. He and his regiment launch into a lusty rendition of 'Onward Christian soldiers'. This is the climax to a particularly powerful last reel. I cannot imagine the new version stirring the emotions so well.



# Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland

**By Christine Jones**

On my trip to New Zealand in November, I was privileged to be able to visit and worship at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland. I attended the Eucharist once and Choral Evensong three times (once sung by the delightful junior choir) and was made very welcome by the Dean, the Very Revd Jo Kelly-Moore, who had just returned from a visit to the UK and who sends her best wishes to Holy Trinity, Llandudno; and by the Precenitor, Revd Tony Surman, whose mother originates from the Cerrigydrudion area and who sends his best wishes to

the churches in Wales.

The mother of one of the junior choristers was keen to introduce me to their organist, Philip Smith – who was formerly organist at St. Asaph Cathedral and who sends his best wishes to Norman Rimmer in particular. It's a small world, isn't it! I was at the cathedral when the Anglican cycle of prayer included the Church in Wales, so it was good to be able to represent us on the other side of the world.

Auckland's first cathedral was St. Mary's Church, a beautiful wooden building –



*Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland.*



*The interior of Holy Trinity Cathedral.*

many of the churches in New Zealand are built of wood – completed in 1898 and whose features include a Thompson Mouse on the lectern in the pulpit, like the two which we have at Holy Trinity. St. Mary's served as a cathedral for many years but Bishop Selwyn, the first Bishop of New Zealand, had a vision for a great cathedral, for which he had bought a plot of land nearby. Bishop Selwyn was Bishop of New Zealand from 1841 – 1868 but more of the Bishop next month.

Building of the great cathedral eventually began in 1957, with brick-clad reinforced steel in a neo-gothic style, resulting in simple, soaring chancel with a vibrant rose window above the

altar, symbolising the Trinity. See front cover.

Unusually, the altar is in the south and apparently this arrangement was not due to any theological considerations but to the shape of the parcel of land in relation to the original design of the cathedral. The sanctuary, chancel and crossing had been completed by 1973 – when the money ran out! The building was continued with a temporary nave, roofed in sheet iron (another common building material), which seated about 300. The temporary nave functioned for almost 20 years, until it was possible to resume the building work.

When completion of the cathedral was



*Above and below: St. Mary's Church.*

planned in the 1980s it was considered that rather than leaning towards a European tradition the cathedral should

celebrate the history and culture of New Zealand, both Maori and Pakeha (the Maori term for Europeans). The



chosen architect, Prof Dick Toy, had as great a vision as Bishop Selwyn but with a very different expression. Since worship began in the cathedral, St. Mary's Church had been used far less and allowed to deteriorate, rather as St. Tudno's was when St. George's Church was built.

However, Prof. Toy's vision included the rescue, restoration and continued use of St. Mary's, which was at the time just across the road from the new cathedral, so in 1982 St. Mary's was moved across the road! To simplify what was obviously a highly complex operation, St. Mary's was jacked up, put on rollers and towed across the road, which was closed for a day for the purpose. This part of the job took three months but it

then took several more months to turn the church through 90 degrees, to the same orientation as the cathedral, and to complete the installation. The church was lovingly restored and a benefaction provided a set of new windows with a New Zealand theme. Various services are now held in the church and indeed one of the services of Choral Evensong which I attended was in St. Mary's.

The main work on the new cathedral nave began in 1990 and was completed in 1995, when the Queen attended the inaugural service (Her Majesty was evidently quite busy on this tour as she was also present for the opening of an extension to Wellington Cathedral). One of the cathedral guides told me that there was some confusion with the



*The side windows and doors in the Cathedral.*



*This window includes a ‘Celtic’ design and a simple triquetra.*

Queen’s staff when the ceremony was being planned, as they were insistent that “The Queen will enter through the great west door” – which is actually the great north door! I understand that there are also some attempts to call the north and south the liturgical west and liturgical east, respectively, but this doesn’t seem to have lessened the confusion.

In the new cathedral nave wood and glass predominate and the result is a space which is light, warm, welcom-

ing and a joy to worship in – and the windows are truly glorious. There is a series of tall windows along each side of the church, with the top half stained glass and the bottom half clear glass in and the lower part of each window is a door, on the east opening onto a balcony with views to the nearby bay. Greens and reds predominate in the stained glass windows along the west and these tell stories from the Old Testament to John the Baptist. The east windows are

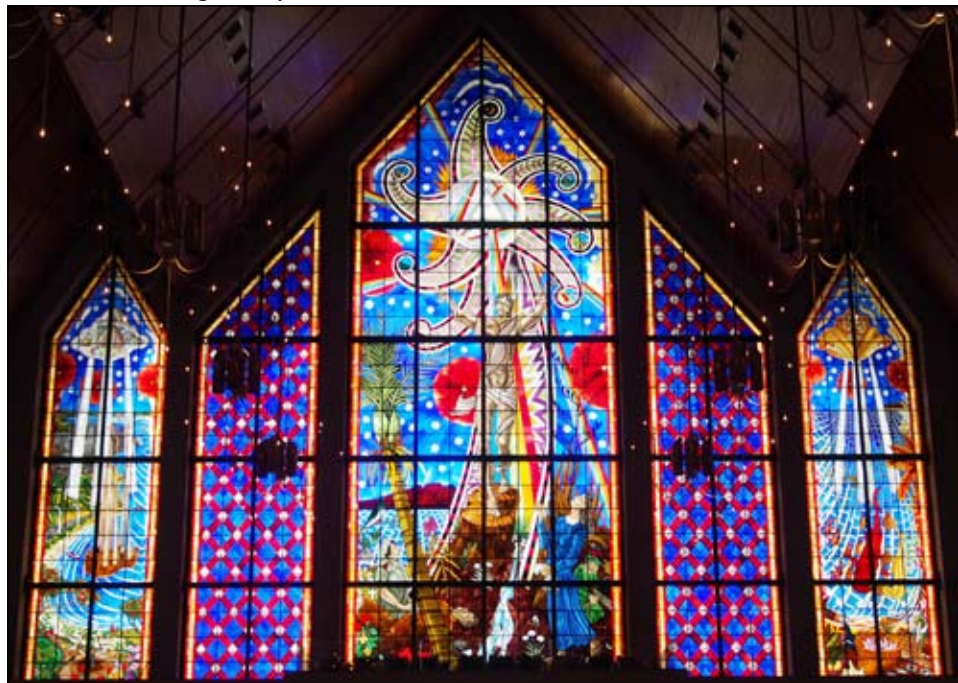


*Another window with a triquetra with an interlocking circle.*

more vividly coloured and tell stories of the New Testament, with New Zealand designs. For example the feeding of the five thousand includes the 12 baskets which were used to gather up the leftovers – with each being a woven basket of the style traditionally worked by Polynesian and Maori women. I was interested to see Maori designs similar to Celtic knot patterns and also our parish logo featuring in one window! It was not surprising to see the triquetra featuring in another Holy Trinity but like our parish logo this also included an interlocking circle.

For me, the greatest glory of this glorious church is the breathtaking great window across the north end, which is said to be the largest expanse of stained

glass in the southern hemisphere. This was designed by Nigel Brown and its construction by Glassworks was a considerable engineering feat. The right and left hand panels show the arrival in New Zealand of the Polynesians and Pakeha, respectively. The Polynesian and Maori window shows the sea linking islands in the Pacific Ocean, with sacred sea creatures swimming through the waves. On land are some the native New Zealand birds, while foods introduced are represented by a basket of kumara (sweet potatoes). More recent migrations from Asian lands around the Pacific Rim are celebrated by the inclusion of other plants such as frangi-pani. The European window shows the arrival of the *Endeavour*, with its masts



*The great north end window.*





*This window depicts two small fishes, five barley loaves and twelve baskets.*

extended into three crosses and superimposed on the modern skyline of Auckland. In the foreground are some of the plants and animals introduced by Europeans (though many introductions had devastating effects for the New Zealand wildlife). In both of these windows three rays descend from a cloud representing the Trinity.

The central section of the great window shows the risen Christ in front of a seven petalled “creation flower”, picturing the seven stages of creation in the Genesis story. On the right stands

Mary Magdalene while on the left a nurse tends a soldier on a battlefield, a commemoration of New Zealand’s involvement in two World Wars. The nikau palm to the left of Christ and the New Zealand flax to the right are distinctive of New Zealand’s native flora and when studying the window other details appear, such as a kiwi in the foreground and Rangitoto Island on the horizon, a very distinctive volcanic island in the Hauraki Gulf to the east of Auckland. In each of the three windows there are three bursts of scarlet in the sky – the flowers of pohutukawa (New Zealand Christmas tree, see article page 26) and a row of these trees has been planted outside the cathedral.

While I was staying near the cathedral I kept being drawn back there, to sit in the peace, absorb the atmosphere and gaze at the windows. When a couple of friends from the UK arrived to join me for a while, I was insistent that if they saw nothing else in Auckland they should visit the cathedral and I was pleased that they appreciated it as much as I did. Photographs cannot possibly do justice to this amazing place of worship but I hope that this will give you some idea of it. There are plans for some further building work to improve unification of the two parts of the building and to complete Selwyn’s vision for a cathedral that would be “a centre for educational, social, charitable and missionary work”. This alone seems worth returning to New Zealand to see.

# From the Parish Pump

## **Typhoon Haiyan**

A number of relief organisations are still working to provide relief to the storm-ravaged victims of Typhoon Haiyan. These include: Bible Society, Christian Aid, The Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, Tearfund, Viva and World Vision. They have joined forces with local churches and relief agencies to provide food, shelter, water, and medical help to the survivors. Many people have lost everything they had, and are destitute and bereaved. If you can help by donating some support, please visit the websites of any of the above organisations.

## **Lives at risk for Syrian refugees**

As the region faces a bitter winter, Christian Aid has warned that the lives of Syrian refugees are at risk due to inadequate shelter. With a seven-fold increase in refugees from the Syrian conflict arriving in neighbouring countries over the past year, the UN and aid agencies are struggling to protect the most vulnerable from what it's feared will be one of the harshest winters in years.

There are now almost 200,000 refugees in northern Iraq, most of whom arrived with little or no belongings, and are ill-equipped to deal with near freezing temperatures. UN camps are

full, and those forced instead to use temporary shelters are thought to be at particular risk.

Similar conditions are forecast for Lebanon, at present home to more than a million refugees from the conflict. There, no formal camps exist and many of the new arrivals live in makeshift encampments.

Christian Aid partner REACH is one of the few agencies in Iraq working with refugees outside the official UN camps. Director Saman Majed says those fleeing the conflict face a number of health risks. The temporary camps were set up quickly to accommodate the last huge influx of 50,000 refugees in the summer and were not constructed to deal with harsh winter conditions. Refugees are already suffering from malnutrition and diarrhoea, and health issues will escalate. Also at severe risk are the urban refugees those who have sought shelter in abandoned buildings with no doors or windows. They cannot afford clothes or fuel to burn to keep them warm.

With support from Christian Aid REACH has already provided blankets, shelter materials and warm clothes, as well as food, jerry cans for water, sanitary products and other essential items to almost 15,000 people, but the level of need is huge. Donate by visiting [www.christianaid.org.uk/syria](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/syria)

# Pohutukawa

As a change from my usual nature notes from the Great Orme, here is a favourite tree from my visit to New Zealand and one which features in the great window of Auckland Cathedral. The pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) is also known as the New Zealand Christmas tree, as the brilliant scarlet flowers cover the trees during December.

The species name *excelsa* derives from the Latin for “highest, sublime” (Wikipedia) and is such an apt description of the flowering tree. Some trees had started flowering while I was there in

November, so it is likely that some will still be in bloom now, in January. The pohutukawa occurs naturally around the coastline of the northern half of the North Island (north of latitude 38 S) but has been successfully planted as far south as Wellington, at the south of the North Island (latitude 41 S). Within this climatic zone, this is a very tough tree, occurring in apparently inhospitable sites and clinging to cliffs beside the sea. The tree has an ability to re-root or self layer, as I saw two enormous trees doing.



*Pohutukawa.*



*Pohutukawa and tui.*

One of these, in forest on Tiritiri Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf east of Auckland, has been estimated to be 1000 years old and was blown down many years ago but is still growing healthily. The other, in Parnell Rose Garden near Auckland Cathedral, is a perfect dome, with large branches which have bowed to the ground, rooted and grown upwards and outwards again. The flowers do not have petals and the colour results from a mass of pollen-bearing stamens. Like a number of New Zealand plants, the primary pollinators are birds such as the native tui shown here, attracted by

ample nectar produced by the flowers – and the introduced bumblebees are also attracted.

For gardening purposes, the hardiness of pohutukawa is described as “half hardy”, which is the same as the New Zealand cabbage trees (*Cordyline* spp) which flourish in gardens around Llandudno. In his article in the December magazine, William asked for suggestions for trees to plant in Holy Trinity’s grounds. My choice would be the pohutukawa – imagine a tree covered with scarlet blossom in June and buzzing with bumblebees!

**Christine Jones**



## St WULFSTAN 19<sup>th</sup> January

St Wulfstan was Bishop of Worcester from 1062-95. He lived during the Norman Conquest of England and was the only Saxon bishop to remain under William the Conqueror.

Wulfstan was a caring and hard-working monk. He rebuilt the cathedral at Worcester, cared for the poor, and struggled to ease the harsh conditions imposed by the Normans on the Saxons. Unlike some priests, he baptised children of the poor without charge. It is said that he never turned away people asking for help.

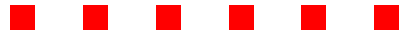
Wulfstan fought the slave trade in Bristol (slave trading didn't just start with slaves from Africa but had been going on for centuries with slaves from England being sold to Ireland and North Africa).

Wulfstan died whilst washing the feet of 12 poor men during a service in the cathedral. He died as he had lived, serving God and caring for others.

## CATHEDRAL SAINTS

Some cathedrals are associated with or dedicated to particular saints. Can you link the saint with the cathedral?

St Giles	Lichfield
St Mungo	Ely
St Chad	Durham
St Etheldreda	Edinburgh
St Cuthbert	Winchester
St Swithin	Glasgow



**Did you hear about the man  
who took his car in for a  
service?**

It got stuck in the church doors.

**What's green, curly &  
religious?**

Lettuce pray.



**What lives in a paper bag and  
hangs around in French  
cathedrals?**

The lunch-pack of Notre Dame.



Answers: St Giles at Edinburgh, St Mungo at Glasgow, St Chad at Lichfield, St Etheldreda at Ely, St Cuthbert at Durham, St Swithin at Winchester.

# A Prayer for the New Year

Father of all time,

We release to you the old year, the year that has passed, with all the celebrations and all the crises; with all the things we did and organised and enjoyed – with all the things we couldn't do or control, the things that caused us sadness or pain. We release them to you.

As another year begins Lord, help us to start by putting our trust in Jesus, right here in the newness of January. Thank you that he died to close the gap between us and you. Help us to renew our trust daily, so that when difficult days come, dark days when we can't understand why, or see the way forward, we will know his presence and strength to carry on.

May his Holy Spirit, guide us; may he fill us with expectation and courage and confidence to know that we are your children; that you will love us not only right through this year, but always.

So thank you Lord, for the gift of this New Year, but most of all we thank you every day for Jesus who makes the difference. Amen

*Daphne Kitching*

## Coffee Time

**Cryptics (thanks and courtesy Barbara Cartwright).**

All begin with the letter 'W'.

Results for Dec

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Period, we hear, of little strength. (4)                  | 1. Crib       |
| 2. How I seem to keep shrewd. (4)                            | 2. Apostle    |
| 3. Stick with first conjunction. (4)                         | 3. Cranberry  |
| 4. Howler, with correction, is of value. (10)                | 4. Star       |
| 5. News reels about a form of rest, anything but. (8)        | 5. Yule-log   |
| 6. While a bee flies around a rubbish holder. (7,3)          | 6. Present    |
| 7. This article of clothing isn't worn round the middle. (9) | 7. Still wine |
| 8. Short midweek day abbreviates marriage ceremony. (3)      | 8. Sage       |
| 9. One paw possibly used as means of defence. (6)            | 9. Chicken    |
| 10. Jimmy's cue ball. (5)                                    | 10. Brandy    |