

LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Pl

Parish Magazine



Marion Kettridge who has retired as Secretary of the Guild of St. Raphael.

50p

November 2013

Services

Holy Trinity Church, Mostyn Street

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (1st, 3rd, 4th
& 5th Sundays)
- Matins followed by
shortened Eucharist (2nd
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)

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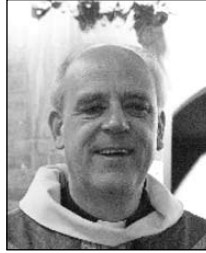
The deadline for copy for any edition is the 7th of the previous month. Please leave copy in box near pulpit in Holy Trinity Church or e-mail:

editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk

Copy may be on disk, printed or handwritten.

From the Rectory

I have just watched a TV news item on the situation in Syria – and it has been profoundly depressing. I heard about families trapped in rebel held districts in Damascus in constant danger of attack from the Government forces and rapidly running out of food and supplies. In these areas children are beginning to show signs of real malnutrition. As part of the report a young girl spoke of desperation about her family's situation and of how it would almost be better to die than go on suffering as they were. This is a truly shocking situation, and what makes it even more awful is that it is hard to see what we can do to help.



Although we can support appeals from organisations like Christian Aid to bring aid to suffering people this won't really solve the underlying situation which is the cause of their pain. Whilst the international community has made progress in dealing with the chemical weapons issue it has failed to influence the wider situation in Syria. This is hardly surprising as it is not a simple case of one side being 'evil' and the other 'good'. However bad we may think the government of Syria is; some of the rebels are hardly better. It all seems a pretty hopeless situation at the moment.

This month we enter the 'Kingdom Season' which reaches its climax on the last Sunday of the Christian year with the Feast of Christ the King. In this season we are invited to reflect on the meaning of the Kingdom which

Our Lord proclaimed in his ministry. When we proclaim Christ as King of the Universe what do we mean? What is the nature of his kingly rule? Indeed what indeed can we say about Christ's Kingship in the light of a situation such as that in Syria? How can we claim that Christ reigns as Lord and King when such situations exist in our world and seem to have no solution?



'The rector is getting a little carried away with this car park business!'

The answer lies in the sort of Kingship we claim for Christ. In his teachings Our Lord spoke of a kingdom with values such as love, forgiveness and justice. He put his teachings into action by dying on the cross wearing a crown of thorns. The only power he had then was the power of love. Of course now he reigns as King in glory and ultimately all things will be subject to his rule of justice and peace. But for now men and women are allowed to go their own way in a sinful world; to make their own choices; to do good and ill, to treat others with justice or oppression. Because of this human freedom to do good or to do ill, Christ in a sense remains 'powerless' to stop evil happening in our world.

What we can be sure of is that he suffers with those who suffer and cries out for justice for the oppressed. And he calls on those who would claim to be his followers to do all they can to follow Mary's Magnificat and work to bring down the powerful and exalt the lowly, to fill the hungry with good things and send the rich empty away. Christ will one day rule openly as Lord and King and all that is evil will be destroyed. But for now we proclaim a 'servant king' who weeps over the sufferings in his world and especially those caused by the sinfulness of human beings. And he calls on us to pray and to act in accordance with the values of his Kingdom.

Fr. John

News and Notices

150 Club

This is a reminder that the first payments for the monthly 150 Club are now due. The idea is that you agree to buy a number at a cost of £2 per month and that number is entered into the monthly draw. You may have as many numbers as you wish, each costing £2. Therefore if you want 5 numbers it will cost £10 each month.

You will keep the same numbers as long as you are paying. The best way of making your monthly payments would be by filling in the form in the centre of

last months magazine to pay by standing order through your bank. This would solve the problem of remembering to pay each month. You can cancel the order at any time by notifying your bank.

We propose to have two cash prizes each month (paid by cheque). The amount of the prizes will depend on the number of numbers sold.

The draws will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at the Coffee Mornings in the Church Hall at the same time as the raffle is drawn. We will hold the first draw on

Wednesday 11th December – just in time for Christmas.

All winning details will appear in the Church Magazine each month. The great thing about this idea is that not only do you have chances of winning but so does Holy Trinity Church. Details were included in October's magazine and are also available at the back of the church.

William Maidlow



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, 10 November is Remembrance Sunday this year. The Civic Remembrance Service is at 9.45 am. After the service at Holy Trinity Church, the parade will proceed to the town cenotaph for the Act of Remembrance at 11.00 am. The parish Act of Remembrance and Eucharist will begin at Holy Trinity Church at 10.55 am.

Special arrangements for Sunday 17th November

An important car rally (Wales GB) will be visiting Llandudno on 17th – in fact the finishing line will be outside Holy Trinity Church! The cars will not be arriving until the afternoon but the rally will have a major impact on us throughout that day. The organisers have asked if they can erect a marquee for hospitality purposes in our grounds

and for this reason our car park will be closed in the afternoon.

Please make a note of the special arrangements for the day:

- Morning services will take place as usual.
- Pedestrian access to the church will not be affected.
- Access by car for the morning services will be by the back entrance only as Mostyn Street will be closed.
- The car park will be open in the morning only and then only for those attending church. It will close after the 10.30 am service has ended.
- The church will be closed after the 10.30 am service and there will be no Evening Prayer.

Fr. John

Church Hall

Hello everyone. This is just a quick note to keep you all up to date with the hall refurbishment – everything is going exceptionally well. We are currently on track to finish on time.

There have been a couple of unexpected problems. The main water supply pipes coming in have had to be replaced, quite expensive! There was a concrete plinth (step) under the units which had to be removed, this requiring

some effort by Ian!

It is looking good, Andy, our kitchen fitter starts, hopefully, this week(14th). The kitchen is already here awaiting fitting. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this it will all be done.

Geoff Howard

LLAWN01 – Llandudno Arts Festival

During the weekend of 20 – 22 September, LLAWN01, the Llandudno Arts

Festival took place. The curator, Mark Rees, created a wonderful extravaganza. There were art exhibitions at the derelict Tudno Castle Hotel, The Tabernacle chapel and Oriel Mostyn. There were also bathing huts on the promenade which had various events in them, such as The Mug Shots, where Shirley and I had our photo printed on a mug, and Boogaloo Stu, where Shirley had a sock puppet made that was supposed to look like me! Then of course there were the Time Travellers, who danced and sang in their Victorian costumes, and not forgetting the Town Band playing too. It was an event that I'm sure was enjoyed by many people.

Rob Georgeson

St. Tudno's

Sunday 22nd September was a beautiful, warm sunny day and we were able to have an outside service. Revd Derek Simpson led the service, accompanied by Pauline Bigby playing the keyboard and there was a congregation of 21. The readings and address were concerning the parable of the



Shirley Georgeson with hand puppet.



Harvest Festival at St. Tudno's.

shrewd manager.

The weather for the last outdoor service on Sunday 29th September was quite warm and dry. Revd David Jenkins led the service, accompanied by Pauline Bigby playing the keyboard and there was a congregation of 22. The readings and address were on the theme of angels. The Harvest Festival service in the afternoon was led by the Rector and attended by 44 people, who gave very generously to the collection of food for Conwy Food Bank. During the service the gifts of food were presented at the altar and when gathered together afterwards they filled a dozen carrier bags, while some who did not have gifts of food gave money to this very good cause – thank you everyone. Hot drinks and cakes were served after the service, which marked the end of St. Tudno's summer season.

Dear all at St Tudno's Church,

We would like to thank you all very much for the extremely generous amount of food and donation of £40.00 that you gave to Conwy Food Bank from your Harvest Festival collection.

We rely on voluntary contributions and have found that we are quite low on stocks of food after a very busy summer so it is a big help to us. During the summer we have given many to families with young children and expectant mothers and September was also a very busy month with 60 parcels having been distributed.

Thank you again for your support and very kind contribution.

All at Conwy Food Bank

The autumn working party was held on Saturday 12 October and the biggest job was putting away the benches for the winter. As we were a bit short handed, we were delighted and very grateful to receive some help from a group of birdwatchers who were gath-



St. Tudno's working party – John and Marie hard at work.

ering at the parking area. Once again, many thanks to everyone involved. Many thanks, too, to everyone who has helped at St. Tudno's this summer: the clergy and organists; the openers; those who help at and take part in services; those who give and arrange flowers, clean the church, tidy the churchyard and do odd jobs; those who do baking, make tea and coffee and help at events; and everyone who comes to services or supports events.

Shirley Georgeson
Christine Jones

At St. Tudno's in November

During November, St. Tudno's is open weekends and Wednesdays and Morning Prayer is said at 9.00 am on Saturdays. On Saturday 9 November there will be a Service of Remembrance at 9.00 am, for those who were killed in the Boer War. The monthly Sunday services continue on Sunday 24 November with a service to celebrate Christ the King. This will be at 11.00 am and will include the Eucharist. If you would like a lift to the service, or can offer lifts, please contact the Rector or

St. Tudno's Wardens. There is no heating at St. Tudno's but hot drink and cakes will be provided after the service.

Friends of St. Tudno's

If the work on the church hall is finished in time for there to be a parish Christmas fair, the Friends of St. Tudno's will be selling our exclusive Christmas cards, with four different designs on offer (packs can also be mixed). Cards are also available from Shirley Georgeson. The profit on the Friends' cards and souvenirs helps to support restoration and maintenance of St. Tudno's. New Friends are always welcome, do contact one of us if you are interested in joining.

Christine Jones

Parish Christmas Fayre

Unless something goes horribly wrong with the refurbishment of the hall, one of its first events is going to be the Parish Christmas Fayre on Saturday 16 October, 10.00 am till 12.30 pm. Donations for the baking and other stalls would be very welcome. Please contact Judith Williams if you would like to help in some way.

Congratulations ...

... to Ron and Gladys Ildige who are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Coffee Morning Team

On Wednesday 16 October, our Coffee Morning Team, friends and supporters enjoyed an afternoon tea at the Queen's Hotel. It was great to welcome Peggy Jones and Joyce Greatorex, our two Honorary Members.

Because of the work being carried out in the hall, we were only able to hold 16 coffee mornings during this season. However, due to a wonderful and a hard-working team, together with supporters, we were able to present a cheque for the amazing some of £4500 to the Parish Treasurer towards the PCC and the Hall Fund. A cheque has been sent for £50 to Ty Gobaith and we have received an acknowledgement for the same.

Thank you to all concerned. Hope to see you all in 2014.

Dorothy Trent

Our Thanks

On behalf of the parish, I would like to give our enormous thanks to Peter and Wendy La Trobe for their hard work in organising the Men Who Sing male voice choir concerts. Not only have we had a jolly good time but they have raised around £3500 for church funds (after expenses) – wow!

It would be nice, next year, having the new church hall up and running if we could offer tea and coffee to all, not just the choir. I feel an excellent fund raising

opportunity is being missed here. We simply need more volunteers. It's not hard work, in fact it can be quite fun!

Geoff Howard

Dear all at Holy Trinity Church,

We would like to thank you all very much for the extremely generous donation of food that you gave to Conwy

Food Bank from your Harvest Thanksgiving service.

We anticipate a busy autumn and winter due to problems facing families, as you are probably aware from recent media coverage, and we are very glad of your help in giving us food to keep up with the demand for parcels needed.

Thank you again for your support.

All at Conwy Food Bank





Photographs taken at the Family Harvest Eucharist at Holy Trinity on 6 October.





The photo records the visit of our Guild of St Raphael visit to Dennis Wiley (one of our members) on his 90th birthday recently. We celebrated a Eucharist in his home and then enjoyed a piece of his birthday cake. Fr. John.

PARISH REGISTER

The Departed

***September 27th: Barbara Kim Johnson age 54
Service at Holy Trinity Church followed by
internment at Llanrhos Lawn Cemetery***

***September 30th: Barbara Venables Hughes age 78
Service at Holy Trinity Church followed by
cremation at Colwyn Bay Crematorium***

Life Begins at 60

Congratulations to the Rev Neil Kirkham of Gloddaeth United Church who has completed a 15 mile-long swim along part of the length of the River Conway. As a founding trustee of the Llandudno Youth for Christ Centre, it was his aim to raise as much money as possible for the venture.

When asked what he hoped would come out of this event, Neil replied:

‘Well obviously a good sum raised to help us fund the coming year. Over three thousand pounds has come in during the first 36 hours and we are expecting more to come. Even more importantly I’d like to see the work

put on a sounder financial footing and I’m hoping the publicity will encourage folk to take out standing orders and support us long term. We live at a time when so many young people are looking for hope and meaning in life and there is no greater source for that than Jesus Christ.’

It’s not too late to sponsor Neil. You can still obtain forms from Roger Boon at rboon33455@aol.com and if you would like to support the YFC centre long term through a standing order, please contact Chris Condrup at Llandudno YFC, 39-41 Madoc Street, Llandudno LL30 2TL or via info@llandudno-yfc.co.uk



Neil being interviewed by the radio before his swim.



Neil with his team at the start.



Just north of Trefriw.

Calendar for November

All events are at Holy Trinity Church unless specified otherwise.

- Fri 1st **All Saints' Day**
 11.00 am Holy Eucharist
- Sat 2nd **All Souls' Day**
 11.00 am Requiem Eucharist
- Sun 3rd Kingdom 1**
 Services at usual times for the 1st Sunday
- Mon 4th 2.30 pm Mothers' Union Quiet Afternoon
 7.30 pm 150th Fund Raising Group
- Tues 5th 10.00 am *'Julian' meditation group at Stella Maris*
- Thurs 7th 10.00 am Eucharist at Ysgol San Sior
 (no 11.00 am Eucharist at Holy Trinity)
 7.30 pm 150th Anniversary Planning Group
- Sat 9th 9.00 am Act of remembrance at Boar War memorial at St. Tudno's
- Sun 10th Kingdom 2/Remembrance Sunday**
 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 9.45 am Civic Remembrance Service
 10.55 am Act of Remembrance & Eucharist
 5.00 pm Evening Prayer
- Thurs 14th 10.00 am St. Raphael Guild Meeting
 11.00 am Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
- Sat 16th 10.00 am to 12.30 pm Parish Christmas Fayre
- Sun 17th Kingdom 3**
 Morning Services at usual times.
 No Evening Prayer
 Please see page 9 for the arrangements for this Sunday
- Mon 18th 7.00 pm *Cytûn Conference at the Old School, Llanrhos. The subject is 'Christian Education'.*
- Sun 24th Christ the King (Kingdom 4)**
 Services at usual times for the 4th Sunday plus:
 11.00 am Eucharist at St. Tudno's.
 During the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist the standard

of the British Korean Veterans Association (North West Wales branch) will be laid-up.

Weds 27th	7.45 pm	'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens performed by the Centrestage Theatre Company
Thurs 28th	7.45 pm	<i>ditto</i>
Sat 30th	Andrew, Apostle	
	11.00 am	Bilingual Eucharist

Attendance Figures

Holy Trinity Church

September 1st	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	19
Trinity 14	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	82
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	4
		Other weekday Eucharists	26
September 8th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	13
Trinity 15	10.30 am	Choral Matins	86
		Shortened Eucharist	30
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	3
September 12th		Eucharist for the Guild of St. Raphael	
		Other Weekday Eucharists	10
September 15th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	17
Trinity 16	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	76
		Other weekday Eucharists	23
September 22nd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	12
Trinity 17	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	93
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	3
September 23rd	2.30 pm	Eucharist for MU	14 + 1
September 27th	2.30 pm	Guild of St. Raphael at home of Dennis Wiley	7
		Other weekday Eucharists	27
September 29th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	14
St Michael and All Angels	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	78
		No Evening Prayer	

St. Tudno's Church

Sunday 1 Sept	11.00am	Morning Service	29
	11.45 am	Shortened Eucharist	28
Sunday 8 Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	28

Tuesday 10 Sept	7.30 pm	Compline	16
Sunday 15 Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	14
Saturday 21 Sept	11.00 am	Friends of St. Tudno's Eucharist	16
Sunday 22 Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	21
	3.00 pm	Soroptomists' service	27
Sunday 29 Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	25
	4.00 pm	Harvest Festival	44

Sunday Rota

3rd Nov

Reader	Eira Jones
Sidespersons	Cath Lloyd Mary Rees Ray Millington Gwen Robinson
Eucharistic Ministers	John Ridler Angela Pritchard

10th Nov

Readers	John Ridler Pat Ridler
Sidespersons	Linda Blundell Cath Lloyd



Without a thought for his own safety, Michael visited the sick parishioners.

Joyce Crosby
Doug Prichard
E' minister Cath Lloyd

17th Nov

Reader	Ann Rimmer
Sidespersons	Barbara Yates Angela Pritchard Pat Ridler Judith Williams
Eucharistic Ministers	Stan Whittaker Maggie Leitch

24th Nov

Readers	Marion Heald
Sidespersons	Vernon Morris Ben Edwards Dorothy Trent Terry Dewer
Eucharistic Ministers	Angela Pritchard Cath Lloyd

1st Dec

Reader	Christine Jones
Sidespersons	Ron Ildige Wendy Stewart Annabel Jones William Maidlow
Eucharistic Ministers	John Ridler Maggie Leitch

From Notes and Queries 1856

St. Tudno.— Can any of your correspondents, learned in Cambrian Archaeology, give me, or direct me where I could find, any information with respect to St. Tudno, to whom some churches in Wales are dedicated? A.G.H.

Clifton.

[We are indebted to a gentleman well versed in Cambrian antiquities for the following curious notices of St. Tudno and his family:-

“An inundation – probably the third which had occurred – of the Lowlands now submerged beneath the waters of Cardigan Bay, is thus commemorated in the 37th Triad (*Triads of the Isle of Britain*):- ‘ Three capital drunkards in the Isle of Britain: Geraint (Geron-tius, Angl. Grant), the drunkard King of Siluria, who in a fit of intoxication committed to the flames the whole extent of ripe grain in his territories, whence ensued a famine of bread. Second, Vortigern Vorthènau, who, in his drunken revelry, for permission to take his daughter Ronwen (Rowena) for his mistress, made over to Horsa the Saxon the Isle of Thanet: whence originated the treason against the race of the Kymbri. The third, Seithènin the Drunkard, the son of Seithyn Saidi, King of Dimctia who in his intoxication, let in the ocean through the flood-gates over the Cantrev y Gwaelod (the Lowland Hundred), and thus destroyed sixteen

of the noblest cities of Cambria, inferior to none in the kingdom but Carleon-on-Uske. The Lowland Hundred was the patrimony of Guyddno Garantûr (Venutius Longshanks), and the inundation took place in the reign of Ainbro-sius the British Emperor. (A.D. 470.)’

“In consequence of the loss of their hereditary estates, and of the odium excited in the public mind by the act of their father, the children of Seithenin embraced a religious life: taking the monastic vow in the monastery of Great Bangor on the Dee. These children were:- 1. Gwynodl, son of Seithenyn, the founder of Llan Gwynodl, Carnarvonshire. Festival, January 1. 2. Merin or Merini, son of Seithenyn, founder of Llan-Verin, Monmouthshire. Festival: January 6. His residence for many years, as a popular instructor to as many as chose to attend his school, was at Bod-verin, now the name of a chapel under Llaniesten, Carnarvonshire. 3. Senèvyr, a saint: no memorial. 4. Tudglyd, a saint: no memorial. 5. Tyneio, founder of Llan-dyneio, a daughter church under Llanvarn, Carnarvonshire. 6. Tudno, founder of Llan-dudno, Carnarvonshire. Commemoration, June 5th, obit circiter A.D. 540.

“The close of St. Tudno’s life was spent at the Hermitage, which, after his demise, was erected into a church named after him, and a grant of land by

way of endowment made over to it by Malgon, King of Britain and Prince of Wales, who at the same time elevated monastery of Bangor on the Menai into an episcopal see. Edward 1st attached the manor of St. Tudno to the Bishopric of Bangor. It was usual with the British missionaries and recluses to select for their retreat and school some spot hallowed in the popular estimation by its prior associations with Druidism; many tenets of which were incorporated by them, as the writings of Taliesin abundantly evince, into their system of Christianity. St. Tudno selected the precipitous eminence now known as the Great St. Orme's Head, on which the sacred fire, after being borne across the Menai from Anglesey,

was first exhibited on the vernal festival of 1st May; and from which, by the enactments of the Druidic religion, every family in the kingdom was obliged to re-ignite its hearth-stone or domestic fire, extinguished under the operation of the same laws the preceding night. The usage was in full force in Bretagne in the 11th century, and probably supplied William the Conqueror with the first notion of the 'Couvre-feu' regulation. The Druidic monument by which St. Tudno was accustomed to take his stand and address the concourse that flocked to his preaching remains pretty much in its original condition. Being 'a Logan' an oscillating or rocking stone, the peasantry have named it Cryd Tudno, 'Tudno's Cradle.'"]

Yellow Meadow Ants

As the grass on the Great Orme dies down over winter, some grassy mounds become more apparent and there are good examples in St. Tudno's churchyard and at Maes y Facrell. These mounds are formed by the yellow meadow ant (*Lasius flavus*) and are often found in meadows or grassland which has not been disturbed for a long time. The yellow meadow ant is one of the most common European ants but is not often seen, as ants of this species spend most of their time below ground. The ants live in colonies and they build nests which involve intricate channels reinforced by plant roots and in suitable sites can develop into large mounds

such as those seen at St. Tudno's. Some of the mounds in the churchyard are about 1 m (39") long by about 50 cm (18") high and wide. One article on the ants which I read suggested that



Above: Yellow meadow ant – public domain – Wikipedia. Right: Anthill.

the mounds usually have one flat face towards the south east, where it will be warmed by the morning sun, so on my next visit to St. Tudno's I had a better look at the anthills. I found that the long axis of the nests tends to run east to west and although I couldn't see a flat surface this orientation would provide the maximum surface to be warmed by the sun. It is also reported that these mounds can support a different range of plants to the surrounding grassland and at St. Tudno's finer grasses can be found growing on the anthills.

Yellow meadow ants are important in maintaining good soil structure and nutrient availability and the ants feed on small insects in the soil. Like other species of ant, these "farm" aphids for the sweet honeydew which they exude and in this case the aphids are

also soil dwelling insects, which feed on plant roots. Over winter, the aphids themselves may be eaten, too. In late summer, queens and fertile male ants leave the nests in a nuptial flight and mating takes place in the air. When the queens land they shed their wings and search for somewhere to form a nest, with nests under rocks and stones being quite common. The nests may be formed by single queens or by groups of queens but in the latter case queens fight for dominance with the result that an established nest usually has just one surviving queen. The nests may last for several years and are an example of the rich wildlife which can be found not just on the Great Orme but also in our church grounds and which the Churchyards Group hopes to encourage.

Christine Jones



From the Parish Pump

Barnabas in Syria

Barnabas Fund has launched a petition calling on Western governments to take urgent action on behalf of Syria's endangered Christian minority. It is asking for UK Christians to help to get as many signatures as soon as possible.

Syrian Christians comprise around ten per cent of the country's population, but as the brutal civil war rages on, they are being targeted because of their faith. When Al-Qaeda-linked rebels recently seized control of Maaloula, one of the most famous and historic centres of Christianity in the world, they attacked Christian homes and churches, killed a number of Christians, and threatened others with beheading if they did not convert to Islam.

Barnabas Fund warns that "The future of the Church in Syria, which dates back to New Testament times, is now hanging in the balance." Around 600,000 Christians have fled the country.

Putting Jesus 'back' into Christmas

This year the UK has reached a tipping point: a recent survey has found that 51 per cent of people now say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. And just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story in any depth; and 36 per cent of children

do not know whose birthday is being celebrated during the festival.

And so it is that ChurchAds.net, the group behind the annual Christmas advertising poster campaign, has teamed up with a number of leading churches this autumn in order to reverse this trend, and 'save' Christmas.

Christmas Starts with Christ will run from 1st December to Christmas Day. It will begin with the first ever nationwide Christmas Starts Sunday on 1st December. ChurchAds.net has the support of the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Bible Society, Traidcraft and the Evangelical Alliance.

Francis Goodwin, of ChurchAds.net, said: "Christmas is a time when Christians shine light in their communities. But the good news is being lost. We can't sit back and let that happen. We cannot let the nation lose the real meaning of Christmas; and we are passionate about bringing the Church together for this cause to remind everyone that Christmas Starts with Christ."

Arun Arora, director of communications at the Church of England, said: "At Christmas time thousands of churches around the country do a huge amount to carry the Christmas story into their local communities, through word and deed. The vision for the Christmas Starts with Christ campaign is to use

a common logo to join the dots of these activities and project a powerful message to our entire nation that the reason for the season is the birth of Jesus.”

If you would like to join in this Advent campaign, there are a number of resources on offer, including posters, logos, and Advent Calendars. Visit: www.christmasstartswithchrist.com

Bible Society in Egypt

Bible Society of Egypt General Secretary, Ramaz Atallah, has been telling the BBC about the recent attacks on two Bible Society bookshops in the country during the recent violence that swept across the country.

Ramaz Atallah told BBC Radio Wiltshire that the Bible Society in Egypt has been operating for 129 years and this is the first time it has been the victim of attacks like those carried out on the two bookshops in Assiut and Minya. The two shops, in the largest cities in Southern Egypt, were completely burnt to the ground.

In another interview he told BBC Radio Gloucestershire that the bookshops were very popular because they were the only source of Bibles for two cities that have a very large Christian population.

He said, “The very vast majority of Muslims are peace loving people who want the Christians to continue living

as co-citizens in Egypt. So when some of the churches were burned there were Muslim neighbours and others who were trying to put out the fires.” Ramaz says Bible Society of Egypt plans to refurbish and re-open the bookshops as soon as possible.

Advent 2013 offering

Last year hundreds of Methodist churches responded to an Advent offering so generously that a number of projects like the Plymouth Foodbank were able to supply food to thousands of people.

This year it is hoped that ‘The Mission in Britain Fund’ will raise even more support for its 2013 Advent offering, which is set for 1st December. As a spokesperson for the Fund explains: “With poverty at its highest level since the Second World War, support for mission at home is needed more than ever. The Mission in Britain Fund is a great way to give to a variety of kingdom-building work with a single donation.”

Challenger Bank

The Church Commissioners for England have confirmed that as part of a consortium of investors they will be partnering with Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to create a leading challenger bank from 314 RBS branches across the UK.

The confirmation follows the decision of the board of RBS to favour the bid of a consortium which includes the Corsair Capital investment fund, Centerbridge Partners and the Commissioners to create a new bank with a focus on ethical standards and servicing the needs of retail and SME customers.

The new bank, to be called Williams and Glyn's (W&G), will be a vigorous challenger in UK business and retail banking sector with a projected 5% market share of the small and medium sized enterprise (SME) and mid-corporate banking markets, and a 2% share of UK personal current accounts.

Andreas Whittam Smith, first estates commissioner, said that the Church Commissioners "are excited" to have the opportunity to be involved in creating a U.K. challenger bank. It would be "operating to the highest ethical standards and giving consumers more choice.

"We are delighted that the Royal Bank of Scotland recognised the strengths of our bid and the consortium's vision, and have chosen the consortium as their preferred bidder."

Andrew Brown, Secretary to the Church Commissioners, said that it would be a "great opportunity for the Commissioners to invest in an exciting opportunity for the benefit of the serving and retired clergy, bishops, cathedrals and the wide work of the Church of England throughout the country especially in areas of need and

opportunity."

The Church Commissioners for England are responsible for managing a well-diversified investment portfolio with the aim of producing returns to support the Church of England's work across the country.

Christian Aid Spoof Film

A new film and spoof campaign, Leftovers for Africa, has been produced by the Christian Aid Collective to raise awareness of poverty and hunger.

The film follows eager entrepreneur Dan Stirling as he tries to encourage people to save their leftover food in charity envelopes to send to Africa, in a bid to solve world hunger.

Christian Aid says: "Leftovers for Africa suggests that by posting half-eaten food into envelopes and sending it to hungry people, we can help end world hunger. This of course is an absurd idea so we're using this false message to inform young people of things they CAN do; actions they can take which will make a difference."

Churches on Syria

Leaders from the Methodist Church in Britain, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church have released the following statement on the crisis in Syria:

"At this time of challenge and uncer-

tainty we pray for the people of Syria, thinking especially of those who have suffered or died as a result of an apparent use of chemical weapons near Damascus. We also pray for wisdom and discernment from political leaders in Britain and other nations. We urge them to take time for careful consideration and resist hasty response. Syria has experienced a cycle of violence for too long. We pray that our nation's response will be guided by the desire to achieve peace and urge our leaders to work with as wide as possible a range of regional partners and with the United Nations."

Crisis in Zimbabwe

Erratic rains and unusual mid-season droughts over the past year have trig-

gered critical levels of crop failure in Zimbabwe, leaving more than two million people in need of urgent food assistance in the coming lean months, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

"The food security situation in Zimbabwe is dire, especially in the arid and marginalised Matabeleland provinces where Christian Aid and our local partner organisations work", warns Miriam Machaya, country programme manager for Christian Aid Zimbabwe.

"Christian Aid's Zimbabwe programme and partners are currently undertaking rapid emergency hunger assessments to analyse the food security situation here thoroughly, with special focus on the Matabeleland region.

Coffee Time

Cryptics (*thanks and courtesy Barbara Cartwright*).

All letter 'V'.

Results for October

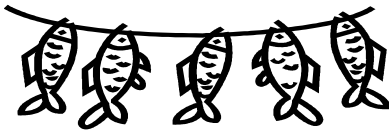
- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. One's causing havoc for occupation. (8) | 1. Ancestor |
| 2. Cleverly brush in to make shiny. (7) | 2. Granny |
| 3. The card I lent in vane to my beloved. (9) | 3. Twin |
| 4. Essential the learner and I get the VAT sorted. (5) | 4. Stepson |
| 5. Black magic can do nothing after five get the double. (6) | 5. Aunt |
| 6. Guest finds it hidden in mask. (7) | 6. Niece |
| 7. Poetically skilful? (6) | 7. Wife |
| 8. Alertness against a ceiling collapse. (9) | 8. Grandson |
| 9. Thackeray's novel conceit is reasonable. (6,4) | 9. Brother-in-law |
| 10. Turning in grave?. (7) | 10. Uncle |



St ANDREW

feast day November 30th

The Bible tells us that Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first disciples to follow Jesus. They were fishermen working at their nets when Jesus called them. It was a hard thing to do, to leave everything for an uncertain way of life but Andrew knew that Jesus so special that he had to share this wonderful knowledge with others.



Andrew followed Jesus for the rest of his life. After Jesus' death he travelled widely spreading the message and building the early church. He was arrested for being a follower of Christ and condemned to death on the cross. Legend says that he was crucified on a diagonal cross.

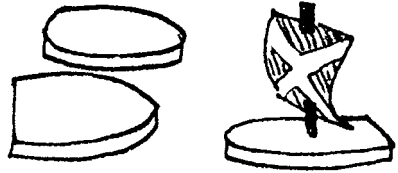
St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and his cross is on the Scottish flag which is a white cross on a blue background – the blue is for the sea which seems right for a fisherman.

SAIL AWAY

Andrew and Simon fished with nets from the shore or from small boats. You could make a fishing fleet of small boats and decorate their sails with St Andrew's cross.

You will need a polystyrene box or tray like the ones you see at the fruit shop or supermarket.

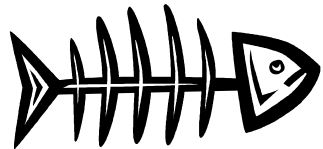
Using a bread knife, carefully cut out several different shapes and sizes.



Find a thin stick for the masts (you could use a pencil) and cut out a sail in paper. Thread or stick the sail onto the mast.



How do fish go into business?
They start on a small scale.



What day of the week do fish hate?

Frydays.

Why are gold fish orange?
The water makes them rusty.