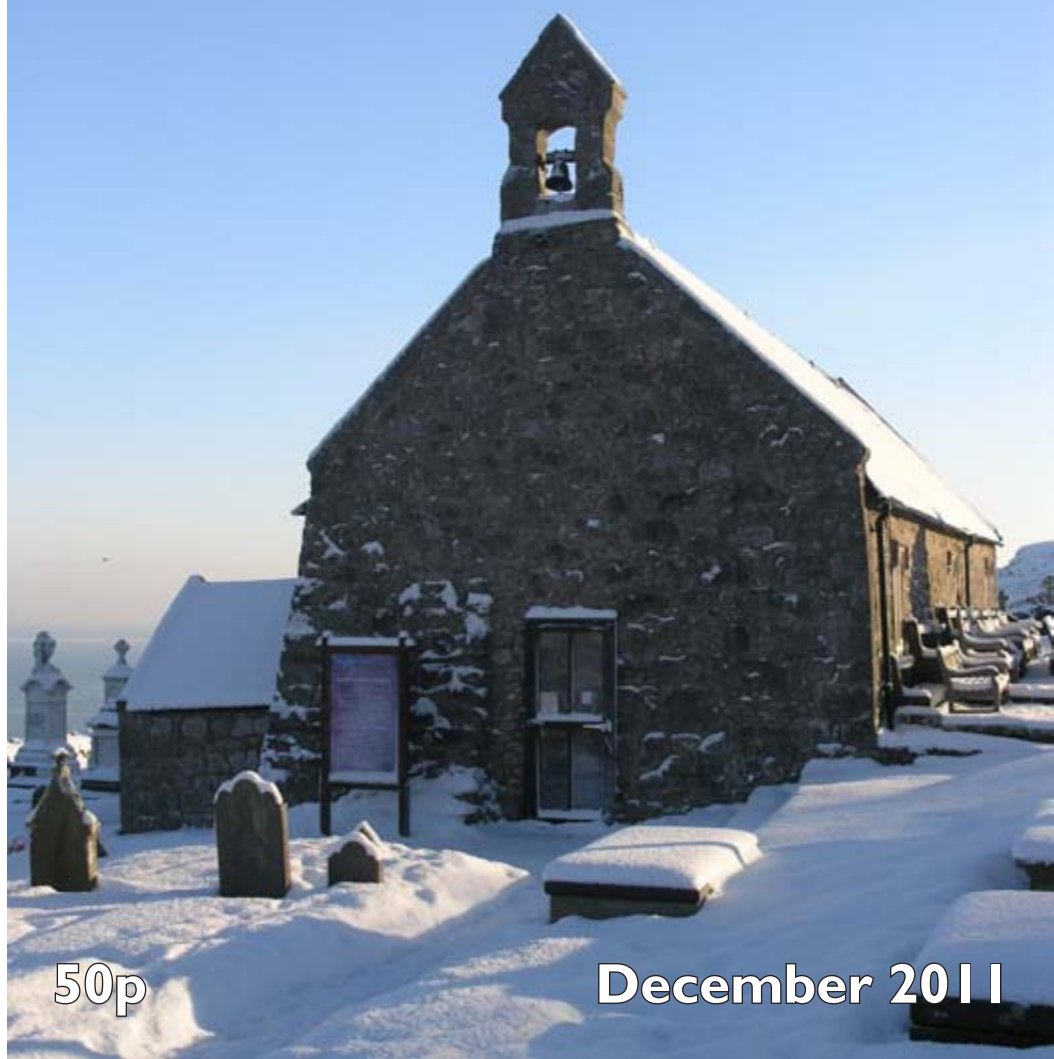


LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Plwyf Parish Magazine



50p

December 2011

Greetings at Christmas

The following have given over £100 towards the Church Hall Restoration Fund in lieu of sending Christmas Cards this year.

Doug and Angela Pritchard and Ben, wish all their Holy Trinity and St. Tudno's family, a blessed and joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year.



May God bless you as you celebrate His precious gift of love. Have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Gwilym, Sandra and family.



Rob and Shirley Georgeson wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.



Peggy and Christine Jones wish everyone at Holy Trinity and St. Tudno's a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Mrs Joan E Jones wishes all her friends Peace and Joy at Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Dear Friends, God bless you this Christmas and in the year ahead. Joan Colligan.



May God send you and those you love a Blessed Christmas. With love from Betty Dodd.

Denis and Barbara Cartwright wish all their friends a Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Jennifer and Tony Fossi wish all their friends and Church Family a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful 2012.



Geoff and Trish Howard would like to wish all their friends at Holy Trinity a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you all for your friendship and warm welcome to Holy Trinity.



Margaret Sawyer wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



With Christmas Greetings and Love to our friends at Holy Trinity and St. Tudno's.

From Betty and Peter Plunkett.



Norman and Anne Rimmer would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Sarah Dean wishes all her friends at Holy Trinity a Very Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Andy and Maggie Leitch wish all parishioners and friends a Very Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

From the Rectory

In the early days of the protests outside St Paul's Cathedral one of the participants being interviewed for the BBC news posed the question 'Where would Jesus be born today – in that building (pointing at St Paul's) or out here on the street?' The way he put the question made it quite obvious that for him the answer was that Jesus would have indeed been born outside with the protesters and not in the cathedral. In other words he would be mainly concerned not with what went on in churches but with those representing the poor and distressed.



As we approach Christmas this question is a challenge to us. Our Lord was indeed born 'outside' in a cattle shed or a cave. St Luke tells us that this was because there was literally 'no room at the inn', everywhere was fully booked up (I wonder if the inns of Jesus' time displayed the equivalent of the Llandudno B&B's 'no vacancies' sign!) However, despite this very practical reason why Our Lord was born in such an unusual place, it has also often been seen as a powerful symbol of Christ's identification with the poor and those regarded as outcasts and sinners.

This concern was certainly a central part of Our Lord's later ministry when he often ate and drank with 'tax collec-

tors and sinners' and showed deep compassion to those, such as lepers, who were considered as outcasts. We have to conclude that he continues to have such concerns for those who in our own society are the equivalents of those

he spent so much time with when he was on earth.

But who might these people be? We might all have our own ideas about this, but I suggest the following might well be included among them: the homeless and those with alcohol or drug problems; single parents on state benefits; young people trafficked to our country for the sex industry; refugees etc; there are unfortunately many candidates for inclusion on this list. If Christ is concerned with them so, it obviously follows, should we who claim to be his followers.

How we care for them is of course a matter for debate. As a parish we are involved in care for the homeless through the Cytûn sandwich scheme and through the participation of several of our members in the ARC drop-in centre in town. We also participate in the Conwy Food-share scheme which helps those who are really struggling with donations of food and other basic items. No doubt many of our parishioners are involved in care for the

disadvantaged in other ways too. There may be situations where we need to go further than simply caring for them in these ways but actually take political actions of some kind or join protests. Of course the reason that people get into situations of deprivation and suffering are often quite complex – there are sometimes no easy solutions. But the fundamental point is to agree with the protester who said Jesus would be born on the street to this extent – that we know he is concerned with the plight of the disadvantaged.

But I wouldn't go on to agree with the protester when he said that Jesus would be born on the street rather than in the church. Surely he would be 'born' in both places. He is deeply concerned with the poor but also with those who are trying their best to be

his faithful people through worship and mission. At the very end of St Matthew's Gospel the risen Christ promises to be with his people '*to the end of time*'. If we truly believe this promise we will trust him to be present with us in word and sacrament as we worship at Christmas and throughout the year.

So at Christmas when we gather to worship the Christ born out in the cattle shed, the Word made Flesh we will know him to be with us but we will also know that he expects us to go on caring and serving those who continue to need our love and help in all sorts of ways.

On behalf of all at the Rectory may I wish you all a very blessed and joyful Christ-mass.

Fr John

News and Notices

Guild of St. Raphael

This year's Guild Festival was held on Saturday October 22nd at Llandaff Cathedral. Angela and Marion had travelled by train to Cardiff the previous day.

Fr Robin Pettit, Guild Secretary writes 'The sun shone and the skies were blue as participants assembled at this beautiful Cathedral for the Festival Eucharist and Ministry of Healing.' He speaks of 'the mountain-top experience of an

inspiring Festival Eucharist'.

It was indeed for both of us a most moving and inspiring experience, contained in the words of hymns, readings and sermon, in music and singing, and in the laying-on of hands, anointing, and Eucharist.

On Sunday morning October 23rd we felt privileged again to take part again in our own Sung Eucharist and Ministry of Healing at Holy Trinity, with the beautiful words of the liturgy arranged and

led by the Rector, and the lovely hymns and music of our choir, and organist.

Heartfelt thanks to all, and for those who would like to see photos from Llandaff, go to www.guildofstraphael.org.uk

Marion Ketteridge
Angela Pritchard

St. Tudno's

Carols by Candlelight will be on Sunday 18 December at 3.00 pm and at 5.00 pm. Two services are normally required to fit everybody in, as the services are so popular. The very enthusiastic Friends of St. Tudno's Church prepare

the church for the service and are undaunted by the weather, as last winter showed (see magazine cover). It will therefore take very bad weather to prevent these services being held and we look forward to seeing you there. There will be a warm welcome but as there is no heating in the church please wrap up well. The paths will be lit, weather permitting, but a torch may still be useful if you attend the later service.

Snow at St. Tudno's and Carols by Candlelight have provided some very attractive pictures for the Friends of St. Tudno's Christmas cards. These cost £5.50 for a pack of 10 cards and are sold to raise funds for St. Tudno's. If you



Respects are paid at Llandudno's 'other' war memorial on 12 November.

would like some cards, please speak to one of us, to Vernon, or see Peggy at Winter Warmers.

Over winter, St. Tudno's is open at weekends and on Wednesdays and bank holidays and Morning Prayer continues to be said each Saturday at 9.00 am – all weather permitting.

Nadolig Llawn, Happy Christmas from St. Tudno's.

Llandudno's 'Other' War Memorial

On Saturday 12 November a wreath was laid at Llandudno's 'other' war memorial to honour men who had died in their country's service in an earlier conflict far from home. The South African War Memorial in St. Tudno's churchyard on the Great Orme commemorates four men from the Denbighshire Hussars Imperial Yeomanry and the Royal Welch Fusiliers who died during the 1900-1902 war. The memorial was erected by public subscription and in 2009 it was restored by the Lions Club of Llandudno. On Saturday the Lions, with some of their families and other supporters, attended a short service of remembrance at St. Tudno's Church before laying a wreath at the memorial.

***Christine Jones
Stephanie Searle***

Conwy Foodshare

We would like to give our sincere thanks for your recent generous donation of food to Conwy Foodshare. We are still busy and have recently given out several family parcels which contain four carrier bags of food so the stock is turning over quickly.

We are very grateful for your continued support as it means that we are able to keep providing the service to help local people in crisis. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

From all at Conwy Foodshare

Plastic Bags Wanted

Conwy Foodshare is seeking spare plastic carrier bags as it needs them to distribute the food parcels and stocks are running low. Any donations of bags to Sandra please.

Services at Christmas

Sun 4th, 4.00 pm, Christingle Service

Sun 18th, 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm, Carols by Candlelight at St. Tudno's

Christmas Eve

5.00 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8.00 pm Holy Eucharist
10.30 pm Eucharist with Hymns

Christmas Fair Images

Following restoration of our handbells, we are very grateful to Barbara Yates who has made a new set of bags to put them in. Thank you Barbara.

The picture (below) shows Barbara handing over the new bags to John Horsfield at the Parish Christmas Fair on 19 November with ringers (l - r) Veronica Hopwood, Maureen Williams, Robin Marsh and Stan Whittaker.





Mothers' Union

On 15 November Angela organised the Dinner at the Empire. We had a wonderful meal and good fellowship. Thank you Angela.

The Diocesan MU Council Meeting took place in Bangor on 19 November. I have put the notices up on the board for you all to read. I thank Sarah Deane and Angela Pritchard for coming along with me. The talk was by Rev Wynn Roberts he gave a fantastic talk on his work as hospital chaplain at Bangor.

On 21 November Fr John came to give an Advent Devotional Address (below) based on the painting 'The Light of the World' by William Holman Hunt. Barbara Read the Message to Laodicea. Thanks to Fr John for the talk especially as it was his day off.

Our Christmas lunch is at the Queen's 12.30 for 1.00 pm on 5 December.

The Carol Service is at Bangor Cathedral on Wednesday 7 at 2.00 pm. Jennifer Fossi will be reading. Joyce Greatorex will be receiving her certificate from Bishop Andrew for 51 loyal years to the Mothers' Union.

On December 12, the afternoon ladies shall enjoy the Advent readings and Carol with Glenis Roberts holding the fort. I am looking forward to it.

On December 13 the evening ladies are having an Advent Quiet Evening with the Rev Jane Allen.

At their next meeting on 10 January the evening ladies will be having a social evening and a Bring and Share.

The AGM will be in January though the date has yet to be decided due to Fr John on holiday. Nominations for Committee members should be submitted to the Secretary.

Maggie Leitch



Attendance Figures

October 2nd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	15
Harvest Festival	10.30 am	Family Eucharist	127
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	7
October 6th		Eucharist at Trinity Centre	5
		Other Weekday Eucharists	33
October 9th	8.00.am	Holy Eucharist	15
Trinity 16	10.30.am	Choral Matins	58
		Shortened Eucharist	17
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5
	6.00 pm	Exploring Worship	39
October 11th		Eucharist for Parish Fellowship	13
		Other weekday Eucharists	29
October 16th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	12
Trinity 17	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	81
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5
		Other weekday Eucharists	35
October 23rd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	11
Last Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Ministry of Healing	77
of Trinity	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	4
		Other weekday Eucharists	33
October 30th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	17
Kingdom 1	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	101
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	6
St. Tudno's			
Sunday 4th Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	28
Sunday 4th Sept	11.45 am	Shortened Eucharist	18
Tuesday 6th Sept	7.30 pm	Compline by Candlelight	11
Sunday 11th Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	24
Sunday 18th Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	22
Sunday 18th Sept	2.30 pm	Service for Soroptomists	28
Saturday 24th Sept	11.00 am	Eucharist for Friends of St. Tudno's	28
Sunday 25th Sept	11.00 am	Morning Service	24
Sunday 25th Sept	4.00 pm	Evening Prayer	16




The Remembrance Sunday parade sets off from Holy Trinity.

Calendar for December

All events are held in Holy Trinity or Holy Trinity church hall unless indicated otherwise.

Sat 3rd		'Trygs' Coffee Morning
Sun 4th	Advent 2	
	4.00 pm	Morning Services at usual times for the 1st Sunday. Christingle Service (No 5.00 pm Evening Prayer)
Mon 5th	1.00 pm	Mothers' Union Lunch - Queen's Hotel
Tues 6th	10.00 pm	'Julian' meditation group at Stella Maris
Weds 7th	8.00 pm	St. Dunstan's Carol Service with the Trinity Players
Thurs 8th	10.00 pm	St. Raphael Guild Meeting
	11.00 pm	Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
Fri 9th		Guild of St Raphael visit to Chester Cathedral
Sun 11th	Advent 3	
		Services at usual times for the 2nd Sunday The 10.30 pm service will be a Sung Eucharist rather than the usual Choral Matins
Thurs 15th	7.00 pm	Joint Hospices' Carol Service
Sun 18th	Advent 4	
	3.00 pm	Morning Services as usual for the 3rd Sunday. Carols by Candlelight at St. Tudno's
	5.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight at St. Tudno's

Sat 24th	Christmas Eve 5.00 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Midnight Mass	
Sun 25th	Christmas Day 8.00 pm Holy Eucharist 10.00 pm Eucharist with Hymns	
Mon 26th	Stephen, Deacon & first Martyr 11.00 pm Eucharist	
Tues 27th	John, Apostle & Evangelist 11.00 pm Eucharist	
Weds 28th	The Innocents 9.00 pm Eucharist	

Services at the usual times for the rest of the week.

January 2012

Sun 1st	Christmas I (New Year's Day) 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (Please note this will be the only service today)
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PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

October 16th: Cara Mía Lee

October 16th: Samuel Thomas Archer

Sidespersons

Dec 4th	Barbara Yates Mary Rees Wendy C Stewart Joyce Crosby	Dec 18th	Terry Dewer Ron Illidge Annabel Jones Geoff Howard
Dec 11th	Sandra Davies Angela Pritchard Dorothy Trent Ray Millington	Dec 25th	Christmas Day Sidespersons needed for the Christmas Eve Eucharist at 11.30 pm and the Christmas Day Eucharist at 10.30 am. If you can help, please see Marion.

From the Parish Pump

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The story of the Christingle

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to

put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that. But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meager gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced



the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Thank Dickens for Christmas as you know it!

Ever wonder where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens.

When you read 'A Christmas Carol', you discover almost a template of the 'ideal Christmas' which we still hold dear today. Dickens seems to have selected the best of the Christmas celebrations of his day (he ignored some of the odd excesses) and packaged them in such a way as to give us traditions that we could accommodate and treasure – more than a century later.

So, for instance, in A Christmas Carol, Christmas is a family day, with a family-centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents. Scrooge even gives donations to charity (!). And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and

hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas – in the shape of Christmas Present. Only the Christmas tree itself came later, when Prince Albert imported 'a pretty German toy' that won the heart of the English court, and hence the rest of Victorian society.

26 December: St Stephen (died c 35 AD)

Have you ever stopped to consider that the very first martyr of the Christian Church was a deacon? (But no, he wasn't worked to death by his church.) It was Stephen, one of the first seven deacons of the Christian Church. He'd been appointed by the apostles to look after the distribution of alms to the faithful poor, and to help in the ministry of preaching.

Acts 6 and 7 tells us all that we know of his life, and the passages seem to suggest that he was an educated Hellenistic Jew. Certainly Stephen's famous challenge to the Jews reveals him to have been learned in the Scriptures and the history of Judaism, besides being eloquent and forceful.

Stephen's proclamation on the day of his martyrdom pulled no punches. He told the Jews that God did not depend on the Temple. The Temple was but a temporary institution destined to be fulfilled and superseded by Christ, who was the prophet foreseen by Moses as the Messiah for whom the Jewish race

had so long awaited.

Stephen then challenged his hearers for resisting the Spirit and for killing the Christ, as their fathers before them had killed the prophets. The Jews were so outraged by this that they stoned Stephen on the spot for blasphemy.

As he died, Stephen saw a vision of Christ on God's right hand. The men who were witness to the stoning placed their clothes at the feet of Saul (afterwards Paul), who (to his deep regret later) consented to Stephen's death.

By the fourth century Stephen had his own feast day in both East and West Churches. When his supposed tomb was discovered in 415, his popularity soared. His (supposed) relics were taken to Constantinople and then Rome, along with some stones (allegedly) used at his martyrdom.

Early on the Church made Stephen the patron saint of deacons. In the late Middle Ages he was also invoked against headaches (!!).

In England, 46 ancient churches are dedicated to him, most of them built after the Norman Conquest. In art Stephen is usually given a book of the Gospels and a stone, and sometimes the palm of martyrdom.

Christmas Unwrapped!

A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. She requested

'something that will make me look sexy and beautiful.' To her surprise the husband gave her an exercise bike as a gift!

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy provided grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream reminding Joseph that the child to be born would fulfil Isaiah's promise: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel - which means, God with us.' (1:23). Joseph's world, like our own, is scary and uncertain and it's not always clear as to what God is doing. So what is the message of the name Immanuel for Joseph, as well as for ourselves as we approach Christmas 2011?

- God is present with us

God assured Joseph through his dream that he was working in all that Joseph was experiencing. The conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit is not unexplained; however the wonder of the incarnation is that the eternal and creator God has entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. The birth of Jesus means that we can know God personally, not just

know about him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, as well as bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as he worked in the conception of Immanuel.

- God is on our side

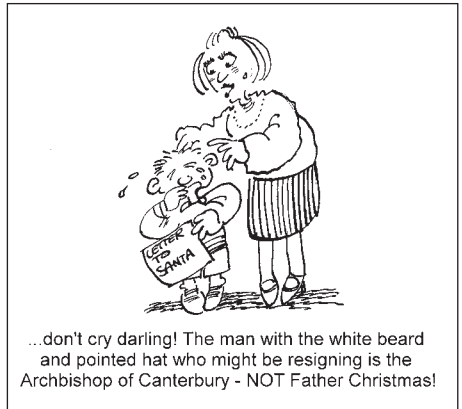
Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. By coming in Jesus he enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. Therefore, he can understand what we are going through, as he is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection he gave his life that we might know his life, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of Immanuel (God with us) as we entrust ourselves to him for the coming year.

The 1 Corinthians 13 of Christmas

If I decorate my house with beautiful bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, roasting a perfect turkey, and lay a magnificent table, but



have no love for my guests, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion in my heart for those in need, I am just another social service; it profits me nothing.

If I decorate the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes and attend a myriad of holiday parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with boring housework. Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents, or even coordinated Christmas china and table linen. Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way; love is glad that they are there to be in the way. Love

doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives. It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future. It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about their job prospects. Love never fails other people. Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost. But the gift of love will endure forever. Happy Christmas!

Connect & Encourage: Christians suffering for their faith!

This Christmas, why not send a Christmas card to a Christian who is facing some sort of persecution, or even imprisonment, for their faith?

Christian Solidarity Worldwide has a scheme called 'Connect & Encourage' which helps you to do just that. CSW works for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights worldwide, and can provide you with names and addresses of people to contact.

As CSW explains: 'Often we can't visit those who are persecuted for their faith, but we can still encourage them. You can be an encouragement by sending these prisoners a card or a letter to bring them hope. This touches them right where they are, demonstrating that they're not forgotten. Your cards

also remind the prison authorities that we haven't forgotten the injustice of the prisoner's situation, and are persistently advocating for their welfare in the international community.'

The people listed in Connect & Encourage – from human rights activists and lawyers to church leaders, persecuted Christians and their families – benefit tremendously from your letters or cards. For more details, go to: www.csw.org.uk/connectandencourage.htm

Pakistan's floods bring waves of disease and homelessness

As we prepare to spend our money on Christmas this year, the Methodist Church in Britain has launched an appeal for the people of Pakistan, where the number of flood victims continues to rise.

The Church of Pakistan called for help after recent torrential monsoon rains fell over the southern Sindh province, destroying livelihoods and spreading disease. More than 7.5 million people have been affected by the disaster and the number could still rise. Four church staff in the Raiwind Diocese have died of dengue fever and the epidemic has claimed many more lives across the region.

Steve Pearce, partnership coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, said, 'The scale of the disaster is huge. These are the people who were also flooded last year, so some of them have not yet

got their livelihoods back in order. The Church of Pakistan is in a position to help. Pakistani Church leaders have met with local government officials and that is important because Pakistan is an Islamic state where Christians are a minority.'

The Methodist Church's World Mission Fund has so far given £20,000 to the Church of Pakistan. You can donate to the Pakistan Appeal via the Methodist Church. Visit 'Just Giving' at <http://www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate>, or send a cheque, payable to the World Mission Fund, to Steve Pearce, World Church Relationships, at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR. Postal donations should be labelled 'Pakistan Appeal'. UK taxpayers can increase their donation by including a completed Gift Aid form.

Cambodian floods set to worsen

The worst floods in Cambodia for more than a decade, that have killed 247 people, mainly from drowning, and displaced more than 100,000 families, could worsen, Christian Aid has warned.

'With heavy rains set to continue, it is feared the people of Cambodia will suffer even more,' said Katja Leven, Christian Aid's country manager for Cambodia. 'The situation will worsen further when neighbouring Thailand and Vietnam open their dams to ease

their own floods.'

There is the risk of severe food shortages due to rice fields being submerged, grain stores swept away and the December harvest being lost. Already thousands of homes, open patches of high ground, schools and pagodas have been flooded. Nearly three-quarters of the country is thought to have been affected, and authorities estimate that up to 60 per cent of the rice crop may have been destroyed.

Local organisations funded through Christian Aid, DCA and the ACT Alliance are distributing food and providing safe water to the worst affected communities. More details at: www.christianaid.org.uk.

Islamist pressure leads to large-scale church closures in Indonesia

Churches worldwide will celebrate Christmas this month. But for some groups of Christians, it will be more difficult than for others. Take Indonesia, for instance. More than 50 churches have been shut down or demolished by the authorities in Indonesia since the start of 2010, often following pressure from Islamist groups.

The Jakarta Christian Communication Forum (FKKJ), which includes leaders of all denominations, reported that 47 were closed in 2010, plus a further nine in the first four months of 2011.

The treatment of GKI Yasmin Church in Bogor, West Java, is a recent example of such discrimination. The congregation has been holding services on the street since its forced closure in 2008. The mayor has said that churches should not be built on a street with an Islamic name; GKI Yasmin is situated on a road named after an Islamic leader from West Java.

As well as discrimination, churches in Indonesia are often attacked by extremists. A suicide bomber recently detonated an explosive at the Behtel Injil Sepuluh church in Keputon, Solo, Central Java, as people were leaving the service; 28 were injured in the blast.

In the UK, we take the safety of our church buildings for granted. As we decorate our church for Christmas this month, please let's pray for the Christians of Indonesia.

Comedian Milton Jones joins toilet roll project that 'will touch everyone'

Award winning comedian Milton Jones will narrate Roll on Christmas - a unique retelling of the nativity as an animated farce on Facebook.

Roll on Christmas is a two-minute farce about the incarnation getting lost in the madness of Christmas 2011. The stars of this chaotic animation are anyone's Facebook friends – their faces cut out

and stuck on toilet rolls depicting the usual Bethlehem suspects.

'I'm very happy to be involved in Roll on Christmas,' says Milton 'It sheds new light on a beautiful and timeless story, especially if you've ever used a toilet roll. In fact, these toilet rolls will touch everyone.' Jones, described by The Times as 'king of the surreal one-liners', has been a panellist many times on Mock the Week (BBC2), and was recently to be seen on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow (BBC1).

Aimed at anyone over 18 years of age, Roll on Christmas caricatures the way we behave over the festive period - shopping, drinking, eating, partying and celebrating to excess. Or, as Milton Jones put it: 'Roll on Christmas is another shameless example of Christians jumping on the bandwagon of Christmas.'

Happy 50th Birthday, WWF!

Founded in 1961 as the World Wildlife Fund (now simply called WWF), WWF has celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. A global organisation active in over 100 countries, WWF is the world's leading environmental organisation, addressing global threats to people and nature such as climate change, the peril to endangered species and habitats, and the unsustainable consumption of the world's natural resources.



CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25th December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?



**What goes red, white, red,
white, red, white?**
Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and
his wife hang over their baby's
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.



Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest
7 evergreen

Watching

Light mist on the horizon,
The sounds of the soothing
sea,
Crying gulls busily searching
for tea.

The wind turbines are as
statues,
Tall men transfixed in time,
A few people gesticulating at
the spectacle,
Not creating any energy today.

The hills are clouded in
mourning
For the summer that has
slipped away,
But soon new life is to be
rejoiced in,
On the coming of Christmas
Day.

Shirley Georgeson

A Friend's View

St Tudno's standing so small,
A flag waving in welcome,
The chime of the bell
beckoning all to enter,
To see stained glass so vivid,
Flowers so simple, giving
colour and light.

Wherein candles flicker to the
sounds of the service,
Sacred words are heard,
poignant and strengthening.
When outside, a gentle breeze
or more accompanies the
singing,
Followed by chatter and
laughter,
Sometimes even coffee and
cake.

Around this special place birds
Dance across the beautiful
skies and rainbows,
Goats ramble around, their
many stories abound,
Wild flowers and butterflies,
some rare,
Add to making so much here
profound.

Opportunities to help,
From putting out benches to
clearing the snow,
Or selling books at the fairs.
Places to visit, with outings
each year.
New people to meet each week,
from near and afar.
So much of interest and joy in
Becoming a Friend of St.
Tudno's.

Shirley Georgeson

The Ponies are Back

The Welsh Mountain ponies are back at the Maes-y-facrell nature reserve on the Great Orme. This year there are four ponies who will spend the winter eating the coarse grasses as part of the reserve management. The ponies' efforts over the past couple of winters have reduced competition from the grasses and so helped other plants to flourish. An increase in flowers attracts more insects, such as this small copper butterfly (*Lycaena phlaeas*) spotted during the summer, and the trees are full of birds. The goats do their bit to help too, by keeping down the scrub, but unlike the ponies they come and go as they please.



Christine Jones



Coffee Time

Cryptics (thanks and courtesy Barbara Cartwright).

All have a Christmas theme.

1. So Carl confused Christmas songs (6)
2. Head of college to make fun of cheat (4)
3. Wrap up wife in seat (7)
4. Santa's guide on foggy nights (7)
5. Hat on male poultry (5)
6. Girl and the French digit found in a bush (9)
7. Two fifties and four among the bushes (5,3,3)
8. Some Bach, or a lied, is sung (6)
9. Tease good French woven strip (6)
10. Jack's cold welcome (5)



Results for last month:

1. Idolises.
2. Isle.
3. Ivory.
4. Internal.
5. Ink.
6. Icing.
7. Inapt.
8. Idle.
9. In good time.
10. Imitation.