

Who to contact:

Rector:

Rev. David Lake 01788-822147

St. Margaret of Antioch Church, Crick NN6 7TP

Church Wardens:

Mr. Dave Milne 01788 824670

Mr Patrick Mulcahy 01788 822393

All Saints' Church, Church Hill, Yelvertoft NN6 LF

Church Wardens :

Mr M. Larder 01788 824237

Mr N. Robertson 01788 822794

All Saints' Church, Station Rd, Lilbourne. CV23 0SX

Church Wardens:

Mr. G. Le Flem 01788 860126

Mrs L. Collins 01788 860451

Church websites

<http://www.crick.org.uk/church>

Website : www.allsaintschurchlilbourne.wordpress.com

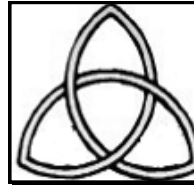
Website : www.lilbournebells.wordpress.com

ACNY - Lilbourne : www.achurchnearyou.com/lilbourne-all-saints/
Facebook, Twitter & Google + Pages.

Tower Captain : Rob Palmer, Tel : 07926 15 18 11,

e-mail : lilbourne.towercontact@gmail.com

Ringling Practice : 1st. & 3rd. Thursday each month 7.15pm. to 9.00pm.



Three Churches Newsletter

Advent 2016

United Benefice of Crick,
Yelvertoft & Lilbourne

What is Advent?

A time of expectation, excitement and preparation. But for what?

John Betjeman penned these words entitled 'Christmas' to try and answer the question.

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say
'Come!'

Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Welcome to this Advent edition of:

Three Churches Newsletter.

This edition contains the following articles:

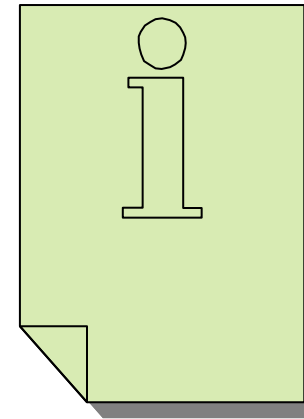
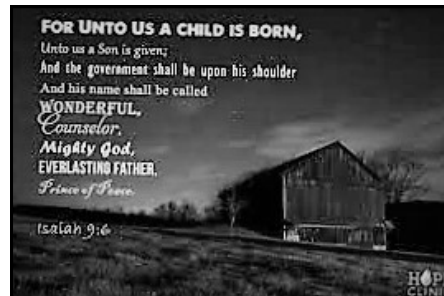
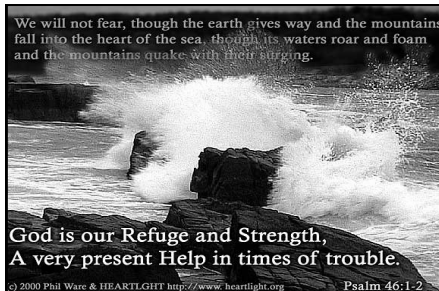
- Mary's Burden: Eleanor Farjeon
- Thoughts on Advent: Ian Macintosh
- Forgotten friends: Fred Norton.
- A modern natal experience! Bryan and Hazel Gault
- O Sapientia: Madelaine L'Engle
- Prayer: Karen Jongman
- Hope in the Community: Ray Smith
- The Mystic Nativity: Botticelli as seen by Sister Wendy
- Books for Advent
- Sermons available
- FOSM
- Dates for your diary

I would welcome any articles of inspiration, reflections which you think will enable others in their faith journey or any testimonies.

Items for the Lent edition should be with me by 24th February 2017. Please email word documents to:

patrick.mulcahy123@btinternet.com

Patrick Mulcahy



Special Events

All Saints' Yelvertoft
Details to be announced in Church

St. Margaret of Antioch
Crick

Light for a loved one

4.30

4th December

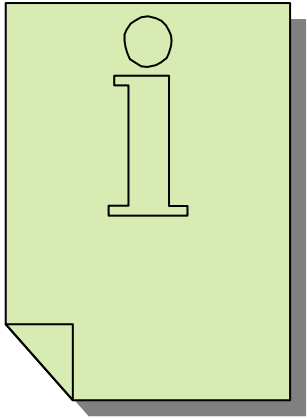
All Saints' Lilbourne
Christmas events

9th December

6pm

Hall

Hot turkey rolls, mince pies, Peter's mulled wine, Christmas stalls - and Father Christmas! Draw tickets for the Christmas Draw will be on sale soon.



Christmas Services

All Saints' Yelvertoft

18th December

4pm Carol service

24th December

2.30 Crib Service

10pm Communion

25th December

11.15 Songs of Praise with H.C

St. Margaret of Antioch

18th December

6pm Carol service

24th December

4pm Crib Service

8.30pm Communion

25th December

9.45 Songs of Praise with
H.C

All Saints' Lilbourne

Carols

11th December

6pm

First Communion of Christmas

24th December 11.30pm.

**25th December 10am with
Chapel**

Mary's Burden

My Baby, my Burden,
Tomorrow the morn
I shall go lighter
And you will be born.

I shall go lighter,
But heavier too
For seeing the burden
That falls upon you.

The burden of love,
The burden of pain,
I'll see you bear both
Among men once again.

Tomorrow you'll bear it
Your burden alone,
Tonight you've no burden
That is not my own

My Baby, my Burden,
Tomorrow the morn
I shall go lighter
And you will be born.

Eleanor Farjeon



That Great Day

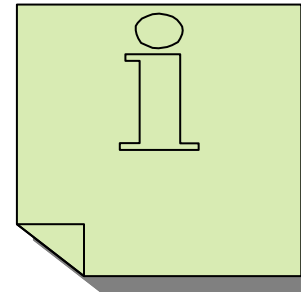


“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

[ESV Luke 21 verses 25-36]



**St. Margaret of
Antioch**

Crick

PCC Meetings

7.30pm

Old School

12th December 2016

23rd January 2017

27th February 2017

Special Events: PCC

All Saints' Yelvertoft

PCC dates:

7.15 pm in the church.

Monday 5th December

All Saints' Lilbourne

PCC Dates:

7.30pm at

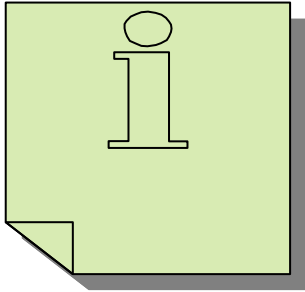
Greenfields

Winwick

Weds 11th January

Planning meeting for 2017

Weds 25th January



Special Services

United Benefice services:

18th December

Lilbourne;

11.15

(Followed by refreshments not lunch)

1st January

11.15 Holy Communion with Songs of Praise

29th January 2017

Lilbourne

11.15

Followed by Lunch

Benefice Bell ringing

***Have you considered bell ringing ? Join our enthusiastic team of ringers
Facebook, Twitter & Google + Pages.***

Tower Captain : Rob Palmer, Tel : 07926 15 18 11,

e-mail : lilbourne.towercontact@gmail.com

Ringin Practice : 1st. & 3rd. Thursday each month 7.15pm. to 9.00pm.

Comment

As the season of Advent begins, our thoughts are probably turning to the approaching festivities celebrating the birth of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Naturally the details of the Nativity have a strong appeal to us, and especially to the very young. Essentially it is about celebrating a past event, a glorious event full of eternal significance, an event bringing great joy to us all.

However, when he came Jesus had something to say about the future, and it is this aspect of his teaching that we must consider as Advent approaches. It is clear that the whole cosmos will be involved in a cataclysmic upheaval – enough to cause anxiety in even the most stoic of people. And yet that is the very time to sit up and take note for our ‘redemption is drawing near’.

Jesus goes on to illustrate the teaching with a parable about trees bursting forth into leaf in the spring – a wonderful picture. And yet the statement, “This generation will not pass away until all has taken place”, gives us a problem. Perhaps what took place then are some of the signs (e.g. the destruction of the Temple which took place in AD70). Also when we consider what Jesus meant by ‘near’ we ought to remember Peter’s statement that ‘with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day’. Time after all was created by God!

Finally, we must be prepared for that day to dawn without warning. Watch and pray, living each day as if it is your last...

Ian Mackintosh

Forgotten friends!

It is all too easy to neglect old friends, and if we neglect them long enough, we eventually forget them completely. The Psalms were the "Worship songs" of the Christian church for many centuries, yet for many Christians today, they are a closed book. Songs, known and sung by Jesus himself, have been allowed to pass almost into oblivion.

For centuries, the Psalms were said, sung, by Christians. In the Middle Ages, they were said and sung in Latin by monks and nuns, but the Reformation gave us the Bible in our own language, and the main services provided, Morning and Evening Prayer, included the Psalms. The clergy are (were ?) required to say Morning and Evening Prayer every day, so they would have read the Psalms in full 24 times each year. Not surprisingly, there were priests who, after a ministry of 50 years, appeared to know the Psalter by heart!

The Psalms were known, loved, quoted by Jesus. His dying words on the Cross included

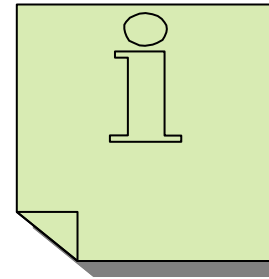
"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Ps 22),
but he would have known that this Psalm ends on a note of triumph, and his final words were " Into Thy hands I commend my spirit" (Ps 31)

Many of the Psalms turn our thoughts to God,
" The Heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork" (Ps 19)
"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me praise His holy name" (Ps 103),

But the whole range of human feelings is explored, from the love we have for God

" O how amiable are Thy dwellings, thou Lord of Hosts" (Ps 84),
" I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help "(Ps 121)

To joy at being allowed to return from Exile
" When the Lord turned away the captivity of Sion,



Activities

Lilbourne

Spring Jumble Sale

Sat. 25th February, 1.00pm in the hall.

(Contact 860742 for further information)

Deanery Synod

17th January 2017

Ravensthorpe village hall,

7.00 for 7.30pm.

Visitors are welcome to attend.

Grave Matters!

Why do we avoid talking about dying?

You are warmly invited to

Coffee - Cake - Chat

Yelvertoft Reading Room

**Saturday 25th February 10am
– 12 noon**

Contact Sheila on 822794
if you'd like to know more

What do you value
most in life?

When would you take a
child to a funeral?

How do you feel about
wearing bright colours at a
funeral?



The gospel writers shared the stories of Jesus' nativity with the early Christians and then during his ministry talked about the need for us to be reborn in the spirit (John 3 verses 1 to 21). Bryan Gault shared these thoughts with me following a weekend away with some Christian friends.

It was the 4th May and you're about to find out why this date was so significant.

Hazel and I had been married for 2 years and we were expecting our first child. We were overjoyed to learn that Hazel was pregnant and eagerly awaited his arrival which was given, by the doctor, as March 27th. I thought about the possibility of an earlier arrival, maybe 18th March, my birthday. Hazel got bigger and we got more and more excited. We were all prepared; cot, pram, a cupboard full of nappies and liners and other paraphernalia. My birthday came and went, but no early arrival. March 27th arrived but the baby didn't. A week later, Hazel went into hospital to be induced. "Sorry," the doctor said, "baby is not ready yet. Are you sure you have your dates right?" I saw the look in Hazel's eyes and thought, "Oh, oh. This doctor doesn't realise the danger he's in."

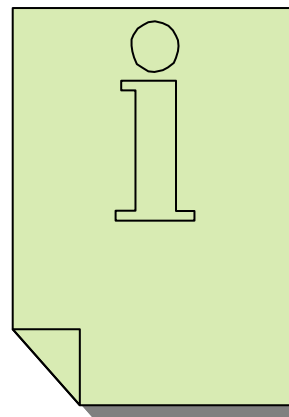
"Of course I'm sure," said Hazel, in a voice, that though quiet, would take no argument.

The next weeks, yes weeks were among the most stressful I have ever experienced. Hazel was often in tears, saying, "Something's wrong, something's wrong". I, doing my best to be reassuring when with her, would be banging my head on the wall when alone. Two more trips to the hospital at which we were told, "baby's not ready yet". On the third visit, Hazel was admitted and assured that she would be leaving the hospital with a baby in her arms. Her waters were manually broken and eventually we were taken to the delivery room, Hazel suffering and clutching my hand so hard I thought the bones would break.

"Baby's coming," cooed the midwife, "I can see its head." I thought nothing could compare with the mixture of pain and joy I was feeling. But I was wrong. As I looked down on my child about to enter the world, the midwife produced a pair of scissors, almost like gardening secateurs, and started snipping away at my wife! No anaesthetic, nothing! "Just to help things along," she said, in response to my wide eyed expression as I crossed my legs. "It's a boy," she said and I looked at Hazel with a smile as big as the Cheshire Cat and echoed with relief, "It's a boy".

A few seconds later I heard the nurse smack the baby's bottom but there was no cry! An alarm must have been set off because the next thing I knew, a team of people came crashing into the room with a trolley. "You'll have to wait outside," I was told as I was ushered into the corridor.

Hence me; looking out over the dark roofs of Finsbury Park with my head against the window repeating frantically, "Not now, God; not now".



Weekly and Monthly Activities

All Saints' Yelvertoft

Toddler Church Wednesday 2pm-3pm in the Reading Room.

Contact Sheila 822794

Tuesday Chat, first Tuesday of month at 25 High St. Yelvertoft.

St Margaret's Crick

Little Saints pre school group
Monday 2.15 – 3.15 in the church.

Bible Study, 2nd and 4th
Thursdays 7.30 at 4 Bury Dyke.

Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.30.



Prayer meeting:

Last Wednesday of Month

Contact Lorna Taylor

30th November: Yelvertoft

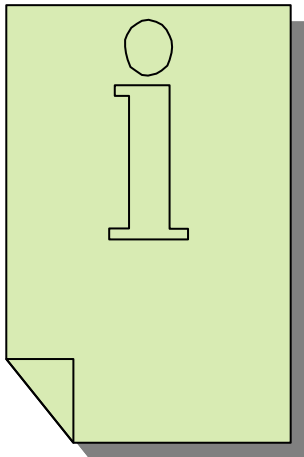
28th December Crick

25th January Yelvertoft

22nd February Crick

29th March Yelvertoft

26th April Crick



Special Events

St. Margaret's Crick

Tea at Three

First Sunday of the month

3 to 4.30pm

Join us for tea, cake and a chat.

All welcome.

All Saints' Lilbourne

ADVENT

The prayer tree will be in the church from the beginning of Advent. We may be able to have the building open again for a few days - look out for details.

Christmas Fayre

Friday 9th December

6.00pm in the hall.

Want to learn about **bereave-ment?**

Tuesday

7th March 2017

The Old School at Crick,

10 - 4 pm.

Contact :

**Brian Hemmings
or David Lake.**

After what seemed an eternity, the doctor came out wearing a very satisfied smile and said, "You have a fine son" and the uncontrollable tears ran down my face.

It was some months later that Hazel told me she wanted to have our baby baptised. I wasn't a Christian but responded, "Fine. Let's get him done!" Our vicar, David Boyes, came around to see us to talk about it. "I'll happily baptise your son on the strength of Hazel's faith," he said, "but Bryan I would like you to have a couple of sessions with me so that you understand the promises you'll be making at that service. There may be questions you choose not to answer". "No problem," I said. He also invited me to a home group. I really liked the people I met at the group and the discussions were quite lively and illuminating. So much so that I continued to attend even after the baptism.

It was winter time and at the end of a session David came over to me and said, "Bryan, have you made a decision yet about Christ?" "Thinking about it. Keeping my options open," I replied. "Don't leave it too long," he said, "many who wait for the twelfth hour, die on the eleventh". I grinned and said, "Thanks for that."

As I walked home it was snowing. I stopped, closed my eyes and said, "Okay Lord. If you're there, come on into my life."

I opened my eyes and looked up. The roofs were covered in snow. Into my mind came the memory of my hospital plea of, "Not now God. Not now".

I smiled, and laughed, heart uplifted and said, very quietly and with a smile on my face, "Thank you for waiting."



Finsbury Park .London at night.

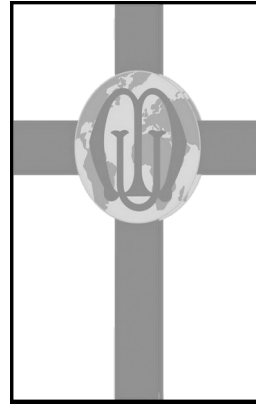
Hazel's story

My mother regularly took me to church with her throughout my childhood. My father never came.

I grew up knowing about Christ and I was Baptised and later Confirmed. I had a lot of knowledge of Christian things but that was it really. I taught at Sunday School but once at college, I never gave it another thought. Except at Christmas and Easter. I had a little twinge of conscience then and went along to the odd service.

It wasn't until my husband became a Christian and I saw how spiritually alive he was that I thought about my faith. I'm glad to say that I discovered that it was a relationship with Jesus that was missing in my life. I'm also very glad to say that the relationship began and has continued and is still very much ongoing.

I'm also overjoyed to say that my dad also became a Christian, about 6 months before he died and I was so privileged to see his whole outlook on his remaining time change, for the better.



Mothers Union Care for families.

The Yelvertoft branch serves members of the benefice and meets monthly in the reading room on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm (except December)

The Mothers Union is a charity based in the Church of England to support Christian care for families both home and abroad. Members are not only Mothers: it is family orientated.

Leukaemia Research Fund

Coin Appeal

Ever wondered what to do with old foreign coins or notes and old UK coinage?

The leukaemia research fund collects and sells them to raise funds for medical equipment or research.

Any contributions to

Mrs B Windsor

Leukaemia Research Fund Appeal

29 High St

Yelvertoft

NN6 6LF

Used stamps – with about 1cm 'border' .

Various charities manage to make money from them; , Mrs Windsor in Yelvertoft collects them for a childhood leukaemia charity. They can be handed in to her, at Yelvertoft shop or at the school.

Also Crick church has a tube to collect them.



A LIGHT FOR A LOVED ONE 2016

The Friends of St. Margaret's invite you to remember a loved one from whom you are parted this Christmas. For £10 you can sponsor one of the simple white lights on a tree in the churchyard. These will be switched on during a short service on Sunday, December 4th, at 4.30pm, and remain lit until Twelfth Night.

In addition, if you wish, details of each person to be remembered will be recorded on a small tree, also decorated with white lights, inside the church.

If you have taken part before, you will be receiving a letter shortly but for details, ring

Dave or Sue Milne on 824670.

As always, the proceeds will go towards the restoration of the church.

I have always thought the role that Joseph played in the life of Jesus is understated so I include this as a reflection on Joseph's love and care.

O Sapientia

It was from Joseph first I learned
of love. Like me he was dismayed.
How easily he could have turned
me from his house; but, unafraid,
he put me not away from him
(O God-sent angel, pray for him).
Thus through his love was Love obeyed.
The Child's first cry came like a bell:
God's Word aloud, God's Word in deed.
The angel spoke: so it befell,
and Joseph with me in my need.
O Child whose father came from heaven,
to you another gift was given,
your earthly father chosen well.
With Joseph I was always warmed
and cherished. Even in the stable
I knew that I would not be harmed.
And, though above the angels swarmed,
man's love it was that made me able
to bear God's love, wild, formidable,
to bear God's will, through me performed.

Madeleine L'Engle

I found this in the minutes of the deanery synod and thought it worth sharing.

Maybe some inspiration for next year

Sheila welcomed the Revd Canon Káren Jongman, to talk about Prayer.

Káren asked how many people prayed daily; most hands were raised, echoing the fact that in a survey 89% of churchgoers said that they did. Of these, however, only 43% said that they prayed for over 5 minutes.

What is prayer? Not just words – it is live contact with God. Total access. As an exercise, Káren asked everyone to sit comfortably then inhale deliberately, thinking of taking in the Holy Spirit and allowing God to reveal his will - - and in the exhalation think of the power of the Spirit going out into the world.

The Archbishops had asked all churches to make a special effort in highlighting prayer, in the week before Pentecost. Káren said that the churches of her benefice had done so and the result had been overwhelming. They had three nights when people stayed all night to pray – one a 'pizza and prayer' event specifically aimed at young people. They had set up prayer corners for people to visit (the church being open) at any time; Káren had set one up as an example for the synod to see. It had running water, a candle, lavender, pictures and written material. She felt that the experience had resulted in a permanent change in views about what prayer is.

Prayer can be silent or voiced, solitary or with others, reflective or dynamic. It works, even if not exactly as we might have expected, and it goes on working. Some – e.g. the Mothers' Union – offer prayer for others as a prayer-chain.

Time spent in prayer is time spent with God, and what could be more wonderful?

'Thy will be done', Káren concluded. 'Amen'.



CURRY NIGHT DATES

2016/17

**Our next Curry and Casserole Night is on
Friday, November 18.**

Dates for 2017 (all Fridays):

January 20,

February 17

&

March 24.

To reserve your place, ring Sue on 824670

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CONTINUING RESTORATION.

Books for Advent

All published by BRF

Longing, Waiting, Believing by Rodney Holder.

The Real Godsend by Nigel Wright

Companions on the Bethlehem Road by Rachel Boulding.

.....

If anyone has read a book they would recommend as a 'good read' send me a short review and I will include it in the Lent edition.

.....

Copies of sermons are available!



For those unable to get to a service or the midweek service.

Copies of David's and Brian's sermons going back a year. These are always based on the gospel reading of the day and are relevant and thought provoking.

Copies are available from Sheila at Yelvertoft or from the bookstall in Crick or from me on:

Email: patrick.mulcahy123@btinternet.com.



in our villages, towns & cities

HOPE'S DREAM FOR 2018

'Hopes dream is a growing church, showing Jesus' love and telling the Jesus story at the heart of every community – and there's a sense, across the UK, that it's time for a spiritual harvest.'

Speaking at the Lambeth Palace Launch of 'HOPE 2018' on the 12th October, The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said "We exist as God's people to enable the world to meet Jesus and then make up their minds."

Roy Crowne, HOPE's Executive Director wrote in the October News Update "We'd love you and your church to join with us to make Jesus known across the UK. We are committed to working with you, providing resources and ideas for a rhythm of mission through the church calendar. Together we can make a difference."

'HOPE's dream for 2018 is to see churches growing as thousands of people become Jesus' followers. 2017 is a year to pray, prepare and plan. Try some mission ideas on a small scale so that you can evaluate what works and what training is needed. HOPE and their partners will provide ideas, templates and resources for prayer and mission in words and action –something to do, something to say and something to give around a rhythm of mission: Christmas, Easter, Summer Fun Days and Harvest. Building towards a year of Mission in 2018, there are city-wide missions already planned for London, Bristol and Leicester'.

The local 3 Village Action Group have recently met together to review this year's Celebrations to mark the Queen's 90th. Birthday and discuss any possible future events. A further meeting is planned in the New Year on Monday 6th March, 7-30pm at the URC Chapel in Crick. Here, we hope to share ideas for possible future events in our villages, so that though Words & Action, we are intentional in making Jesus known, giving people an invitation to become followers of Jesus.

For more details of national events and resources contact; hopetogether.org.uk

If you would like to be involved in helping to organise local events contact Ray Smith at: raygsmith@hotmail.com, or just come along to the next meeting.

The Mystic Nativity by Botticelli. (1445 to 1510)

In Sister Wendy's Bible Treasury she writes about this version of the Nativity:

We are used to seeing a stable in which Mary and Joseph adore the new born baby Jesus, who is lying in a manger. Although not in scripture artists decided early on to make this a functioning stable by adding an ox and an ass. Botticelli sees the ass as extremely interested, while the ox gazes vacantly into the distance (it is not being there that matters but being aware). We are used to the arrival of the wandering shepherds, and many nativities have a few angels around. But Botticelli sees the angels as significant. In the sky they dance with joy over the birth of Jesus. On the roof of the stable-cave three blessing angels wear the symbolic colours of faith, hope and charity. The angels have not merely announced to the shepherds the miracle of God's birth among us, but they have actually accompanied them to the stable, to make certain that they will not escape its full significance. Best of all, below Mary and Jesus, we see heaven and earth embracing as angel clasps man, a union of heaven and earth that is embodied in Jesus himself. This love, this embrace of heaven, is enough to send the devils back to hell in miserable defeat.



The Mystic Nativity by Botticelli. (1445 to 1510)