

Three Churches News: Advent 2018

United Benefice of Crick, Lilbourne and Yelvertoft

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this Advent edition of our newsletter.

- In this edition we start with some thoughts on Advent and what it means.
- A sermon delivered at the baptism of an adult.
- Some information and book recommendations.
- Made alive in Christ: Some thoughts on Revelation. Ian Mackintosh
- A FOSM update
- The need for renewal and Communication : Brian Hemmings
- A moral tale: Sue Milne
- A couple of seasonal poems.

Any views expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the editor.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Patrick Mulcahy.



Upcoming Events

2nd December 2017

Yelvertoft

'Spirit of Advent'

10 am – 12 noon in All Saints' Church Yelvertoft

Ask Sheila Robertson for details.
07881794258

In the Community

Rector :Rev. David Lake: 822147

Church Wardens

St. Margaret of Antioch: NN6 7 TT

Dave Milne 824670

Patrick Mulcahy 822393

All Saints' Church: NN6 LF

M. Larder 824237

Neil Robertson 822794

All Saints' Church: CV23 0SX

Jan Alexander: 860742

Lynda Collins : 860451

Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Advent

A new year, a new beginning, a looking forward to when, at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of the Jesus. In John 3 verse 3 Jesus answered Nicodemus and said unto him, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, unless a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

What does all this mean and can we show we are born again?

I was given a copy of a sermon preached at a service of baptism in which the theme of new beginnings is considered. I have changed the name of the adult involved.

The text chosen was Colossians 3:3 'For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God' from the reading Colossians 3:1-17

One of the most extraordinary events in the Gospels is that moment when Jesus came to the banks of the river Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist. Centuries before a proud Syrian commander deemed this muddy stream unworthy. He did not want to be dipped in the Jordan. But what wasn't good enough for the leader of an army was perfectly adequate for the Son of Man. So concerned at what was happening the Jerusalem authorities sent down a deputation to see what John was up to. They found him baptising not just gentiles (hitherto the only people who were ever baptised) but Jesus as well. People from near and far were coming to be baptised because they longed for God's forgiveness. They wanted to express that repentance and be washed; it was a baptism of repentance—a **new beginning**.

There was a reawakening of the sinfulness of man's heart, but we may ask. What was Jesus doing being baptised? Which was for sinners only? It is not surprising John said 'Lord better you baptise me'

When the latter came to refer to his death .He did so in terms of 'a baptism'. For Jesus His baptism was a beginning—a commitment to Gods call to ministry, to the people He had come to save.

Today we are gathered to witness the baptism of Janet .We shall want to know – what does this mean for her?

Why has she come to this moment?

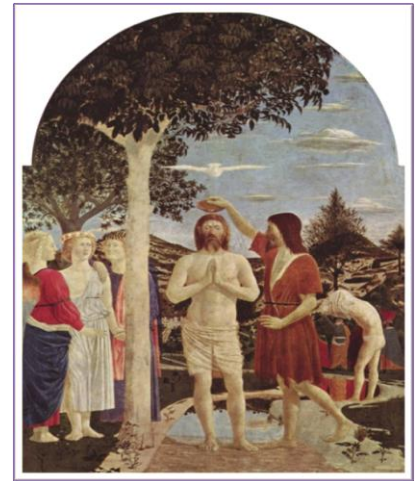
The simplest answer: - she wants to follow Jesus.

Following someone else can sometimes be arduous and difficult and implies a negation of one's own will. Some years ago I attended a wedding in London. The service took place in Church miles from the reception. 'Follow me 'said someone, I know the way. Have you ever tried to follow someone across London on a busy Saturday morning? We were soon lost! Following Jesus is not quite like that for He ever waits at the Crossroads of life and is patient. There are times when he will seem distant and at times very near. He will hold us and steady us.

Janet today is testifying that she is following Jesus. It was His command that we should be baptised as was he and his disciples.

It is a step of obedience that Janet follows Christ through the waters of baptism.

By so doing she also says her Christian pilgrimage has become her own. She will be baptised in the Ministry of Christian Life. Perhaps there has never been a time when Janet has not said her prayers, honoured, and loved the name of Jesus. Today she is saying 'the faith of my parents, my church, and my Sunday school teachers gave me I now make my own. There is something very special in life about making something your own.



Christmas Services

Sunday 10th December

9.45am **Crick** Little Saints

11.15am **Yelvertoft** Matins

6.00pm **Lilbourne** Carol Service
(with Bilton silver band.)

Sunday 17th December

11.15am Holy Communion for the
Benefice **Lilbourne**

4.00pm Carol Service
Yelvertoft

6.00pm Carol Service
Crick

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December

2.30pm Crib Service **Yelvertoft**

4.00pm Crib Service **Crick**

7.00pm 1st Communion of
Christmas **Lilbourne**

8.30pm 1st Communion of
Christmas **Crick**

10.00pm 1st Communion of
Christmas **Yelvertoft**

Advent continued

I mean if you have a younger brother you always wear your elder brothers cast offs and if you want to know what you will be wearing next year look at what your brother is wearing.

I once inherited an Edwardian suit that was my own grandfathers and striped pyjama like shirt! My father had worn the suit and two brothers and when I grew out of it my father sold it to the woman across the road.

I think most of us remember our first very own toy or suit or dress or house or garden.

The spiritual heritage from your family you are now making your own, perhaps we should say the Gift God is giving, you are accepting.

But in this simple act you are also proclaiming that as Paul has 'you are dead your life is hid with Christ in God' and means J will enact a kind of death.

For a second she will be immersed and buried.

I shall never forget the day my brother Ray told me the secretary of Surrey County Cricket Club had invited him to sign on to the professional playing staff. For one season, he played with the second eleven, coming top of the batting and bowling averages among which there were a number of future test cricketers.

With the possibility of a distinguished career before him against all the persuasion of the club he left to train for Christian ministry. Destined for unique ministry in Canada and even unexpectedly played some cricket(He always said when he returned to England how he missed his cricket-but latterly he did play for a state side against Kent when he was pleased to say he took five wickets including one Alan Knott.)Ray did not want to die to possibilities in his chosen sport in but Christ called him another way.

The instinct to live and service and not to die is immensely strong. It is possible that Christ may call you to die to some possibilities -some doors may close.

Thomas Keneally in Schindlers Ark tells of the ingenuity, courage and imagination which enabled some to survive the extermination camps.

Jesus did not want to die. Paul describes death 'as the last enemy 'and baptism is that symbol which enables us to enter into the death of Christ-to begin to share its implications.

Baptism is also about resurrection to life.

It is saying 'I want to be' and 'I believe I am alive to God'

When we study the Gospels there emerges a man supremely alive in this awareness and freedom. The aliveness of Jesus was contagious. We do not speak in the past tense of the aliveness. We say today 'Jesus is alive'. He rose again from a particular history into all history.

In baptism we enter into his death but also into his life, and that transforms our view of the world of life of self and other people.

In 'A Matter of Life and Death', John Taylor tells how one day returning to London from Oxford on a late summer evening. 'My mind wandered from the paperback to the stubble fields were the stooks of corn cast long shadows towards the glowing trees. As so often before, I was moved and held by the beauty of it.



Christmas Day 25th December

9.45am Christmas Songs of Praise with Holy Communion **Crick**

10.00am **Lilbourne** join the Chapel

11.15am Christmas Songs of Praise with Holy Communion
Yelvertoft

Sunday 31st December

11.15am Songs of Praise with Holy Communion for the Benefice
Yelvertoft

Upcoming Events:

Lilbourne

Christmas fair

8th December

6pm

Village hall

Father Christmas, stalls, hot turkey rolls, mulled wine.

Advent and Christmas 2018

Light for a loved one services

Sunday 26th November 6.00pm
Lilbourne

Sunday 4th December 4.30pm
Crick:

Advent continued

That quite ordinary scene beyond the railway track had ceased to be merely an object I was looking at. It had become a subject imbued with power, affecting me, saying something to me in a way that music does. Something had generated a current of charged intensity between it and me'

In a new way of looking, John Taylor tells how his eyes were opened through this ordinary scene from a railway carriage. The resurrection is a resurrection to life in all its diverse and infinite possibilities to the world and perhaps most of all –to other people. An opening too of our eyes to the glorious things of life.

It is sad to say that sometimes the most religious people are the most dead and insensitive to others.

Jesus was supremely sensitive and was responding constantly to those around Him. He wants to make you Alive.

Christ's life in you will grow and deepen and so will your aliveness to God, his created world and above all to people created in his image 'The New Testament has two words for it 'Eternal life'

'For to die and be hid with Christ in God means you have passed from death to life.'

A life, which no one can take from you and from which nothing can separate you.

References:

John Vernon Taylor (11 September 1914 – 30 January 2001) was an English bishop and theologian who was the Bishop of Winchester from 1974 to 1984. *A matter of life and death* (London: SCM 1986)

Alan Philip Eric Knott (born 9 April 1946) is a former Kent cricketer who represented England at international level in both Tests and One-Day Internationals (ODI).

Sermon preached

7th December 1986 by the Revd. David Price.

Book Recommendation

Jan sent this recommendation.

I was given a book last year – by a friend who's friends with one of the contributors (not me!) It's called 'Winter: liturgical resources for November, December and January' by Ruth Burgess One of the poems is on page 10. I have to say I haven't read it much; but it has a lot of poetry (mainly modern) and some prayers and other readings. If you wanted to borrow it to find, perhaps, something for the TCN I'd be happy to loan it out!

Jan Alexander

7 The Horsepool

Lilbourne.



covered include, prayer, coping with pain and suffering, science and religion, bible study aids and commentaries.

Several books by Adrian Plass.

Many of David's sermons are available including the Wednesday morning mid week homily. These can be provided in electronic format from Patrick.mulcahy123@btinternet.com.

Last year I found a lovely little booklet by Gillian Clarke entitled

'The Christmas Wren'.

A magical tale of the Christmases of a Welsh childhood. "



More Important News

Turn the Page

To start your content on a new page, copy the page break mark that you see just above this page. To do this, select the page break and then, on the Home tab, in the Clipboard

THE GLORIOUS FUTURE

A passage from the book of Revelation

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer, will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.

The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

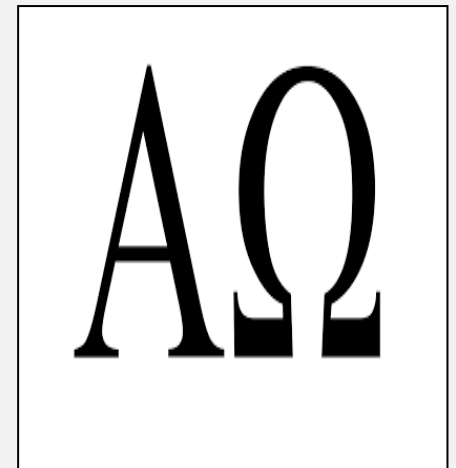
"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

..... My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practise magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Revelation 22 verses 1-6, 12b-17 [NIV]



Comment:

It helps to understand the significance of this passage if we look back at Genesis ch.2&3 - Adam and Eve, the garden of Eden and the serpent. Because of the temptation posed by the serpent and the subsequent disobedience of the woman and her husband, they were barred from the garden [so could not eat the fruit of the tree of life] and a curse was put on the whole of creation. Here we see a prophecy of the complete reversal of this disaster. All those who have washed their robes [something that is done through the blood of the lamb - Rev ch.7vs14] have the right to enter the city of God and partake of the fruit of the tree of life. It is open to all nationalities. The curse on creation, a curse that we live with every day, will have been lifted.

The healing properties of the leaves on the tree derive from the river of the water of life flowing from the very throne of God [see also Ezekiel ch.47vs12]. Every inhabitant of the city owes their allegiance to Jesus and this will be immediately obvious – for the name of the Lamb, Jesus, will be on their foreheads. The list of those who stand outside the city, besides categories of people that are self-explanatory, includes ‘dogs’ – meaning those who deny Christ and instead practise some other form of demonic worship. It also includes those who practise magic arts – see the story of Simon the Sorcerer [Acts ch.8 vs9-24] for an example of this sort of thing.

Remember the words of Peter, ‘With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day’ [2 Peter ch.3 vs8]. The Holy Spirit and the Church [the ‘bride’] say “Come!” [Come, Lord Jesus]. John enjoins all who hear the prophecy to echo, “Come!” Christ is the light of salvation to all people [‘the bright Morning Star’].

Come, Lord Jesus! And – come, to the Lord Jesus!

Ian Mackintosh



Lilbourne

Carols and mince pies at Phil's:

Sat. 16th Dec., 5. 30pm

Carols by Candlelight

The choir is currently practising on Tuesday evenings, for this service. Telephone 860264 if you would like to come and sing – anyone who can keep in tune very welcome, but especially altos and men!

Christmas Draw:

The two annual draws form a major part of the money needed to keep Lilbourne's ancient church going – please support this by buying tickets! First prize £100.



CHURCH ROOF

We hope that, by the time you read this, work will have been started to carry out maintenance on the roof. We did have an unwanted visitor up there one night recently, probably fuelled by alcohol. Luckily for him, he did not kill or injure himself by falling off, but images from our excellent surveillance cameras have been passed to the police.

HUNDRED CLUB

The winners were :

August: 1st John Rogers , 2nd Jane Clarke

September: 1st A. Carter-Houndslow , 2nd J. & J. Winn

October: 1st Tessa Slaughter, 2nd Arthur & Ros Yardy

The Hundred Club year runs from August 1 and costs £20 per year. Renewals are due from that date. The Club is now being run by Ann Ward (822314) and Sue Mulcahy (822393), to whom any queries can be addressed.

ANNUAL RIDE & STRIDE

5 volunteers took part on behalf of St. Margaret's this year, raising £397 in sponsorship money. We have now received half of that back, whilst the other half goes to the Northants Historic Churches Trust to give grants to churches in the county.

Sue Milne (01788) 824670



DIARY DATES

FOSM committee

We are always looking for new members. It is not a huge commitment (and you can be of any faith, or none) but you would be very welcome if you felt you could lend a hand to help maintain our ancient piece of history.

SUN. DECEMBER 3,

at 4.30pm,

Switching-on of the Lights for a Loved One.

Curry Nights

Jan 19,

Feb 23

March 23.

7.30pm

Old School

NOT TO BE MISSED

The Need for Renewal

In a recent church assembly at Crick Primary School I spoke about the topic of 'Living Faith' and told the children about the life of Mother Teresa. Whilst I knew the outline of her wonderful work in India, it was fascinating to read about the personal challenges she faced and the need for renewal of her faith to answer her calling. In the New Testament renewal invariably refers to spiritual renewal (e.g. Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 6:6).

Teresa wrote in her diary that her first year in India was fraught with difficulty. With no income, she begged for food and supplies and experienced doubt, loneliness and the temptation to return to the comfort of convent life during these early months.

She wrote: 'Our Lord wants me to be a free nun covered with the poverty of the cross. Today, I learned a good lesson. The poverty of the poor must be so hard for them. While looking for a home I walked and walked till my arms and legs ached. I thought how much they must ache in body and soul, looking for a home, food and health. Then, the comfort of Loreto [her former congregation] came to tempt me. "You have only to say the word and all that will be yours again", the Tempter kept on saying ... Of free choice, my God, and out of love for you, I desire to remain and do whatever be your Holy will in my regard. I did not let a single tear come. 'Whilst none of us are facing the challenges Teresa experienced, we all have our own struggles and difficulties, or experience times when our faith seems to wane. So how do we go about renewing our faith and relationship with Jesus? It would seem that the renewal options open to us are prayer, worship and reading the Bible to hear God's word.

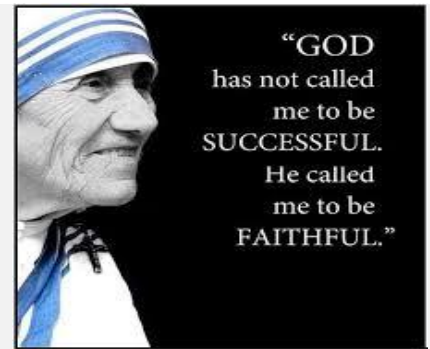
As I write we have just celebrated another united benefice service that fell on Bible Sunday. This reminded me of the views gathered last year of Crick parishioners to the question 'what does the Bible mean to you? Their comments were grouped into five areas below:

A LIFE GUIDE:

'A guide to living' 'A living guide for life today; the source of light, life and truth'

'I don't take parts of the Old Testament too literally but the New Testament is largely my guide to life'

'The Bible is a serious reference book. I find it informative and educational, as well as an aid to a way of life which I try to follow.'



SLANDER-

A MORAL TALE

Back in the 1980s, I worked for a GP who was a very volatile person. She took on a partner as her practice expanded, but soon fell out with him and they split their practices. Financially, they had no choice but to continue sharing a building. One day, in a busy waiting room, she loudly accused him of groping her staff and patients, which was totally untrue. To protect his reputation, he sued her for slander. The legal profession was fascinated as most defamation cases are in written form, i.e. libel.

The case was eventually heard in the Royal Courts of Justice and one Friday, the main 6pm News item on the BBC, lasting 15 minutes, was the result: she had been found guilty and her ex-partner had been awarded damages of £150,000. They both lost their practices and their lives were changed forever. They both had to make new beginnings but several people had been hurt in the process.

Lord, give me the maturity to still my tongue when I am tempted to speak rashly, and to forgive as I would have You forgive me.

Proverbs 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out. And where there is no whisperer, contention quietens down.

Sue Milne

'A Thanksgiving for Winter'

by Simon Taylor

God of beauty and grace
we thank you for all that winter brings to us
For revealing the stark beauty of a tree's outline
And giving the wonder and intricacy of a flake of snow
We thank you for a time to rest from mowing the lawn'
from weeding the vegetable bed
'a time to expectantly plan what seeds to plant in the season to come –
But from the comfort of a cosy chair
We delight in playing in the snow
(or at least in hoping that we might)
We thank you for long dark nights when we can watch the moon rise
Or appreciate the bright company of stars
We welcome the goose, the teal and the fieldfare
As they visit our winter shores and woods,
And the snowdrop as it interrupts bleak January days with delicate beauty
We thank you for cold wintry walks
When we can snuggle into our favourite scarf
Look forward to a hot cup of tea in our hands
And reminisce in front of the fire
We even thank you for those grey and wet mild days
When the cold does not bite
And we have a topic of conversation to take us through the day
Grant us the graciousness to see winter's gifts
And enjoy earth's quiet season.

More Important News

Turn the Page

To start your content on a new page, copy the page break mark that you see just above this page. To do this, select the page break and then, on the Home tab, in the Clipboard group, click Copy.

Then, click where you want to start the new page, and then paste. (Note

On Jordan's Banks The Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Thy grace our souls must fade
And wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth Thine hand, to heal our sore,
And make us rise and fall no more;
Once more upon Thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

To Him Who left the throne of Heaven
To save mankind, all praise be given;
Like praise be to the Father done,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

Charles Coffin 1676-1749

M More Important News

TU Turn the Page

To start your content on a new page, copy the page break mark that you see just above this page. To do this, select the page break and then, on the Home tab, in the Clipboard group, click Copy.

Then, click where you want to start the new page, and then paste. (Note