

Dear Friends,

Firstly on behalf of Gayna and myself can I say a very sincere Thank You for the warmth of welcome we have been given. The Induction was a fabulous occasion made extra special by the reception that followed in the hall. Thank you to everyone who contributed in every way, and now just over two weeks later I am already feeling at home. This has been particularly helped by the wonderful support from Fr. Bob and Mavis and Ann the Churchwardens.

As we enter January we will find ourselves in the much overlooked season of Epiphany. Our Epiphany Eucharist on 6<sup>th</sup> January marks the beginning of this important season and I do hope as many as possible will gather to mark this feast and enjoy the party that follows!

We are reminded during the service that

*Three wonders mark this holy day: today a star led wise men to the crib; today wine was made from water at the wedding-feast: today Jesus came to John to be baptised in the River Jordan, so that he might save us. Alleluia!*

The word Epiphany means manifestation. To think of this only as a manifestation to wise men means we forget Christ's baptism and first miracle, which both mark the start of Jesus' earthly ministry. In the Eastern Church the feast of Epiphany is more important than Christmas Day!

The wise men remind us that Jesus came to save all nations and races and at the end of Epiphany we return to that theme when Simeon (on the feast of candlemass) says of Christ he is "a light to lighten the Gentiles".

On the first Sunday of Epiphany we celebrate the Baptism of Christ when Jesus, having submitted to the baptism of

John finds the beginning of his own ministry affirmed by the descent of the Spirit and a voice from heaven. It is a reminder in a very powerful way that our Baptism is an experience we share with Jesus.

The wedding in Cana of Galilee was the occasion of Jesus' first miracle – changing water into wine, and helps us to look forward to Christ's final sacrifice and the importance of the Eucharist for our own spiritual journey.

During Epiphany we also celebrate the Conversion of St Paul and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. No surprise then that two key themes of Epiphany are Mission and Unity. Epiphany ends with Candlemass (also known as the feast of Presentation of Christ in the Temple and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary). On the Sunday before 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb an array of candlelight will celebrate this day, and more candles as we hold a Taize style service in the evening.

It is a great joy and privilege for us to be able to celebrate such a rich and meaningful season as we commit ourselves afresh to making Christ manifest in the world through our own witness.

As we journey through the year together I look forward to meeting you individually, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel I can assist in any way.

With every blessing for 2011,

Your friend and priest

Fr Bob writes ... Last month we looked at Baptism – the first stage of Christian Initiation, this month let us explore the second stage, that of Confirmation.

*When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8: 14 – 17)*

It could be said that Confirmation is a kind of accident in the development of sacramental rituals. During the first four centuries there was no uniformity in the initiation ritual as a person was led from the waters of baptism to the table of Eucharist in the same night or early dawn. Generally, the newly baptised were welcomed from the waters by the bishop, who was the official representative and leader of the local community, and he, often with others would lay hands on them, or the bishop would extend his hands over them. If they had already been anointed, the bishop would often add still another anointing, called Christmation. The forehead was anointed with perfumed oil, usually in the form of a cross, followed by a ritual kiss of peace. Then the newly baptised were led to the Eucharistic table for the final stage of initiation into the church.

Eventually this second anointing was seen as distinct from the baptism ritual, becoming associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit, a reliving of the Pentecost experience originally associated with baptism itself. During the first generations of Christianity baptism had often been accompanied by signs of the Spirit's presence: speaking in tongues, prophesying, and healing. By the time the church had gained her religious freedom in the early fourth century, these gifts had all but disappeared.

When it became the usual practice in local churches to baptise infants as soon as possible after birth, the bishop could not always be present for the special anointing and welcoming ritual. In fact in barbarian lands of Europe there were no bishops at first, only missionary monks and priests who baptised adults and children. Where the Western church was well established, this special anointing was postponed until the bishop was able to visit the parish. This ritual of welcoming by the bishop was, consequently, no longer experienced as a natural progression in the initiation ritual from the waters of baptism to the table of Eucharist. In this separated condition, the anointing took on its own character. The laying on of hands was replaced by the bishop's special anointing of the forehead in the form of a cross, sealing the person's baptism. This anointing has been called 'Confirmation' since the mid 5<sup>th</sup> century.

Outside the city of Rome, this separate anointing by the bishop was slow to catch on in many areas. Often, the baptised either did not receive the second anointing or the ritual was done by the local priest. Finally, between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries the Roman tradition spread throughout Europe with the understanding that the purpose of Confirmation was to strengthen the faith of the baptised person. The bishop's caress of the cheek – a sign of welcome and peace – was replaced with a slap to symbolise the spiritual battles facing the believer.

Until the 13<sup>th</sup> century it was expected, and even mandated by local church authorities, that infants and children be confirmed early in life, usually before the age of two. Then the ideal age began creeping upward because children did not need to defend their faith, soon it was seven, then twelve, fourteen..... After the Council of Trent in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, young people between the ages of seven and twelve were to be confirmed.

Until modern times Confirmation still occurred before first Eucharist, which was normally received during the early teens. The original order of initiation sacraments was preserved. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, it became popular to receive communion at an earlier age, this was encouraged and pastoral practice saw Confirmation slipping out of the original sequence of initiation sacraments, coming sometime after the receiving of first Eucharist, when the bishop could visit the parish.

Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine affiliation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15);
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

Anyone wishing to explore Confirmation further please speak to either Fr. Roger or myself.

## St. Boniface

*A Happy New Year to you all*

Coffee Morning follows our 9.30am Mass on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Table Top Sale Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2 – 4 pm.

Prize Bingo this month will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm start.

Look out for posters advertising our future events.

*Fr Bob.*

## St Andrew's

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of January we will be holding an Epiphany Carol Service at 6.00pm. All parishioners are most welcome to join us for this service.

Thank you to all those who arranged our Christmas flowers in church.

We wish everybody a Happy New Year as we endeavour to help Fr Roger in his mission for Paignton Parish.

*Joyce Cappello*

## Friends of Paignton Parish Church

Thanks to all who attended the "40's night" back at the end of November and for the financial support this has given to the Friends. I am sure all who attended had a great evening.

The Friends was founded in 1993 under the guidance of Jim Morley. Since that date the Friends have made many additions to the Parish Church.

The Lectern stand and platform, the re-bushing of the bells, new bell ropes, the chairs in the Kirkham Chapel and the new altar frontal have all been paid for by the Friends. One of the most recent additions was the Font cover which was dedicated to the Friends founder.

As we start this New Year, can I ask you all to think about becoming a member of the Friends. Membership costs very little and commences in January - personal, joint, life and corporate memberships are available.

Anyone who has an active interest in maintaining one of Paignton's most architecturally significant and beautiful buildings should get involved. Please see me if you want any further information or leave a note for me in my pigeon hole and I will get in touch with you.

*Karen Morris*

## Send A Cow At Christmas

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported our Send A Cow annual appeal (see November magazine).

I will be sending the final donations off at the end of this month and any further contributions will be gratefully received.

*Sadie Yates*

## Parish Ladies' Group

Our 22<sup>nd</sup> November meeting did not go according to plan. Don't even ask! Instead of Mr Bodger from Paignton Hospital's League of Friends we were entertained by Michael Vyner whose talk, illustrated by slides, was entitled 'A Beginner's Guide to Dartmoor.' Wow! We thought we knew Dartmoor, but did we ever learn the inner secrets of the Moor. Thank you, Michael, for a fascinating evening. Please come again and tell us more.

This has been a busy time for us. On 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Coffee Morning we ran a gift stall which raised £320.40 in two hours. Thank you members of the congregation for your most generous gifts, as always, and for your support.

Many thanks also to our loyal and efficient and hard-working helpers on the stall. You are certainly appreciated.

In December we hosted an afternoon tea and entertainment in aid of Paignton Hospital's League of Friends, our chosen charity for this year. Mr Bodger from the League gave us an informative talk about the use of the funds raised.

The event was a great success with good attendance and also with generous donations from those who could not attend. The tea was sumptuous, and, ladies, you surpassed even yourselves. The entertainment by "Rich Tea" was a treat; professional and with a mixture of the serious and the humorous.

We were so pleased that both Fr Roger and Fr Bob were able to be with us on this occasion. Thank you. We enjoyed your company.

As a result of this afternoon we will be able to send a cheque for £300 to the hospital's League of Friends. Many congratulations. It was a magnificent effort.

Our schedule for January includes two events. On the 17<sup>th</sup> we will hold our monthly Snack & Chat Lunch. The venue is the Palace Hotel at 12.30pm. This is open to all lady parishioners. You do not have to be a member of the Ladies' Group to attend.

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January Susan Wills-Pope of Susan's Flowers, in Hyde Road, will give us a talk and demonstration on flower arranging. Please come. You will not be disappointed.

Please let us know in good time if you need transport to any of these events.

We hope you all enjoy a peaceful and healthy New Year. Thank you.

*Audrey Smith*

### Celebrations

Two of us attended the Deanery Christmas Eucharist with Carols at St Petroc's Church, South Brent. Afterwards we enjoyed a 'bring & share' lunch.

Four of us were guests at a Christmas Tea Party, with entertainment, at the invitation of St Marychurch Mothers' Union. It is good to enjoy fellowship of other members on these occasions.

Corporate Communion will be on Wednesday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 10.00am.

*Susan O'Brien*

<p style="text-align: center;">Parish of Paignton Sunday Lunch February 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 Riviera International Centre Torquay 12.30pm for 1.00pm - Finish 5.00pm Choice of menu:- 3 Starters; 3 Main Course &amp; 2 Sweets Tea &amp; coffee with Mints <i>Free Parking</i> <b>Live Music Draw Quizzes</b> £18.00 (only 50p increase on last year) Menus &amp; Tickets from Mavis</p>
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### Club 2000

Happy New Year everyone.

Friday January 7<sup>th</sup> Cash Bingo in the Hall 7.15 pm  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Restart of "Time Out" Coffee/Bargains Galore 9am - 12 noon. Can anyone help with any unwanted items please?

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January Coach trip to The Smugglers Inn (Dawlish) via Jack's Patch for Coffee. £7 each

A Date for your Diary –

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Coach trip to Snowdrop Valley (weather permitting) £10.50 each. Names needed as soon as possible. List will be in the Hall .

*Cynthia Borrill*

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

The Christingle service was, as usual, a lovely service, with input from the younger members of our church. The reading and prayers were read by them, and JC's Gangstars performed the "Twelve Days of Christmas", with an unusual twist at the end, when they presented a cheque for £300 (no, I have not mistakenly added an extra nought!) to the Children's Society. It was quite an emotional moment for all who were at the service, because the Children's Society DVD was evocative, being followed by our very own youngsters contributing such a magnificent sum. A very heart warming moment for all who were there.

The collection raised	£95.18
Donations towards the refreshments	£9.46
The candles returned at the service	£14.29
J.C. Gangsters	£300.00
<b>So altogether the afternoon raised</b>	<b>£418.93</b>

Sadly in this day and age, there are many children who need help and support for all sorts of reasons. As a Parish we have two other ways in which we can help to raise money for this deserving cause:-

1. **Christingle Candles.** These can be collected from the back of the church, and are a lovely way of making ourselves aware of the plights of some children, either by putting coins in for every time we realise how lucky we are by being warm, having a good meal, receiving a treat or present, or for our own children to put money in when they receive a hug or a loving gesture.

3. **Annual Collection Box.** With an annual collection box in your home, you put in money, large or small, as and when, and I collect the boxes once a year. We, as a Parish, contribute between £400-£500 annually. If anyone

is interested in obtaining a box please contact me on 550796 and I will be pleased to arrange it with them.

### **Annual Collection Box meal.**

For those of you who already have Annual boxes, I am planning once again to have a simple lunch at my house, to which you are all invited. We will enjoy the meal and a chat while Dave counts the money!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Nearer the time I will be getting in touch with you all personally. The date is Monday, 14th February. Thank you all for your magnificent support.

*Pat Kerswell.*

## Club 2000

Last month all of us ladies and a few men braved the cold and frosty morning and went off to Sidmouth. We called in at Otter Nurseries for coffee and a browse, always a pleasure, then on to Sidmouth.

The sun came out for us although it was chilly a lovely day was had by all. As the afternoon drew in the most beautiful sunset saw us home.

Thanks Cyn.

*Susie K*

## Bell Ringing – the ultimate team activity

For 2011 why not join a tradition dating back 400 years

Why learn to ring? - Here are possible reasons - a global group of friends, a lifelong learning experience, maintaining a traditional skill, a service to the church, a team activity, a great mental workout and an opportunity to visit amazing places.

Come and see - Listen for the bells at the church, usually on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings, then go along to see what bell ringing is all about. Several people are learning to ring at the moment and more people are needed if this ancient tradition is to continue.

Once you've got the bug, it's hard to give up.

Could I become a ringer? - Ringing is well within the capabilities of most people. The initial teaching takes several weeks, after which a learner can begin to ring with the rest of the band. Most ringers practise once or twice a week and usually ring before church on Sundays. Competitions are not mandatory but you will probably enjoy visiting other towers and talking to other ringers.

What's Bell Ringing all about? - Bell ringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit... it also makes a glorious sound! Many consider ringing to be their contribution to church life, others do it for the pure pleasure it brings. Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from ten to those in their eighties.

"When I'm ringing I forget all the tensions and frustrations of the day. Even better, you couldn't wish for a nicer group of friends!"

How to find out more - Visit the Parish Church when you hear the bells ringing on Tuesday nights or on Sundays and come up the tower. Look for posters in the church listing ringing activities. Visit [www.cccbr.org.uk](http://www.cccbr.org.uk). Phone the tower captain, John Kelly, 556208.

*Michael Webster*

## A Note of Thanks

Dear All,

This is to thank you for the card and kind enclosure of thanks given to me in the Hall after Father Roger's Induction - I shall miss my regular visit to one or other of the churches. Over the past few years as a congregation you have always given the impression of being appreciative, and seemed to find my quips funny which I found encouraging.

I hope that you will enjoy a new chapter in the life of the Parish with Fr Roger at the helm and Fr Bob, both guiding you through the coming years.

I hope you all had a very Blessed Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year.

*Your Friend Fr John.*

**Thank you** to everyone who brought such a wonderful selection of goodies for Fr Roger's Induction and also a very big thank you to all the helpers.

*Ray Sellers*



Funerals	30 <sup>th</sup> November	David Ayles
	10 <sup>th</sup> December	Carly Adkins
	15 <sup>th</sup> December	Eric Anderson

## DIARY FOR JANUARY

2	Sun	6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: Parish Church
5	Wed	10.00am	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion: Parish Church
			Lunch at St Andrew's following 11.00am Mass
6	Thu	7.30pm	Epiphany Eucharist Service: Parish Church followed by Parish party.
7	Fri	7.15pm	Club 2000 Cash bingo: Parish Hall
9	Sun	6.00pm	Epiphany Carol Service: St Andrew's
10	Mon	9-12noon	Time Out: Parish Hall
11	Tue		Coffee Morning following 9.30am Mass: St Boniface
		7.30pm	St Boniface Committee Meeting: St Boniface
12	Wed		Lunch at St Andrew's following 11.00am Mass
16	Sun	6.00pm	Wholeness & Healing: Parish Church
17	Mon	12.30pm	Parish Ladies' Group Snack & Chat Lunch: Palace Hotel
		2.30pm	Prayer Group: Parish Church Gallery
		7.30pm	St John's Committee Meeting: Parish Church
18	Tue	7.30pm	St Andrew's Committee Meeting: St Andrew's
19	Wed		Lunch at St Andrew's following 11.00am Mass
21	Fri		Club 2000: Coach trip to The Smugglers Inn, Dawlish
22	Sat	2-4pm	Table Top Sale: St Boniface
23	Sun	6.30pm	CTIP 5 <sup>th</sup> Service: Sacred Heart Church
24	Mon	7.30pm	Parish Ladies' Group Meeting: Parish Hall
26	Wed		Lunch at St Andrew's following 11.00am Mass
		7.30pm	Prize Bingo: St Boniface
30	Sun	6.00pm	Taize Service: St Boniface
31	Mon	9.00am	Time Out: Parish Hall

*Advance Notice – Parish Lunch Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup>  
Please see notice in magazine for details*

## INTERCESSIONS FOR JANUARY

1	Sat	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	God's blessing on the New Year
<b>2</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Christmas</b>	<b>Our Churchwardens</b>
3	Mon	Feria	Our Parochial Church Council
4	Tue	Feria	Our Church Committees
5	Wed	Feria	Our Sidesmen and women
<b>6</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for the Epiphany</b>
7	Fri	Feria	The Sick and Disabled
8	Sat	Feria	The Elderly and Infirm
<b>9</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>Commitment to our own baptism</b>
10	Mon	Feria	The People of S. John's
11	Tue	Feria	The People of S. Andrew's
12	Wed	<b>Feria</b>	The People of S. Boniface
13	Thu	S. Hilary	All Teachers of the Faith
14	Fri	Feria	The Ministry of Women
15	Sat	Of Our Lady	Thanksgiving for our Lady
<b>16</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	<b>Route 11</b>
17	Mon	S. Anthony	All Religious
18	Tue	Feria	Christian Unity
19	Wed	Feria	Anglican-Roman Catholic relations
20	Thu	Feria	The Reformed Churches
21	Fri	S. Agnes	The Church in Europe
22	Sat	S. Vincent	The Orthodox Churches
<b>23</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Epiphany 3</b>	<b>Christians together in Paignton</b>
24	Mon	S. Francis de Sales	Salvation Army
25	Tue	Conversion of S. Paul	The Parish of S. Paul's Preston
26	Wed	Ss Timothy and Titus	Missionary bishops
27	Thu	Feria	The Faithful Departed
28	Fri	S. Thomas Aquinas	University Students
29	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
<b>30</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Candlemass - Presentation of The Lord in the Temple</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for the Presentation</b>
31	Mon	S. John Bosco	Parish Clergy