

FR TUBBS WRITES



You will know by now – after ten years! – that Advent is my favourite season of the Church’s year, and that I deeply regret that it is so often completely overshadowed by the premature keeping of Christmass. Even church organisations, who ought to know better, seems to assume that Christmass begins on December 1 instead of December 25.

So what is Advent for? The word appears in ‘adventure’, which is something exciting coming into our lives. Advent is from the Latin meaning to come, and what is to come, as far as Advent is concerned, is not Christmass but judgement! Death, judgement, heaven and hell are the traditional ‘four last things’ which the Church brings before us during Advent – perhaps that’s why we celebrate Christmass so early, because we don’t like the thought of spending time meditating on those ‘morbid’ subjects!

Yet Advent is exciting because it is clear-sighted! It rips away the sentimental, cloying mawkishness of the over-eating, over-drinking, over-spending ‘Xmas’ of the world, and reminds us that there is waiting for us something much more exciting than Christmass, which Christmass existed to bring us! Look at the wonderful Advent hymns:

*Hark, a herald voice is calling
Lo, he comes with clouds descending
The Lord will come and not be slow
O come, O come Emmanuel
Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes*

And the readings are equally exciting!

*Then they will see the Son of Man
coming in a cloud*



*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight
The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything*

So just as the world goes mad in an orgy of spending, decorating, wrapping, sending, the Church goes into purple, dispenses with flowers, doesn’t sing the Gloria – all to remind us of the seriousness of the vocation to which we are called. And just as Nero was supposed to have fiddled while Rome burnt, so many of us settle down to enjoying ourselves while the Church reminds us of our eternal destiny.



Perhaps it’s the wrong time to keep Advent. Perhaps as a season it should be moved away from Christmass. Perhaps we should keep it in September, before the annual shopathon begins. Because it is important that Christians should celebrate Christmass! It was the beginning of our salvation! It was the birthday of the Prince of Peace, God made man. Its technical title is the Incarnation of Our Lord (see the intercession list at the back of the magazine; thanksgiving for the incarnation is the intention for each day during the Christmass Octave).

So Christians need to be out there celebrating, sharing a meal, having a drink, being sociable, trying to spread peace on earth and good will towards men – and women! When Christmass comes Christians need to celebrate it with gusto! And not just for forty-eight hours, but for twelve days!

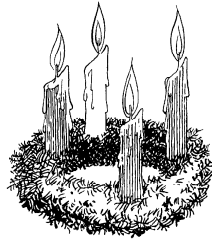
So during December we need to have a foot in two camps. On the one hand we need to listen to the Advent message; to hear the word about judgement, and death, and heaven and hell; to be reminded as the season progresses that there is something after Christmass and something after next Christmass and that is eternal life, salvation, heaven – assuming we have put our faith in him who was born to die.



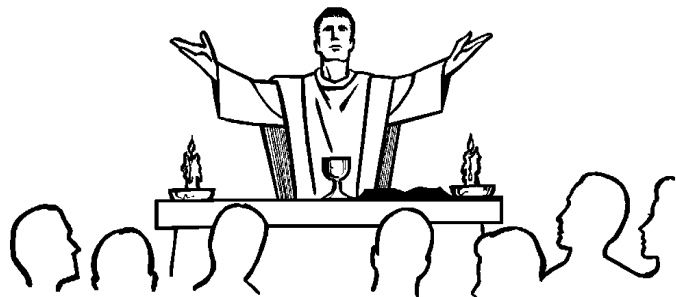
On the other hand we need to be seen to celebrate, to be enjoying ourselves as the birthday of Our Lord approaches. There may well be an opportunity as we do this to invite someone to come to church with us at some stage during Advent and/or at Christmass – it really is the time of the year when many people who would never dream of going to church normally are actually in the mood to say yes to an invitation. Carols by Candlelight, other carol services (and you are spoilt for choice in this parish!), a Christingle service, the Crib Service, Midnight Mass, Family Communion on Christmass morning – what an opportunity!

So please enjoy Advent and Christmass, and see whether you can persuade one person to come with you!

Yours sincerely,



WHAT TIME IS THE MIDNIGHT MASS?



Until I came to Paignton, I was used to the Midnight Mass being at midnight – which somehow seems logical! After all, the 9.30am service begins at 9.30am!



I don't know when it was decided that the Midnight Mass in Paignton should be at 11.30pm; I'm sure there was a very good reason for moving it. But perhaps you don't realise the complications that it brings! The Midnight Mass is the first Mass of Christmass Day. It has nothing to do with Christmass Eve. So in my first year the parish Christmass card said:

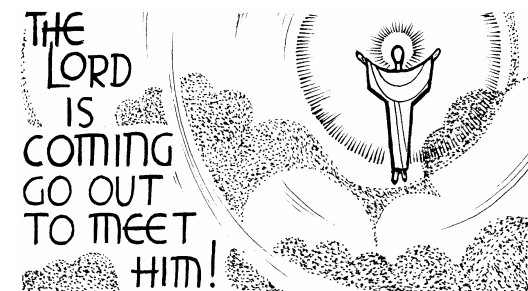
Christmass Day

- Midnight Mass* 11.30pm
- Holy Communion* 9.00am
- Family Communion* 10.00am

And we received so many queries! Did it mean that there was an 11.30pm service late in the evening on Christmass Day? – as though I had put that time *after* the other two morning services! Wasn't there a Midnight Mass on Christmass Eve? Well, actually no, the 11.30pm Mass on Christmass Eve was the Midnight Mass of Christmass Day!

Perhaps one day we shall be logical and have the Mid night Mass at midnight. Until then, please understand, and help others to understand, that the Midnight Mass of Christmass Day actually begins half an hour early at 11.30pm (At S Boniface, for good reasons, it is even earlier at 10.30pm, but it is still the first Mass of Christmass Day, not the last Mass of Christmass Eve!)

BRT



MUSIC IN DECEMBER



In addition to the various carol services and carol concerts which you will see listed in the Calendar for December, there are two other musical offerings.

On Saturday 2 December the Britannia Choral Society will be performing John Rutter's Magnificat and other seasonal works. Admission by ticket on the door £6

On Thursday 7 December Gareth Perkins will be giving an Organ Concert in the Parish Church beginning at 7.30pm. It will include Bach's famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor, and works by Handel, Howells and Franck. Admission by ticket on the door £4.

The proceeds from these two events will go to the Parish Church funds.

BRT

MOTHERS' UNION

We have received an invitation to the MU carol service and tea at Stoke Gabriel Church on Thursday, 7 December at 2.30pm.

Your prayers are asked for three of our members who are ill at the present time.

Corporate Communion:
Wednesday 6 December.

Susan O'Brien



WHAT SENIOR CITIZENS ARE WORTH

Did you know that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs.

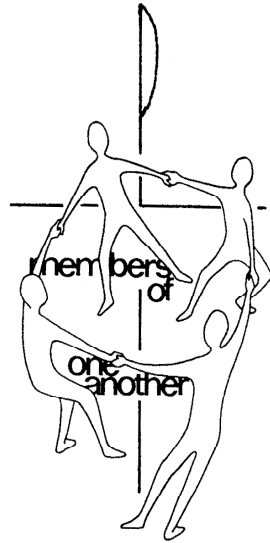
I have become older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman. I am seeing at least six gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it's time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg, followed closely by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley, or my other friend who I only know by his initials - PG. Then comes someone I don't like at all - Arthur It is - he knows he's not welcome, but he insists on being here, and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. Even then he doesn't like to stay in one place and takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I am glad to get to bed (and with Johnny Walker too!).

What a hectic life. Oh yes, I am now flirting with Al Zheimer. The Vicar came to call the other day, and said at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did all the time. For no matter where I am, the bedroom, the kitchen, the sitting-room or the garden, I ask myself, "Now what am I here after?"

Well I close now and hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend Emma Royd doesn't creep up on you from behind. And watch out for the crafty one - Jerry Atric.



WIVES' GROUP



I am writing this article four days before the Bonanza and we have already been hard at work. Everything is priced, and sorted; our helpers have been recruited, including the men who will remove the goodies from my home to St Andrew's Hall. In addition Judy Giles has been busy completing her beautiful packaging of our cosmetics.

So what more can I say, except eventually to tell you the financial results of our efforts.

Thank you everybody, pricers, sorters, sellers, carriers, packagers and especially those who brought such beautiful goods for us to sell. Your generosity has been overwhelming.

At our October meeting Richard Lumsden (yes, he was the headmaster of Curledge Street School) gave us a talk, with music, on the music of the 1950's. We really did enjoy ourselves, Richard. Our feet were tapping, we swayed and we sang, especially, I noticed, to "Cigarettes and Whisky and Wild, Wild Women". It was fun. Please come again. We also finished with birthday cakes for Mavis Hawkins and Valerie Stephens.

I hope that when you read this you will have bought your tickets for our Christmass event of wine, mince pies, and entertainment by the Riviera Singers. This is on Monday, 11 December and is in aid of Mayfield School, where several members of our congregation work. Please support us by buying a ticket or making a donation even if you are unable to attend.

May I wish you all a blessed and glorious Christmass, and thank you most sincerely for supporting the Wives' Group this year.

Audrey Smith

THE ARTHUR DAY COLUMN

We tend to think that the part of Paignton around the Parish Church and the Coverdale Tower is the oldest part of the town. But there is a sense in which all parts of Paignton are old. You may be living in a house built only last year. But as you sit in your lounge reading this you are possibly doing so on the site of, say, a field where once a yeoman or tenant farmer toiled long hours looking after plants or animals.

A very modern-looking road may perpetuate the name of a field whose site it occupies. Our Parish Churchwardens' Accounts which cover the years 1699-1874 reveal several of such instances. On modern Ordnance Survey maps fields are identified by numbers, but formerly they were often referred to by the names of the owners or occupiers. We sometimes tend to do this in casual conversation; my late mother all her life referred to the section of Totnes Road outside the "Silver Lawn" nursing home (junction of Totnes Road and Midvale Road) as "down by Dr Adamses". Many of you reading this will certainly remember him.

Thus in 1699 the then occupants paid rates on "Great Parks" and "Langs", both of which names almost certainly survive in modern roads. In 1713 rates were paid on "Curlidge", in 1734 on "Crabspark", in 1736 on "Sparks Barn", in 1742 on "Waterside", in 1747 on "Newpark". About the same time we meet "Blatchcombe", "Luscombe", "Redwell", "Langridge" and "Coombe". Property occupied in 1772 by William Stafford became "Staffords" by the end of the century. Here again, the roads bearing these names almost certainly occupy the sites of these fields.

Regarding "Sparks Barn", when I mentioned it in an article I wrote about fifty years ago in the now-defunct "Paignton Observer" I added a question: "Was there ever a barn there?" About a fortnight later a letter appeared in that paper signed "A.M.D." stating that:

".....my mother, Mrs L C Foster, can answer your query as to the exact location of Sparks Barn.

Where York Road is now was Sparks Barn Lane, and the actual barn was through a gate into a field at the top.

Her father, Thomas Mitchell, used to fetch pigs daily for a Mrs Watts, who kept the Oldenburg Hotel”.

A very interesting document, compiled in the 1840’s in connection with Tithe Commutation (the substitution of monetary payments for payments in kind) mentions fields names Broadlands, Derrel, Footlands and Elsdale, obviously now represented by the roads of those names.

Arthur Day

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Susan O’Brien

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2007

As is usual at this time of the year you are invited to take out a parish magazine subscription for the next twelve months. One payment will then ensure that the magazine is then reserved for you each month.

To take advantage of this offer, place £4 (no price increase!) in the envelope enclosed in this magazine, write your name on the envelope (very important!) and return it to Ray Yates, either direct or via a Churchwarden.

If you do not yet belong to the scheme you are very welcome to start now.

Ray Yates



CHRISTMASS BONANZA RAFFLE

I am writing this four days before the Bonanza takes place but already I have received over £1000, yes one thousand pounds, from the sale of raffle tickets. This is a wonderful effort at a time when requests for money seem never-ending, so thank you so very much to all who badgered their friends and neighbours into buying or who bought tickets themselves as a donation towards the Bonanza.

I don’t know yet who will win the £500, I wish you all could, but if it is not you then remember that your contribution has gone to what we all consider a very worthy cause. Thank you again.

Ray Yates

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

The Christingle Service is on Sunday 10 December at 3pm. Would you be good enough to let all your friends and family know of this service. We would love to have even more people join us for what is a very relaxed and child-orientated service, which is complemented with tea and cakes in the hall.

It is 125 years since Archbishop Tate, then Archbishop of Canterbury, adopted Edward Rudolf’s vision to strive for a world that safeguards and welcomes children. This was how the Church of England’s Children’s Society was first formed. The Society does a huge amount of work, offering safe houses, getting children off the streets, and helping many children marginalized from society for various reasons.

There are two easy ways of helping the Children’s Society. Either by encouraging friends and family to contribute – when they feel lucky or happy - to a Christingle candle which can be picked up at the back of the church, and returning the candle as and when they wish. Or with an annual collection box in their home. If anyone is interested in the latter please contact me on 550796 and I will arrange it with them.



Pat Kerswell

CLUB 2000 UPDATE

During the last 10 months the Monday "Time Out" coffee mornings have raised £3,266.70 – this included profits from coach trips and bingo nights.

Additional income of £85 from books. Also during this period we gave Shelter Box £103.80 for the Pakistan disaster.

The 5 year figure is £35,266. The New Hall fund stands at £77,266. We would like to thank everyone who is helping with this project.

Buckfast Abbey Coaches for 16 December are full, but I have a reserved list as cancellations always occur. Please contact me on 526463.

Have a lovely Christmass and a healthy New Year.

Cynthia Borrill

PS £1,200 has been raised by Bernie Haggett from your newspapers.

For one month only ie January 2007 if you would like to book the hall Carol Haggett will be taking hall bookings instead of Wally Leigh.

THANKS –

Thank you so much to the people of St Andrew's and others for your gifts and good wishes given to us at the end of Mass on 12 November.

Fr Paul and Caroline



THE PATIENT'S INCOMPLETE GUIDE TO MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

a	Attack:	Sharp object to hang a poster;
b	Benign:	What you are after you are eight;
c	Colitis:	Wheelchair Aashus (Latin);
d	Denial:	Cleopatra's local river;
	Dilate:	To live long;
e	Elixir:	What your dog does to your sister;
f	Fibula:	A really small lie;
	Follow-up visit:	Something to ensure that your doctor can make the payments on his Jaguar;
g	Growth:	Really dithguthing;
h	Head lice:	Required for driving at night;
	Haemorrhoid:	What you offer an Australian hitchhiker;
i	Impotent:	Distinguished, significant;
j	Joint:	Place where doctors and nurses go for a beer after a hard day;
k	Kidney:	Located between the kidthigh and the kidshin;
l	Liver:	One who survives an illness or operation;
m	Megahertz:	Like totally painful;
n	Nitrate:	Room cost between 6pm and 6am;
o	Outpatient:	What the hospital administrator says as you're kicked out the door;
p	Post surgery discomfort:	The part of your health care which isn't covered by your insurance;
q	Quarantined:	The sign put on your house if you want to be left alone whilst you recuperate;
r	Rectum:	What you might have done to your sheets if you couldn't get to the bathroom in time;
s	Shock:	Large fish found along the surfing coast;
t	Thyroid:	An itching, burning or swelling that occurs on you upper leg;
u	Urinate:	What the music says to indicate that you should occupy the room between 7 and 9;
v	Varicose:	Nearby;
w	Womb:	A really nice place to be when you're feeling wotten;
x	X-ray:	Possibly the only chance to be seen on film;
y	Yucky:	The technical medical term for a microbiotic gastrointestinal dysfunction;
z	ZZZZZZZZZS:	What you should get plenty of so you can get better.

Submitted by Sheila Richards

PARI SH REGI STERS

Baptisms: 26.11.06 Benjamin Edward Corderoy
Joshua Robert Corderoy
Callum Joshua Greenwood
Callia Jane Metcalfe

Funerals: 1.11.06 Stella Rothwell
69 1.11.06
William Humphrey Saunders 93
3.11.06 Beryl Mildred Medland 94
8.10.06 Peter Albert Wooster 83
10.11.06 Michael Frederick Drake 71
14.11.06 David Ambrose Lambert 80
17.11.06 Emma May Little 91
21.11.06 Nigel Harry Choak 49
27.11.06 Cecil Marie Bishop 88

We have had a very sad time during November in losing a number of faithful members of our congregation.

Fr Ron Baker was known and loved in all three of our churches, in the parishes in which he had served, and in many other parishes where he had been only too willing to help out. We were pleased that he made the parish of Paignton his spiritual home, and that when asked to help out elsewhere he always made sure that Paignton didn't need him before he said yes. We were sad when Marjorie died earlier in the year, and as Fr Ron's health deteriorated we were concerned about him. His death was a relief for him, though sad for us.

Mary Dennis had been a faithful member of our 8.00am congregation with her husband Norman

throughout the time that I have been your vicar. She suffered a great deal, but never complained, and recently she had been coming on Friday morning. Her death was comparatively sudden, and we shall miss her smiling face.

Cecil Bishop had been a missionary in Jamaica and the Gambia, and in retirement made her home in Paignton and her spiritual home at S Andrew's, where she took place on the preaching and intercession rota, and also took communion to a number of individuals and homes. It was sad to see her go downhill in health, and again those who knew her felt that her death was a relief. Like Fr Ron she had no fear of death, and only looked forward to life everlasting with the Lord they had served so well in this life.

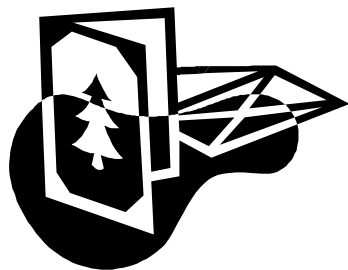
We pray for their souls and offer our sympathy to their families.

BRT

CHRISTMASS CARD DELIVERY


It is our custom to deliver a Christmass card to every house in the parish - about 9000! This can only be done if everyone takes part! You may only take one street or you may take a dozen - but please help us by taking some cards and delivering them as soon as possible..





DIARY FOR DECEMBER

1	Fri	7.00pm	Prayers around the Cross
2	Sat	7.30pm	Britannia Choral Society: Parish Church
3	Sun	3.00pm 6.00pm	CTIP Advent Carol Service: Salvation Army Evensong & Benediction: Parish Church
6	Wed	2.00pm 2.15pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	S Andrew's Committee Parish Church Hall Committee Holy Communion: Parish Church Parish Church Committee
7	Thu	7.30pm	Organ Concert: Parish Church
8	Fri	7.30pm	Evening Mothers' Union meal
10	Sun	3.00pm 6.00pm	Christingle Service: Parish Church Evening Prayer: S Boniface
11	Mon	9.30am	Foxhole Infant School Service: S Boniface
12	Tue	6.30pm	Young People's House Group
13	Wed	7.00pm	Rotary Carol Concert: Parish Church
14	Thu	9.00am 10.00am	Magazine material to Vicarage please Hayes School Service: Parish Church
17	Sun	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight: Parish Church
18	Mon	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight: S Boniface
19	Tue	7.00pm	Scout Carol Service
21	Thu	7.30pm	Wedding rehearsal: Parish Church
23	Sat	1.00pm	Wedding of Mark & Lorna
24	Sun	5.00pm	Christingle Service: S Boniface No other evening service
25	Mon	10.30pm	Midnight Mass: S Boniface

		11.30pm 11.30pm 10.00am	Midnight Mass: S Andrew's Midnight Mass: Parish Church Family Communion: all three churches	
26	Tue	9.30am	Mass: S Boniface. No other Masses	
27	Wed	11.00am	Mass: S Andrew's. No other Masses	
28	Thu	5.30pm	Mass: Parish Church	
29	Fri	10.00am	Mass: Parish Church	
30	Sat	9.00am	Mass: Parish Church	



31	Sun	6.00pm	Carol Service: S Andrew's
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INTERCESSIONS FOR DECEMBER

1	Fri	Feria	Our Parish
2	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
3	Sun	ADVENT 1	Our keeping of Advent
4	Mon	Feria	The Society of S Boniface
5	Tue	Feria	Those asking for baptism
6	Wed	S Nicholas B	The Children's Society
7	Thu	S Ambrose B	Our Church's music
8	Fri	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Thanksgiving for Our Lady
9	Sat	Feria	The Peace of the World
10	Sun	ADVENT 2	Our Christingle Service
11	Mon	Feria	Foxhole Infant School
12	Tue	Feria	Our Young People's House Group
13	Wed	S Lucy M	The Blind
14	Thu	S John of the Cross	Deepening of our spiritual life
15	Fri	Ember Day	Vocations to the Priesthood
16	Sat	Ember Day	Theological Colleges
17	Sun	ADVENT 3	Parish Church Carol Service
18	Mon	O Adonai	S Boniface's Carol Service

19	Tue	O Radix	The Scout Carol Service
20	Wed	O Clavis	Our Schools
21	Thu	O Oriens	Paignton Hospital
22	Fri	O Rex	The Bereaved
23	Sat	O Emmanuel	Lorna and Mark to be married
24	Sun	Christmass Eve	Our keeping of Christmass
25	Mon	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
26	Tue	S Stephen Dn M	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
27	Wed	S John Ev	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
28	Thu	Holy Innocents	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
29	Fri	S Thomas Becket BM	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
30	Sat	In the Octave	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
31	Sun	THE HOLY FAMILY	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation

