

together



THE CATHOLIC VOICE IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

ADVENT 2014



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The Invitation to Flourish

About 1,500 laypeople, 80 concelebrating priests and three Bishops of the Society gathered on Saturday 11th October in York Minster for the Bishop of Beverley's Northern Provincial Festival. The congregation was drawn from all over the North of England and beyond, to be renewed in the faith and encouraged to continue God's mission in the world today.

Bishop Glyn took as his theme the witness of three northern saints, Paulinus, James the Deacon and Wilfrid. He encouraged the worshippers to be like St Paulinus in his missionary zeal of converting people to Christ, to remain constant and steadfast in the

faith like St James the Deacon, and to follow St Wilfrid's example of conscious commitment to the life of the whole Church and not just one part of it.

The congregation was led in joyful celebration by a choir gathered from all corners of the Northern Province, including many of Bishop Glyn's parishes. Noting that the time is near when the General Synod will allow women to be appointed to episcopal posts in the Church of England, Bishop Glyn expressed gratitude to all those who have served the traditionalist constituency so well throughout the synodical process, and secured the provision that will enable us to remain and flourish within the life of the Church of England. In particular, Bishop Glyn paid tribute to Bishop Martyn Jarrett, his predecessor as Bishop of Beverly, who had sacrificially and faithfully represented our position.

Bishop Glyn urged the congregation to rise to the challenge that Bishop Tony Robinson, the Chairman of the Council of Bishops of the Society, had made the



previous year to make the legislation work. Bishop Glyn said, 'I urge all of us who are not in favour of the Synodical development to take the invitation to flourish'.

Bishop Glyn was very grateful for the gracious and warm hospitality provided by the Dean and Chapter of York Minster which enabled the event to run so smoothly.



here i am

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Mutual Flourishing

A practical introduction to what happens next under the women bishops legislation by Lindsay Newcombe.

The episcopate in the Church of England will soon be open to women. The package that allows this development also includes a way for the Church of England to remain together despite the differences of belief that are held about the General Synod's decision.

This crucial change to the law of the Church of England is contained in a Measure (which is the Synod's equivalent of an Act of Parliament) and alterations to the Canons (our rule-book). A new Canon includes a reference to a Declaration written by the House of Bishops, which is made up of all the Diocesan bishops plus a few elected assistant bishops from around the country.

The House of Bishops' Declaration describes a way for parishes to resolve to have priests and bishops whose sacramental ministry is assured for those who cannot receive the ministry of a female bishop based on their theological conviction. The way in which this works will be monitored by an Independent Reviewer. A parish that makes this resolution will remain an active part of the diocese and deanery, and will be free to flourish and grow because of the confidence they have in the ordination of their clergy.

So, what do we do now?

- This is a time of transition. If your parish has any of the resolutions in place under the previous system (Resolutions A and B under the 1993 Measure and 'Resolution C', the petition under the Act of Synod for pastoral care from an alternative bishop, usually one of the 'Flying Bishops'), these will be treated as if they were resolutions under the House of Bishops' Declaration for two years. To maintain continuity, a new resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration will need to be passed within this period, so parishes should aim to do that during 2015.
- If you have a responsibility in your parish (for example if you are a PCC secretary) then the first action to take will be to read the advice from Forward in Faith which will be published when the legislation has come into force, and get in touch with the Society Bishop's Representative in your Diocese. The Bishop's Representatives will have training in January. Find out who yours is at www.sswsh.com.
- Make sure that people understand the theological reasons why we are unable to receive the ministry of women – as bishops and priests, and the importance of passing the resolutions for the sake of the unity of the parish.

- Get to understand how the Society will help shape the future by looking at the website, asking questions, and keeping up to date with the news in Together. The purposes of the Society are: 'to promote and maintain catholic teaching and practice within the Church of England, to provide episcopal oversight to which churches, institutions and individuals will freely submit themselves, and to guarantee a ministry in the historic apostolic succession in which they can have confidence'.
- Consider joining Forward in Faith (go to www.forwardinfaith.com). This is both positive and important because Forward in Faith finances the Society, and is the practical and administrative structure which helps the Society Bishops to care for their people. Membership subscriptions allow this work to be done.
- Prayer, mission, evangelism, and caring for each other are as important as ever. In the House of Bishops' Declaration we are invited to flourish, and we can only do that if we are joyful in faith and actively work to grow the Church in faith and number.

The House of Bishops have agreed Five Guiding Principles to be read with all the legislation on women bishops. What follows is a summary of those

Principles, which give us a guarantee that the Catholic theological understanding of ministry will continue to be given an honoured place in the Church of England.

1. Women as well as men can be bishops in the Church of England, and are to be respected, and
2. Everyone needs to acknowledge that this is the decision that has been made by the Church of England, but
3. This is a decision made without the agreement of the whole of the Church worldwide, so it is part of a wider process of discernment throughout the whole Church.
4. Disagreeing with the decision remains a legitimate Anglican position, and the Church of England is committed to allowing those who disagree to flourish within its life and structures, and
5. Pastoral and sacramental provision will be made for them, without a time limit, in a way that maintains as much communion as is possible, and contributes to mutual flourishing.

Measure

“It shall be lawful for... women as well as men, to be consecrated to the office of bishop”

Changes to the Canons

“The House of Bishops shall... make...a procedure for resolutions of disputes arising from the House of Bishops' declaration”

Independent Reviewer

A PCC will be able to bring a grievance against any archbishop, bishop, dean, archdeacon, rural dean or priest regarding the working of the Declaration.

Grievances will be settled within 2 months and the Reviewer will make an annual report.

Individuals can also bring concerns to the Reviewer.

House of Bishops' Declaration

Explains how the House of Bishops “have a duty to ensure that the welfare of the whole Church of England is sustained in all its theological depth and breadth”

Five Guiding Principles explain how they wish to proceed with introducing female bishops, and at the same time recognise that the whole church is not in agreement and so allow those unable to receive their ministry to flourish in the Church of England.

More secure than the previous Act of Synod because it requires a greater majority at General Synod to change it.

Parish resolutions

A PCC can resolve to have the pastoral and sacramental ministry of priests and bishops whose ministry is consistent with their specified theological convictions.

The Society

The Society (under the Patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda) is not a membership organization but an ecclesial body led by a council of bishops including the Flying Bishops and any other Church of England bishops who agree with the objects of the Society.

The Society gives confidence for the future because we can rely on the sacramental ministry of Society priests and bishops.

Bishop's Representatives are the Society Bishop's officers in each diocese. A first point of contact for anyone (individual or parish) who wants to look to the Society for pastoral care.

Forward In Faith

Supports and finances the Society through membership subscription.

The Director of Forward in Faith administers the Society

Provides advice to individuals and parishes.

Works with the Catholic Group in General Synod.

Will monitor the implementation of the House of Bishops' Declaration, and will send regular reports to the Independent Reviewer.

Farewell to Edmonton

Together celebrates the ministry of the retiring Bishop of Edmonton

Bishop Peter Wheatley has been a priest of the Diocese of London since before the 'episcopal areas' existed. He was ordained in 1973, and served his title in Fulham, then went to be Vicar of Holy Cross Cromer Street, near King's Cross, in what was about to become the Edmonton Area, covering the Archdeaconry of Hampstead. The jobs might just as easily be titled Bishop of Tottenham and Archdeacon of Camden, for the area is one of extraordinary diversity. It stretches from New Oxford Street and High Holborn in the south to the M25 in the north, and from the Edgware Road on the west side to the River Lea (the old Middlesex/Essex border) on the east. About a million people live in it, in some of the richest and poorest communities in the UK. There are 111 stipendiary clergy, more than in a number of the smaller dioceses.

Bishop Peter has been Bishop of Edmonton since 1999. I ask him about highs and lows. 'I have a lot of Easter Days and some Good Fridays', he says. 'Confirmations are magical occasions. There are between 60 and 70 services a year, about 400 candidates, with adults now outnumbering young people.' Low points? 'The 2011 Tottenham riots were a challenging occasion. Local clergy of all denominations looked to the Bishop to give advice and a lead. So we organised a march for peace. St Mary's Tottenham stayed open for three weeks serving refreshments and acting as a place of support for the dispossessed and the emergency services.'

Bishop Peter was a parish priest for longer than he has been a bishop, moving from Cromer Street to two parishes straddling the border between Hampstead and Kilburn. What has changed over the years? 'When I was ordained, an important ministry of outreach was through baptisms, marriages and funerals. Today in London this outreach is through other means, such as community

projects. There's a real connection between social action and being drawn into discipleship. Forty years ago it was easy to call on people and find them at home. Now it is more difficult with entry phones on housing estates and gated communities, and work patterns are no longer just 9 to 5. There are 48 church primary schools in the Area and this gives the Church a great entrée into family life if we are ready to take it.'

I ask whether episcopal ministry has kept pace with the changes. '20 years ago Bishop David Hope introduced Agenda for Action with mission action planning at the heart of parish life. Under the present Bishop of London we have continued to have five or seven year diocesan strategies. The latest, Capital Vision 2020, is more 'bottom up' than 'top down'. It is much more a gathering together of the priorities that parishes signalled - but the initiative itself comes from the bishops.

'The culture of the Diocese of London aims to be one for growth, and we are growing in numbers. The Bishops try to give space and permission for experiment. In the Edmonton Area we have many new developments, the most obvious being at Kings Cross. In Tottenham Hale we are building a new church

and community centre. It's our first completely new church for 40 years, but it takes a lot of diocesan effort and resources to achieve this. The 2006 report 'Faithful Cities' talked about 'faithful capital', a reserve of moral sense and commitment which is constantly being built up in neighbourliness and service. Churches – as we know – do community.'

London is a patchwork of different boroughs, each a unitary authority in its own right. Bishop Peter's area ranges across five of them. Is that difficult to manage? 'Doors open for a bishop. The Bishop has easy access to hospitals, schools, local government and can pave the way for others to be involved. It is important for him to be out and about in the community and not get too caught up in the office answering e-mails.' Bishop Peter notes that after the financial crisis and cuts to budgets, the boroughs have been more open to partnership. 'In St John's, Upper Edmonton, the parish priest worked with the borough to reopen the church building after eight years of closure so that it could be a community resource. Having seen that, Enfield then asked us to help with community development in five deprived areas. In fact we did not immediately have the capacity to be able to respond fully, but we are rising to the challenge.'

So how does it feel, being about to retire after such a long ministry? 'I have mixed emotions about retirement, because I so enjoy what I do most of the time, but the pace can feel relentless. I hope to read more, tend the garden in St Leonards on Sea and repair my friendships.'



Inevitably, I finish by asking him about funny incidents and compliments paid as he retires. 'Funny things happen all the time. A headmistress asked a class why the Bishop wears purple. The response was 'My dad supports Arsenal too.' A visitor in hospital caught me the other day to ask if I knew that Bishop Peter was retiring! As for compliments, "Beware when all speak well of you" said the Lord. Someone said the other day that I am not political. I take that as a compliment. I am political, but I try not to show it. When I was appointed Archdeacon, my predecessor, Bishop Brian Masters, made a beautifully double-edged comment as I left the room: 'Do remember you are not a natural choice.'

But for clergy in the Edmonton Area, Bishop Peter has been very much the natural choice, and we wish him well, and assure him of our prayers as we look forward to his continuing ministry in a well-earned retirement.

You can read more about St Mary's Tottenham in the 'Parish Profile' feature on the back page.



The Church Observer

Fr Christopher Smith ponders the future of the Church Union.

At the recent Church Union Annual General Meeting, we began to open up a discussion about the future of the Union, and ask how, informed by our past and remaining true to our foundational aims, we might best equip the organisation to go forward into the future.

In 2005, Bishop Eric Kemp wrote a slightly misnamed memoir called ‘Shy But Not Retiring’. It wasn’t really true, as he had in fact retired in 2001 at the age of 86, but he had taken full advantage of the fact that he was the incumbent of his office before the Church of England changed its rules to require parish clergy and bishops to retire on or before their seventieth birthday. He was much loved in the Catholic movement, and had been President of the Church Union for twenty-seven years, from 1977 to 2004. When they wrote a history of the Church Union in 2009, Frs William Davage and Philip Corbett had this to say:

“Dr Kemp had joined the Union shortly after its amalgamation with the Anglo-Catholic Congress Movement. He had early been convinced of the need for a political wing for the Catholic Movement, although he was clear that the Union’s work also encompassed teaching, publication and conferences.”

And yet, when it came to the crunch in 1992, the Church Union found itself rather like a rabbit in the headlights. Other organisations

sprang up to try to meet the challenges raised by the decision of the General Synod to ordain women to the priesthood, and in due course, Forward in Faith came into being. It quickly worked on the proposals to allow Anglo-Catholic parishes to opt for the ministry of the ‘Flying Bishops’, and it became clear that it

He was much loved in the Catholic movement, and had been President of the Church Union for twenty-seven years, from 1977 to 2004.

would be Forward in Faith, not the Church Union, that would do the political work. The Church Union had missed its chance.

The Union is in no position to take that role back, and the time has come for us to work out what our place really is in the future of the Movement. The Council feels it is right for us to concentrate on publishing and catechetical materials, and the publication of this newspaper is where we are currently putting the bulk of our resources.

It may be too that the time is coming back when we might recover the charism of the Anglo-Catholic Congress Movement that was merged into the English Church Union after the

war. Perhaps the time is right to be thinking about another Congress, albeit on a rather smaller scale than those great Congresses between the wars when we filled the Albert Hall and aimed ‘to increase knowledge, to strengthen faith, to preserve hope and to deepen love’. But what is clear is that we cannot afford to be trapped in the headlights: we need to be generating ideas and having the courage to follow at least some of them through!

Defend and Maintain: a history of the Church Union 1859-2009, by William Davage and Philip Corbett, is published by Tufton Books and is available from the Additional Curates Society.



Priests of The Society

Colin Podmore encourages priests to sign up and make the Society Declaration.

Catholics believe that both women and men are called to different ministries in the Church. But for theological reasons, we are unable to receive the sacramental ministry of women as priests (presiding at the Eucharist) or bishops (ordaining priests to preside at the Eucharist).

So when the Church of England has women bishops, how can we know that a priest has been ordained by a bishop whose sacramental ministry of ordination we do recognise? How can we be confident that when he celebrates the Eucharist, we really do receive the sacrament of Our Lord’s Body and Blood?

The need to offer an easy answer to that question of ‘sacramental assurance’ is one of the reasons why our bishops have formed The Society. As it says on the Society website (www.sswsh.com), the Society

provides ‘ministry, sacraments and oversight which we can receive with confidence’.

Priests are now invited to make a Declaration which says that they:

- believe and teach the catholic faith
- are currently entitled to minister as a priest in the Church of England
- have been ordained by a male bishop in the apostolic succession of bishops at whose ordination male bishops presided
- will themselves not receive or join in the sacramental ministry of women priests and bishops or those whom they have ordained
- will place themselves personally under the oversight of a Bishop of The Society (although they will remain under the legal jurisdiction of their diocesan bishop).

When the relevant Bishop of the Society receives a Declaration from a priest, he will welcome him as a Priest of The Society. The Welcome Letter will serve as proof that the priest is someone whose sacramental ministry we can receive with confidence.

Of course, there will still be validly ordained priests who are not Priests of The Society. Clergy (and, during vacancies, churchwardens) will need to ask some delicate questions about their orders before inviting them to say mass. With Priests of The Society, that research will not be necessary.

Catholic parishes naturally want as their priest someone who is in full communion not only with his bishop, but with all the priests whom that bishop has ordained, and who will support the resolutions passed by the PCC. When advertising for, or interviewing, potential new parish priests, asking them whether they are Priests of The Society will be an easy way of finding out where they stand.



Being a Priest of The Society costs nothing, although the bishops hope that priests and people of The Society will join Forward in Faith, because it is the membership organization which administers The Society on their behalf, and helps to pay for it. Being a priest of The Society involves only the basic obligations of relating to one of our bishops, and looking to him for sacramental ministry we can no longer find elsewhere.

So if a priest has not made the Declaration and become a Priest of The Society, why not?!

Christ the King

Bishop Roger Jupp considers the King of the Universe from the perspective of his role as Superior-General of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.

“Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you ...”

When he stood before the Roman Governor Pilate, Christ told him that his kingdom was not of this world. Standing there, he certainly did not display the trappings of a king. When he was stripped of his garments before crucifixion, the soldiers found there wasn’t much for which to play a game of dice, except the seamless robe. Kingship for the crucified one, in fact, meant service for others. As the Son of David, like David he was more of a shepherd, telling stories about lost sheep and the importance of going in search of the one that was lost. As the door of the sheepfold, the safety and comfort of the sheep would be his priority. Just before he was sent to stand before Pilate, he told his disciples that his earnest wish was that they should be gathered into one fold.

We know that the keystone of government must be service of the people and their common good. Despite this, looking to Christ we see that his kingly power is unlike anything we see in the world. As a shepherd, he calls and leads us to him and, through him, to the Father. He meets us where we are and brings us the same message as in the days before he stood before Pilate: we are to turn away from

sin and pride and selfishness, to repent and believe in his Good News, and to love God and neighbour as ourselves. His kingdom – the power and the glory about which we pray – was the cross, and the life he gave on it for the world.

This is the kingdom which has broken into the world with Christ. It is the kingdom for which we pray and of which the baptized as members of Christ’s Church are to be the sign. Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Life is the pioneer of this kingdom, and as such is our companion as we live and work in response to his invitation to engage with him in extending his kingly rule. The way of the cross which is his way of bringing that about still is not an easy way, but it is a living, compassionate and sacrificial way. It is one of giving to others, of living for others, of serving others and so enriching their lives. Others’ lives will be enriched because we are revealing to them the life and person of Jesus Christ who comes to bring the fullness of life to all. God calls each of us in Christ to this life. He calls us to embrace it and to be the men and women he wants us to be, living the sort of lives he first intended for mankind. Indeed, Jesus in his own life reveals what that life really is.

Like prophets, priests and kings, at our confirmation we are anointed with the Oil of Chrism to set us apart for the living of this life, to consecrate our lives by the touch of the kingly and priestly life of Christ of which the

Chrism is a sign. When we come to Confirmation we stand at that point which has been in the mind and heart of God from the very beginning as we respond to that invitation to share in the Lord’s kingly reign and to fulfil that purpose which is uniquely ours. God in Jesus invites us to embrace this true life and to do so in the strength and grace of the Holy Spirit which is God’s promised gift to us. Going along the path which the Lord has prepared for us, he feeds and nourishes us with himself in both word and sacrament. By feeding on the Gospel and on the Eucharist, we are built up into the full stature of Jesus Christ, becoming more like him only if we live the life he so wants us to live. Anointed with the Oil of Chrism, the promise and call of Christ was sealed in our lives, and what this means is that his kingship and priestly life, the promise of which we received in baptism, will be revealed in our lives, but only if those lives bear the hallmarks of Christ the King: sacrifice, compassion, and forgiveness. ‘I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome...’ These are the very things which Jesus showed on the cross, and the wood of that cross became by these things his throne. Sacrifice, compassion and forgiveness make up the seamless robe of Christ’s kingship, and he holds them out to us at the foot of the cross which is his throne. In clothing ourselves with his robe, may we also make our lives and our hearts his throne.



hereiam

What on earth is a Vocations Conference?

When my Parish Priest encouraged (told) me to apply to attend this August's "Here I Am" Conference at St Stephen's House, Oxford ("SSH"), I really had no idea what to expect. I was, however, quite sure about one thing: at 48, I would be significantly and conspicuously older than anyone else. It was, therefore, in a state of some uncertainty and considerable nervousness that I walked, on Friday afternoon, from Oxford Station so to SSH.

As I lugged my suitcase up the front steps, the door was opened by Fr Mark North (a good decade younger than me). Supplied with a key and a folder of materials, I headed for my room. It was pleasant and comfortable, with a small en suite shower room. SSH is a cosy and eccentrically rambling Victorian complex, as clean and welcoming as any family hotel, though with rather more crucifixes!!

I had a look at the programme and materials. The days were structured around morning and evening prayers, with Mass on Saturday and Sunday. In between were a series of lectures and discussions dealing with a range of topics, from "Nuts and Bolts", on the selection process, to a discussion of prayer and spiritual life. However, before all this, I saw words to chill the blood: "Ice Breaker". Resigned to the prospect of a session of mild humiliation and forced jollity, I decided it was time to meet the other victims and headed for tea.

There may be people who can walk into a room of 30 complete strangers, and happily throw themselves into the social flow. I am not one of them, and the prospect of tea was nearly as daunting as the looming "Ice Breaker". A moment's thought would have told me that everybody else would be in exactly the same boat. Everyone was willing and eager to talk and be talked to. I also realized that I was far from the oldest. Ranging in age from those just out of school to those near statutory retirement, we presented a very broad range of academic, social and occupational backgrounds. The weekend started to look much less daunting.

Of course, the "Ice Breaker", under the benign direction of Fr Darren Smith was much less of an ordeal than we had

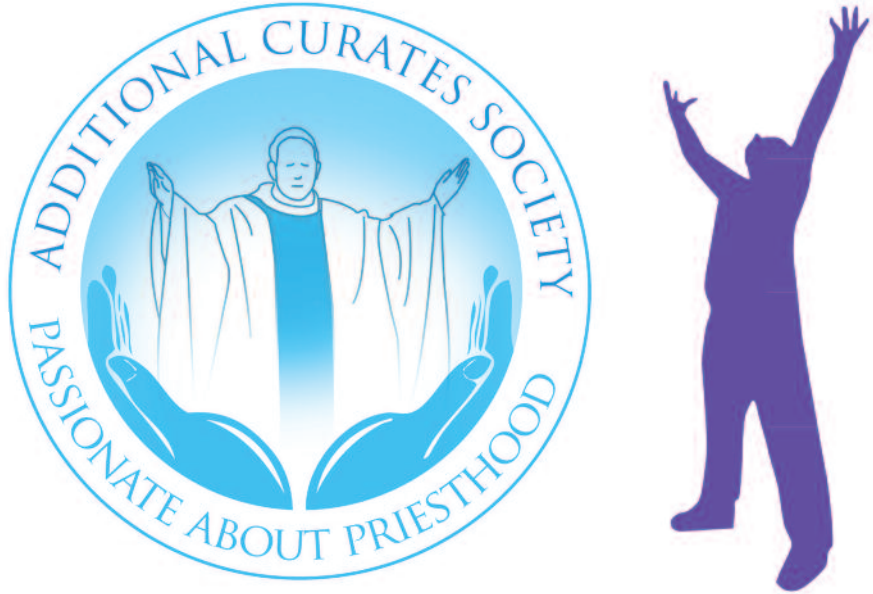
feared. Having to discuss such challenging questions as "What would you rather be: an apple or a banana?" certainly exercised one's imagination. All feeling much more relaxed, we moved on to evening prayer, drinks and dinner. The day ended with interesting insights into life as a parish priest from two of the Clergy team representing a very diverse spectrum of experience, followed, as is proper for those of our tradition, by time in the bar.

On Saturday, after morning prayer and a very good cooked breakfast, we were introduced to the selection process and criteria by the Revd Catherine Williams from Ministry Division. After a session on Spirituality and Prayer the day continued with opportunities to listen, to pray and to talk, with the option of confession, and ended with small-group discussions, gently supported and directed by the clergy. Once again in traditional Anglo-Catholic form the bar was opened for further reflection. By bedtime, I had a lot to think about.

The final formal session, on Sunday morning, was Fr Damian Feeney's powerful call to arms on the subject of evangelism and mission. After Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Richborough, and lunch, we made our goodbyes and dispersed, in my case feeling encouraged and strengthened.

Having arrived with real misgivings, I found the Conference to be an invaluable chance to examine my faith and vocation in new ways, and in the company of others with a

remarkable range of experiences. I am grateful to all the staff for sharing their time, their care and their wisdom and would encourage any of you reading this magazine who, like me, feel there is a possibility that God is calling you to full time ministry, to log on to the website www.here-i-am.org.uk, to follow them on twitter and to consider attending the December day conference on 6th December at St Mary's, Somers Town, London NW1 5QT. Alternatively look out for the next residential weekend in August 2015.



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Keeping the Faith

Fr William Davage tells us a little about the work of the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith

In the wake of the Oxford Movement, the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith was founded in 1873 by two brothers, Canon Edward Wood, Vicar of St Clement's, Cambridge, and James Wood, a lawyer. Its object then, and now, is 'to promote and maintain Catholic teaching and practice.' From its inception, the principal means of doing this was through the acquisition and exercise of patronage. None of it was purchased, unlike the practice of other patronage trusts. The founders considered trade in advowsons to be uncanonical. Advowsons came to the Society by gift or bequest, and still do today.

The Society was to have a lay President and lay Trustees in whom the advowsons (as a 'peculiar property') were vested. There was a

Council from which was drawn a Patronage Board that had to be chaired by a cleric. The intention was that the Society would be the main holder of patronage for the Catholic Movement. Although it holds the largest number of advowsons (some ninety), other Catholic societies or institutions also exercise patronage.

Major changes in the exercise of patronage were made by General Synod in the mid-1980s and the powers of the patron were circumscribed. There is now a tripartite system where the patron, the bishop and elected parish representatives have particular roles in a series of checks and balances between them. Difficulties arose for private and corporate patrons to exercise their rights with

the increasing use by bishops of the power to suspend the rights of a patron for reasons of pastoral re-organisation. This has sometimes made it harder for the Society to maintain a Catholic tradition in its parishes. Further, more recent, changes which saw the abolition of freehold for Common Tenure also saw a widening of the reasons available to suspend. Although the Society retains sole patronage in about half of its Livings, others are shared, sometimes with several other patrons, usually because parishes have been combined.

Today the Society seeks to fulfil its historic role and wishes to keep faith with the past and to assert the importance of the parish in the Church's mission of pastoral care and service to God's children. As well as appointing Incumbents, the Society also supports those parishes under its patronage with grants, usually for repairs or improvements to the fabric of the church, when funds allow. The Society can often provide independent advice to its parishes or incumbents. Given that most of the Society's work is out of the wider public gaze, its membership is small but is open to any who can subscribe to its aims. Applications can be made and need to be countersigned by a member of the Council. There is an Annual Festival and General Meeting and a Buffet Luncheon, usually in May. Last year's was held in Saint Augustine's Kilburn, a Society Living.

The President of the Society is Dr Brian Hanson. The General Secretary is The Revd John Hanks and the Membership Secretary is The Revd Philip Warner. For further information, please visit www.smftrust.org.uk.



Calling all Altar Servers The G.S.S. is here for you

The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary was founded in 1898 and is open to altar servers in the Church of England and in Churches in communion with the Church of England who accept fully the Catholic faith and its practice. We have for the last 116 years provided a means of fellowship for altar servers, mainly in England and Wales.

The objects of the Guild are:

- To raise the spiritual tone of altar servers,
- To promote a conscientious performance of the duties of altar servers,
- To encourage more frequent attendance at the Holy Eucharist in addition to times of duty.

The Guild consists of local Chapters which meet regularly for worship, fellowship and support. As well as meeting locally, there are two national festivals: the Easter Festival on the Saturday after Easter Day, held in London, and the Autumn Festival in October, held in a different area of the country each year.

We have over two thousand members but are looking to increase our membership, especially among young servers.

There is a meeting of one of the local chapters on almost every day of the year. Members receive a quarterly magazine – The Server – full of interesting articles and reports of chapter activities.

Many GSS members have discovered a vocation to the Sacred Ministry, and the Guild supports financially any members who go forward for training for the priesthood.

You can find out more on our web site www.GSSonline.org.uk or contact the Secretary-General, Terry Doughty, 7 Church Avenue, Leicester. LE3 6AJ. 0116 348 3354, secretary@gssonline.org.uk



Latest news.

Celebrating the Feast of the Translation of the Relics of S. Cuthbert

On Friday 5th September around 500 people from Catholic parishes across the north of England gathered in Durham Cathedral to celebrate the feast of the translation of the relics of S. Cuthbert, whose shrine is situated in that ancient place of Christian worship. We were pleased to welcome the Bishop of Richborough to celebrate and preach at the Mass which was followed by a procession to the shrine, devotions and a reception. The evening was a spectacular witness to the strength of Catholicism in the Northern Province and an opportunity to ask for the prayers of this greatest of Northern Saints!



The Shrine of S. Cuthbert after the Mass.

Northern October Festival

This is the Society in the diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales working in conjunction with the Society of Mary, with a Society Parish hosting the Northern October Festival at St Helen's Church, Athersley – Parish Priest Fr Rodney Marshall.



Bishop of Burnley

The Society Bishops are delighted with the announcement that Father Philip North is to be the new Bishop of Burnley. He is to be consecrated in York Minster on the 2nd February. Please keep Father North, his sending parish and the his new diocese in your prayers over the next few months.



Priest Marks his Silver Jubilee

Father Tony Davies, parish priest at St Augustine's, Tonge Moor, Bolton, marked his silver jubilee of ordination to the priesthood with a concelebrated mass back in July. The homily at the mass was preached by Father Alan Cooke, Vicar of St Mark's, Chadderton. Following the service a grand buffet was organised by the churchwardens and church members in the church crypt at which Fr Tony cut a decorated cake made by his wife Pam. Saints!



St Luke's Kingstanding Patronal Festival

Doctor Robert Marshall (BBC Radio 4 Thought for the Day Presenter) delivered a truly inspiring homily for the parish of Saint Luke's Kingstanding in the Diocese of Birmingham for their Patronal Festival on the 17th October. This also marked the re-launch of the CBS Birmingham Branch which will be meeting regularly in Kingstanding starting on the feast of Christ the King.

The overflowing church was given the added treat of balloons, confetti and bubbles, and the congregation vacated the beautiful church to adjourn to a feast to delight all eyes and fill all bellies. Texan pulled pork and American-style iced cup-cakes were only part of the spread. Have a look at the photo gallery at www.saintlukeskingstanding.co.uk



Parish Mission

In Sheffield Diocese, the fruits of Mission Action Planning in the parishes of Hickleton chapter are evident. S. Leonard's, Scawsby, recently supported S. Wilfrith, Moorends, in a parish mission in which every house was visited, and all were invited to take part. Parishioners encountered dramatic presentations of the life of Christ, and enjoyed a games night where they were asked whether their faith should be left to chance.

They ate together and learned what faith can mean. Finally on Sunday 14th September, all were encouraged to commit and recommit themselves to Christ, pinning their names to a huge cross that now stands by the altar. People have returned to Christ, a dramatic healing occurred and many have had their faith rekindled.



The Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham in Leicester

On 24th September over 100 of the faithful gathered together for a joyful celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham at St Chad's Church on Coleman Road, Leicester. There was a vibrant Candlelit Procession of the image of Our Lady of Walsingham through the streets and the Principal Celebrant and Preacher at the Mass was Bishop Martyn Jarrett. He reminded us about some of the ways in which the great artists have deepened our understanding and revealed great truths that we can learn from the life of Our Lady, and how we can join with her in bringing Jesus to the world in our own time and place.

A great party in the church hall followed the Mass and overall the brothers and sisters who had gathered together from Society parishes in the Diocese of Leicester were much heartened by this celebration of orthodox Anglican Catholicism at its best.



Loftus Parish Celebrate the life of the renowned Geologist Lewis Hunton

A congregation of over 50 attended a special Service of Thanksgiving at St Leonard's Parish Church, Loftus-in-Cleveland, in the Diocese of York on Sunday 14th September 2014 to celebrate the life and work of the Loftus born geologist Lewis Hunton 1814 – 1838.

The congregation heard a tribute to the life and work of Lewis Hunton by geologist Prof Hugh Torrens and a sermon by the Bishop of Whitby, whose episcopal ring includes an image of a Cleveland ammonite.

The service was also attended by a number of civic guests, the local MP, community leaders and members of the North East Yorkshire Geology Trust who are currently promoting the life and work of Lewis Hunton.



Prof Hugh Torrens, The Bishop of Whitby and The Rector of Loftus with the new Lewis Hunton Plaque

The Society of Mary pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Society of Mary pilgrimage to Lourdes 2014 included a group of 24 young people who stayed at the Youth Village. Saint Bernadette was a 'young person' at the time of the Apparitions, and the young people were able to participate deeply in the spiritualities of the pilgrimage, at the same time contributing significantly to the worship and devotion of the whole group. Many will remember for a long time the moving stations of the Cross which the young people led for the pilgrimage, having pondered on the Scripture passages and prepared the meditations themselves.



Mission Made Possible

The Catholic Societies in Lincoln Diocese jointly organised an open day on Mission in Parishes in the Catholic Tradition on March 15th at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. We wanted something that would reach out beyond Resolutions Parishes if possible. Parishes from Leicester Diocese were also invited. The Day was led by Fr Philip North from the Old S. Pancras parish London, who took us through some basic and straightforward steps towards an outward-looking church community. Some were very simple indeed but could make a big difference. About 50 laity and clergy from eight parishes in Lincoln and one in Leicester Dioceses attended, and all were very much inspired by the day. There will be follow-up day on March 14th next year, which Fr Damian Feeney will lead for us.



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If you would like to advertise in Together, please contact Mike Silver on m.silver@breathe.com or 01634 401611. Our next edition will be published in early Lent, and will be taking advertisements for Holy week services.



Sports News

Our cricket correspondent Serenhedd James reports on a narrow win for the Church of England against the Vatican.

The sun shone, the crowd cheered, and the teams played up, played up, and played the game. The spectators included a member of the Royal Family, a sprinkling of archbishops and bishops, clergy, religious, and a thousand lay people, from both sides of the Tiber, and all in Canterbury on a glorious end-of-summer day, as the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI took on St Peter's Cricket Club at the Spitfire Ground, home of Kent County Cricket Club.

The idea of an ecumenical cricket match had come from the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, John McCarthy, himself an active Roman Catholic and a keen

cricket fan. As well expressing the warm relations between the See of Rome and our own two Provinces, the idea was that the match should also serve to highlight the work of the newly-established Global Freedom Network (www.gfn2020.org). The aim of the Network is to eradicate human-trafficking across the world by 2020, and is a joint initiative, both ecumenical and inter-faith, between Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Grand Imam of Al Azhar. Archbishop David Moxon, Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See, is also heavily involved.

The Roman gauntlet was picked up enthusiastically by the Church of England Cricket Committee. An appeal for volunteers – clergy or ordinands only, as those were the terms of the challenge – went out in the Church Times, and eleven good men and true were picked at a selection session at Lord's to defend His Grace's honour [or WG's? – ed] against the Vatican tourists.

St Peter's Cricket Club fielded a side almost entirely made up of seminarians and young clergy from the Indian subcontinent, captained by an English priest working in the Curia, Fr Tony

Currer, and managed by a religious working in Rome, Fr Eamonn O'Higgins LC. The Church of England side had a distinctly Evangelical flavour, and the vigour of youth (which in more than one case brought a whole new meaning to the idea of Muscular Christianity) was tempered by the wisdom of more experienced clergy, including the Chaplain of Bradfield College, the Revd Stephen Gray, who captained the side. The Vicar of St Stephen's, East Twickenham, the Revd Jez Barnes, and the Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Rt Revd Mark Rylands, acted as managers. Come the day, the match was hard played, and the end was nail-biting: both sides put on an impressive performance, and although the Archbishop's men won the match they did so only in the last over and with a couple of balls to spare. The Archbishop of Canterbury was clearly delighted with the result. He presented the cup and medals in the company of the Apostolic Nuncio, and presided at a gala dinner in the evening to celebrate the accomplishments of the day: a match well-played and won, ecumenical relations strengthened, awareness of the Global Freedom Network raised, and new friendships forged. There is already talk of a return fixture in Rome next year.

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Devotional for Advent

Interpreting the signs of the times is simultaneously a challenge for the Church, and her great temptation. Many have been led astray by the temptation to a millenarianism for which there could be no theological justification, sometimes because they are deluded, and sometimes because they are wicked. Edward Irving was simply wrong, and the Catholic Apostolic Church he left behind was the product of his over-enthusiastic followers. On the other hand, Charles Webster Leadbetter, the Theosophist, was a dirty old man who had to get out of England while he still could, and who founded the Liberal Catholic Church in Australia for his own rotten ends. He it was who convinced his followers to build a 200-seater Doric amphitheatre on Balmoral Beech, for the Lord's return across Sydney Harbour in 1925.

As we are all aware, the Lord did not walk across the Pacific in 1925, which is why a block of desirable flats now occupies that site. But the lesson for us is not to be distracted from our Christian vocation by false prophets, but instead to take Jesus at his word. 'Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.'

In S Luke's gospel, the Lord enters Jerusalem and proceeds immediately to the Temple, from which he drives the traders. We are then told that he begins to teach in the Temple day-by-day, and that the scribes and chief priests decide they need to find a way to do away with him. Then they come to question him. 'What authority have you for acting like this?' and he doesn't tell them.

He answers, in effect, by telling the parable of the wicked husbandmen. The authority by which he acts is his as the beloved Son of his Father. Before long, Jesus is condemning the Scribes, praising the poor widow (she of the widow's mite), and then warning about the coming destruction of the Temple.

At which point, the disciples ask him, 'when will this happen, and what sign will there be that it is about to take place?' And how does Jesus reply? 'Take care not to be deceived.' It's as much a saying for us as it was for them, when you think about how easily so many of our brothers and sisters have been blown off course down the Christian centuries. 'Take care not to be deceived.' No doubt those who followed Irving and Leadbeater, and Razzal and Young and Hubbard and all the rest were not bad, and not necessarily stupid. But they were gullible. In fact, the signs of the final gathering-in of the kingdom will be unmissable, as Jesus teaches us here.

These signs, then, will bring distress, fear and foreboding. If the picture seems dramatic, no doubt Jesus intended it to be. But, more importantly, he intended it to be resonant of the apocalyptic writing of the book of Daniel: most specifically, Daniel 7, the visions of the night. Daniel dreams of four great beasts emerging from the sea, imagery which is picked up much later in the book of the Apocalypse, Revelation. And then, 'gazing into the visions of the night', he sees, 'coming on the clouds of heaven, as it were a Son of Man.' And that 'Son of Man' from Daniel, with whom Jesus is

so clearly identifying himself, is the one upon whom the 'One most venerable', God the Father, has conferred 'rule, honour and kingship'. This is the Advent theme par excellence: the Lord's coming in glory, coming to rule, coming as king and as judge. 'His rule is an everlasting rule which will never pass away, and his kingship will never come to an end', says Daniel.

“when will this happen, and what sign will there be that it is about to take place?”

Of course, in the book of Daniel, the narrative is of the end of Babylonian captivity and rescue by Cyrus, King of Persia. But the theme is a wider theological understanding of liberation: liberation, indeed, from a deeper captivity than that of the Hebrews in exile. There are four terrifying beasts in Daniel 7, which have often been interpreted as Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. But perhaps we might more usefully interpret them as the many things which to this day enslave the people of God, and prevent them from living life in Christ to the full.

'When these things begin to take place, look up, and hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand': 'your redemption is near at hand.' Redemption - apolutrosis - liberation by the payment of a ransom. This is not any old regaining of liberty from captivity. This is the redemption that only Christ can bring. It is the redemption brought about through the cross.

Our vocation, then, unlike the Jehovah's Witnesses, or the Catholic Apostolics, or the Order of the Star of the Sea, is not to indulge in eschatological guesswork. It is simply and straightforwardly to be prepared: to live life in such a way as to be prepared at any time to give an account of ourselves before the Lord. We'll know the signs of the times when we see them. We need to live life so that we are not ashamed to stand before our Judge.

That is not to imply, however, that we should live in fear. The very fact that it is impossible to contemplate the second coming and judgement without the incarnation and the cross means that all these things are part of one salvific whole, which gives us hope of a merciful judgement and eternal life. And so we can use this Advent to pray, not with a vague feeling that we suppose it's going to happen some day, nor with any foolish predictions as to when, but with genuine and eager expectation of the coming of the Lord. 'Saviour, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own: O come quickly! Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!'

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2014 ST LAURENCE, LONG EATON

Market Place NG10 1LT (diocese of Derby)

Christmas Eve:

4 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

9.30 am Sung Mass

Parish Office: 07791596404

HOLY TRINITY, ILKESTON

Granby Street DE7 8HQ (diocese of Derby)

Christmas Eve:

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

11.00 am Sung Mass

Parish Office: 07570597873

Bishop Roger Jupp SSC (Parish Priest) Fr Peter Bolton CMP (Associate Priest)

St. Luke's Parliament Street, Derby

Christmas Eve - 4pm Christingle and Blessing of the Christmas Crib, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day - 10.00am Family Mass.

Contact Colin Lancaster
01 332 676567

All Saints with St Saviour,

All Saints Road Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2NL

A Forward in Faith Parish,
everyone welcome

Christmas Services

Wednesday 17th December.

7.00pm. Carol Service for R.N.L.I.

Dec 24th, Christmas Eve

5.00pm Crib Service

11.00pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib

Dec 25th, Christmas Day

9.00am Mass

10.30am Mass with Carols

Sunday December 28th.

The Holy Family

09.00am Mass

10.30am The Parish Mass

Contact Fr. Andrew Hughes SSC

Tel: 01934 204217

e-mail: allsaintsandstaviour@btconnect.com

visit our website www.allsaintswsm.org

St. Lukes, Laburnum Road Milber, Newton Abbot

Christmas Eve - 4pm Crib Service for Children, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day - 10am Parish Mass of the Day.

Fr. J.E. Potter 01 626 365837

Christmas at St Luke's Southport

Christmas Eve

6pm Christingle

7.15pm First Mass of Christmas

12 Midnight - Mass with Blessing of Crib

Christmas Day

10.30am Mass with Carols

St Stephen's Day 26th Dec

10am Mass

St. John's Day 27th Dec

10am Mass

Sun 28th Dec

Holy Family Sunday, Mass 10.30am

All enquiries Tel Fr Paul Hutchins

ssc on 01704 213 711.

Saint Cyprian of Carthage Lancaster Road, Nottingham, (Top of Carlton Hill)

The Nativity of the Lord

Dec 24th 11.30pm

Solemn Mass

Dec 25th 10.00am

Solemn Mass

An ABC parish in the care of the
Bishop of Beverley

St. Giles-in-Reading

Christmas Eve

4pm Family Crib Service,

12am Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day

9.15am Low Mass,

10.30am Sung Mass.

Parish Priest Fr. David Harris

01 189 572831.

Website: www.sgilesreading.org.uk

St. Michael, Coppenhall, Crewe

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Crib Service and Christingle,

11pm Midnight Mass of Christmas.

Christmas Day

8.00am Mass, 10.00am Sung Mass

with Carols.

ABC Parish under the care of the

Bishop of Beverley

Contact Fr. Charles Razzall SSC

01 270 215151

The Ascension Lavender Hill, London SW11

Christingle Sunday 21st Dec

at 5.00pm, Readings from the

King James Bible.

Christmas Eve

11pm Solemn High Mass of

Midnight.

Christmas Day

10.30am Solemn High Mass of the

Day.

Sunday 28th

Holy Family High Mass

11.00am

Tuesday 1st Jan

Mary Mother of God - Mass

12.00 noon

Epiphany Sunday 4th Jan

High Mass 11.00am

Parish Priest, Fr Iain Young

020 7228 5340

St. Ambrose, Westbourne, Bournemouth

Sunday 21st December

4pm Nine Lessons & Carols - a

service with animals and animal

welfare groups celebrating God's

redemption of all creation.

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day

8am Said Mass, 10am Sung

Mass.

Fr. Adrian Pearce. 01 202

911569

e-mail - apear2@gmail.com

Parish Office 01 202 766772

St. Andrew's, Tudhoe Grange, Spennymoor

21st December,

4th Sunday of Advent:

9am Sung Mass

6pm Advent Carol Service

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve:

4pm Crib Service

7.30pm The First Mass of Christmas

with Blessing of the Crib, preceded by

Carol Singing from 6.45pm

Christmas Day:

9.30am Festival Mass

Parish Priest: Fr. John Livesley SSC: 01388 814817

Christ the King, Bowburn

21st December,

4th Sunday of Advent:

11am Sung Mass

3pm Nativity Play & Christingle Service

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity

with Blessing of the Crib; preceded by

carol singing from 10.45pm

Christmas Day

9.30am Festival Mass

Parish Priest: Fr. John Livesley

SSC: 01388 814817

Church of The Annunciation, Chislehurst.

Sunday 21st December

4.00pm Readings & Carols in

preparation for Christmas.

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Family Crib Service,

11.30pm Solemn Mass

of Midnight.

Christmas Day

8.00am Low Mass of the Dawn,

10.00am Sung Mass of the Day.

Contact: 020 8467 3606

annunciation.chislehurst@gmail.com

St. Mary the Virgin, St. Marychurch, Torquay

Christmas Eve - 7pm

Traditional Nine Lessons

and Carols, 11.30pm

Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day - 10am A

Family Christmas Mass. All

are welcome.

For information contact:

Fr. Robert Ward 01 803 269258

St Peter, Bushey Heath, ABC

Christmas Eve:

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

11.30pm First Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Day:

8.00am Low Mass

9.30am Family Mass with carols

Contact Fr. Andrew Burton SSC

(020 8950 1424)

www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk

St. Philip & St. James, New Bentley

Christmas Eve - 8pm Solemn

First Mass of Christmas and

Blessing of the Crib.

Christmas Day - 10.30am

Solemn Mass of the Day.

Pre-Christmas Confessions -

by appointment. Fr. S.P. Dickinson

01 302 875266

The Parish Church of S James the Great Albert Hill, Darlington

CHRISTMAS 2014

Sunday 21st December

10.00 am Parish Mass

Monday 22nd December

6:30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and

Carols with Choir Voces Assumptionis

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

9:30 am Mass

Followed by Parish Breakfast in the

Church Hall

3:30 pm Christingle Service

11:30 pm MIDNIGHT MASS

AND BLESSING OF THE CRIB

We welcome all to our Mass on this

Holy night.

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

9:30 am MASS OF THE DAY

Everyone is welcome - please bring

your families and friends.

The Parish of Swinton & Pendlebury, Manchester

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Vigil Mass at Saint

Peter's (M27 0WA) 7.30pm. Sung Mass

of the Vigil & Blessing of the Crib at

Saint Augustine's (M27 8UX) 11.30pm.

Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib

at All Saints' (M27 9UG) &

at Saint Peter's

Christmas Day

8am Mass of the Dawn at Saint Peter's

Sung Mass of Christmas Day with

Carols at All Saints' at 9.30am, Saint

Augustine's at 10am, & Saint Peter's at

10.30am.

December 26th

11am Solemn Mass for Saint Stephen's

Day at Saint Peter's, followed by

refreshments

For details of carol services, other services, etc.

Fr Jeremy Sheehy 0161 794 1578 or

Parish Office 0161 727 8175

paroffsandp@btconnect.com

St. Luke, Kingston-upon-Thames

Sunday 21st

5pm Family Carol Concert

with Canbury Singers

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Crib Service

11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Mass of the Nativity

10:30am Sung Mass

Contact Fr. Martin Hislop (Parish

Office) Tel. 020 8974 8079.

www.stlukeskingston.org.uk

All Saints, Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey.

Sunday 21st December

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons

and Carols.

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Crib Service, 8pm

Midnight Mass at St. Thomas,

Harty, 11.30pm Midnight Mass

at All Saints.

Christmas Day

10am Parish Eucharist

Contact Fr. Chris Shipley

01 795 880205

All Saints, North Street, York.

Christmas Eve

7.30pm Procession,

Blessing of the Crib and

High Mass, Celebrant the

Bishop of Beverley.

Christmas Day

St. Augustine's

Tonge Moor, Bolton

Wednesday, 17th December
7.30pm Carol Service (St.Aidan's).
Christmas Eve - 11.30pm Midnight Mass with the completion of the Christmas Crib. **Christmas Day** - 9.15am Sung Mass (St.Aidans), 10.30am Solemn Christmas Mass. **Sunday 28th December** - 3pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Fr.Tony Davies 01204 523899
ALL WELCOME

St.John the Evangelist

Bovey Tracey ABC,
Forward in Faith, Under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Ebsfleet.

Sunday 21st Dec - 3.00pm Carol Service with Lessons. **Christmas Eve** - 11.00pm Sung Midnight Mass. **Christmas Day** - 10am Sung Mass. St.Stephen (26th) - 10.00am Low Mass. St.John the Evangelist (27th) - 10.00am Low Mass. **Sunday 28th** Holy Family - 10.00am Sung Mass.
Parish Priest Fr. Greg Stanton SSC 07925 051905

Christmas at St Martin's Ruislip

Sunday 21st December
6.30pm - Carol Service
Christmas Eve
4.30pm - Children's Carols
6.00pm - Family Nativity Mass
11.30pm - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8.00am - Mass
10.00am - Sung Mass
www.stmartins-ruislip.org

St.Oswald's, Hartlepool

Christmas Eve
9.30am Mass, 5pm Carol Service and Nativity, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass
Parish Priest Fr.Graeme Buttery SSC 01 429 273201

S. Peter's London Docks

London E1W

Christmas Liturgies 2014
Christmas Eve
5pm Children's Christingle Service
11.30pm Solemn Mass
Christmas Day
8am Mass of Christmas dawn
10am Solemn Mass of Christmas Day
S. Stephen (26th) and S. John (27th)
11am Mass
January 1st 2015
Mary, Mother of God
11am Mass
followed by Prosecco and mince pies.

All Saints'

Exeter Road, Exmouth
Christmas Eve - 6pm Crib Service, 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day - 8am Low Mass, 10.30am Sung Mass with Procession
Contact Fr.Trevor Smythe 01 395 278534

Christmas at Holy Trinity Biscot, Luton

Sunday 21st Dec: 10am Holy Communion: 6.30pm Service of Christmas Carols and Lessons
Christmas Eve: 4pm Christingle Service: 11pm Midnight Mass with Carols. **Christmas Day:** 10am Procession, Blessings and prayer at Crib, and Parish Communion with Carols.

Fr.Thomas Singh
01 582 579410

All Saints, Twickenham

Christmas Eve
10pm Mass of the Nativity of the Lord.
Christmas Day
11am Parish Mass
Fr.Alex Lane 0208 894 3580
Website: allsaintstwickenham.co.uk

All Saints with St.Michael, Shrewsbury

21st Dec Advent IV Parish Mass 10.30am, 9 Lessons & Carols - 3pm
Christmas Eve Crib Service - 4pm Midnight Mass - 11.30pm
Christmas Day Parish Mass - 10.30am
26th Dec S. Stephen Low Mass - 6.30pm
27th Dec S. John Low Mass - 10am
28th Dec Holy Family Parish Mass - 10.30am
29th Dec S. Thomas Beckett Low Mass - 10am
30th Dec 6th Day of the Octave Parish Mass - 10.30am
31st Dec 7th Day of the Octave Low Mass - 12.30pm
1st Jan Mary, Mother of God Low Mass - 9.30am
Fr.Michael Fish SSC 01 743 244879

All Saints Benhilton

Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3DA
A Forward in Faith Parish under the care of the Bishop of Fulham
Christmas Eve:
5:00pm - Christingle & Crib Service
11:00pm - Carols by candlelight
11:30pm - Solemn Midnight Mass
Christmas Day:
10:00am - The Solemn Mass of Christmas Day
Mass will be celebrated daily during the Christmas Octave
- for further details, please contact:
Fr Peter Harnden SSC (020 8644 9070) or Mr Doug Boreham (020 8646 4682)

The Church of St.Columba, Middlesbrough

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib.
Christmas Day
10am Sung Mass with Carols. Mass each day during the Christmas Octave.
The Church of St.John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough
Christmas Eve
5.30pm Carols and Blessing of the Crib, 11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib.
Christmas Day
10am Sung Mass with Carols.
For further information contact Fr.Stephen Cooper on 01 642 824779.

St.Anselm's Parish Church Hatch End

Sunday 21st December
10am Parish Mass and Nativity Play, 4pm Carol Service.
Christmas Eve - 5pm Children's Christmas Service, 12 midnight Midnight Mass. **Christmas Day** - 8am Mass of the Dawn, 10am Parish Mass of the Day.
Wednesday 26th December, St.Stephen - 8am Mass. **Sunday 28th** - Holy Family - 8am Mass, 10am Parish Mass.

Contact
Fr.Clive Pearce: 0208 428 4111
Mobile 07710 900545

St.Agnes & St.Pancras Toxteth Park, Liverpool, L17 3BA.

Advent Four
6.30pm Carol Service with Benediction.
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass.
Contact Canon Christopher Cook SSC 0151 733 1742
Website: www.stagnes.org.uk

Holy Trinity Winchmore Hill, N21

Christmas Eve
4.00pm Traditional Nativity Play and Vigil Mass of the Nativity 11.30pm - Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.00am Said Mass and 10.30am Sung Mass. Mass 12.00 noon each day in the Octave.
1st Jan
12.00 noon Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.
For Confessions and for further information contact Fr Richard Bolton rdeb2010@btinternet.com 0208 364 1583

Parish of Godshill All Saints

14th December Advent 3
Tableau instead of sermon
21st December Advent 4
9 Lessons and Carols 18h30 followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Christmas Eve
17h00 Crib Service
Christmas Day
Sung Eucharist 11h00
4th January The Epiphany
Sung Eucharist 11h00
St Alban's, Ventnor
Christmas Eve
16h00 - 9 Lessons and Carols, 23h30 Carols, mulled wine & Mince pies
Christmas Day
Sung Eucharist 9h30
4th January The Epiphany
Sung Eucharist 9h30
Fr.John Ryder 01 983 840895

Holy Trinity, Hempton ABC, FIF (near Fakenham, Norfolk)

Christmas Eve
4pm - Family Crib Service.
Christmas Day
10am - Parish Mass.
Parish Priest: Fr.Lockett SSC 01 328 820030.

St Barnabas Parish Church Morecambe

Christmas Eve
4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
8.30am Mass
10.00am Solemn Mass
4.00pm Carols at the Crib
Friday and Saturday
10.00am Mass
Holy Family
8.30am Mass
10.00am Solemn Mass
4.00pm Compline
Holy Mother of God, 1st Jan
12 noon Solemn Mass
Parish Priest: Fr Tom Davis SSC 01524 415216

WINCHESTER Holy Trinity, Upper Brook Street

Sunday - Advent 4
21st December - 10.30am Parish Mass
Wednesday - Christmas Eve
24th December - 'Midnight' or 1st Mass of Christmas - 7.00pm
Thursday - Christmass Day
25th December - Christmas Day Mass 10.30am
Friday 26th December - St. Stephen's Day - Low Mass 12.00 noon
Sunday 28th December - The Holy Family - Parish Mass 10.30am
Tuesday 30th December - S. Sylvester - Low Mass 10.00am
Thursday 1st January 2015
Mary, Mother of God, Naming of Jesus, Low Mass 12.00 noon
Sunday 4th January 2015 The Epiphany (The Wise Men) Parish Mass 10.30am
Contact Canon Malcolm Jones SSC 01 962 810223 (Parish Office) or Churchwarden, Barbara Smith 01 264 720887. email:enquiries@holyltrinitywinchester.co.uk Website: www.holyltrinitywinchester.co.uk

St Barnabas Woodford Green 127 Snakes Lane East IG8 7HX

Christmas Eve
5pm Christingle; 11.30pm Blessing of the Crib & Sung Mass.
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass.
Octave of Christmas: 9.30 am
Vicar: Fr. W.Obedoza SSC 0203 659 4023
Email:fatherobedoza@gmail.com

S. Andrew West Kirby

Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle, 11.30 Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
8am Low Mass, 10.30am High Mass.
Parish Priest Fr. Walsh. 0151 632 4728, www.standrewswestkirby.co.uk

S. Paul's, Hasland, Chesterfield

Christmas Eve
6.30pm Carol Service and Christmas Presentation
Christmas Day
9.45am Festival Mass.

S.James, Temple Normanton, Chesterfield

Tuesday 23rd December
4pm Carols around the tree;
Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass 11.30pm.
Fr. Malcolm Ainscough SSC Tel 01246 232486.

S. Stephen on the Cliffs Blackpool

Sunday 21st
18.00 Candlelit Carol Service
24th Dec
16.30 Children's Crib Service
Christmas Day
23.45 Solemn Midnight Mass, with procession of the Bambino & Blessing of the Crib. 9.00 Said Mass of Dawn 10.30 Solemn Mass
Friday 26th
S. Stephen, Patron Saint of the Parish. 10.30 Solemn Mass & Procession
Canon Andrew Sage. andrewsage@aol.com 1253351484

St.John the Baptist Tatchbrook St., Leamington Spa

Sunday 21st December
Advent Four - 9.30am Solemn High Mass, 3.30pm Family Carol Service.
Christmas Eve
9pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib.
Christmas Day
9.30am Solemn High Mass.
Sunday 28th December
Holy Family - 9.30am Solemn High Mass.
Fr.David Lawson, SSC. 01 926 422208. www.fiparish.com/stjohnleamington

St.Barnabas Parish Church West Street, Crewe, ABC.

For Confessions and Daily Mass times : 01 270 212418.
Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service for Families and Children, 11pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib.
Christmas Day
10am Solemn Mass and Procession to the Crib.
Sunday 28th December
10am Mass, 5.30pm Mass, 6pm Carol Service and Benediction.
Vicar: Fr.Ralph Powell SSC

S. HELEN'S WEST AUCKLAND BISHOP AUCKLAND

Friday 19th November
6.30pm Youth Carol Service with Music Group and Scout and Guide Groups
Sunday 21st December (Advent 4)
10.00 am Parish Mass
6.00 pm The Parish Carol Service with Ferry Hill Town Brass Band and Choirs from Local Schools
Christmas Eve
4.00 pm Family Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight
Christmas Day
8.30 am Mass of the Dawn
9.30 am Family Mass of Christmas Day
Sunday 4th January 2015
The Epiphany of the Lord
10.00 am Parish Mass followed by the Epiphany Lunch in the Parish Centre
3.30pm Solemn Evensong and Benediction
Daily Mass during the Christmas Octave
Canon Robert McTeer SSC 01388 604152 www.sthelenschurch.co.uk

All Saints Team Ministry, South Shields

Sunday 21st December
3pm Family Carol Service (at St.Mary's, Whitelease).
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Christmas Day Mass.
Sunday 28th December
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Contact Fr.Mervyn Thompson 0191 456 1851

Bathwick Parishes, Bath St.Mary's (bottom of Bathwick Hill)

Sunday 21st December
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service, 11pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10.30am Parish Mass.
Holy Family , Sunday 28th December
10.30am Parish Mass

St.John's (opposite the fire station)

Christmas Eve
Vigil Mass of the Nativity with Carols, at 6 pm
Christmas Day
9am Sung Mass
Holy Family , Sunday 28th December
9am Sung Mass

Contact Fr.Peter Edwards 01 225 460052

St.Martin, Salisbury

Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service.
Christmas Day
10am Procession and Sung Eucharist.
For further information contact the Administrator 01 722 503123 or visit our website: www.sarumstmartin.org.uk

S.Swithun, Bridport

Resolutions AB&C, Forward in Faith Church
Sunday 21st December
6pm Carol Service.
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass.

The Good Shepherd, Furnham, Chard

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
9.45am Said Mass
Contact: Fr.Jeff Williams 01 460 419527
Website: churchofthegoodshepherd-chard.weebly.com

St.Saviour with All Saints Scarborough, Corner of Belle Vue Street/Gladstone Road, YO12 7EP

Christmas Eve
5.30pm Crib & Christingle Service, 11.30 Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Mass of Christmas Morning.
Parish Priest Fr.David Dixon, frdavidsmart@gmail.com 01 723 363828

S.Francis of Assisi Bournemouth (corner of Charminster Road & East Way)

Sunday 21st December
5pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight.
Christmas Eve
5pm Blessing of the Crib and Family Mass, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass and Procession.
For further information please see: www.stfrancis-bournemouth.org.uk

St.Helen, Abbottsham

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
11am Sung Eucharist
Fr.Francis Otto, 01 237 473445

St.Dunstan with Holy Angels Cranford, West London.

The nearest F in F Parish to Heathrow Airport.
Christmas Eve
3.00pm Crib Service (Holy Angels), 11.30pm First Mass of Christmas (St.Dunstan's).
Christmas Day
10.30am Solemn Mass of the Day (Holy Angels).
Sunday 28th
Holy Family - 9.30am Solemn Mass (Holy Angels), 11.15am Solemn Mass (St.Dunstan's).
Rector: Fr.Michael Gill SSC 020 8897 8836.

St.John & St.Mary Magdelene Goldthorpe & St.Wilfred, Hickleton

Sunday 21st December
6.00pm Carol Service at Hickleton
Christmas Eve
4.00pm Children's Crib Service at Goldthorpe, Midnight 1st Mass of Christmas at Goldthorpe
Christmas Day
9am Parish Mass at Hickleton 10.30am Parish Mass at Goldthorpe
Friday 26th, St.Stephen
10am Mass at Goldthorpe.
Saturday 27th, St.John the Evangelist
9am Mass at Goldthorpe
Sunday 28th, Holy Family
9am Parish Mass at Hickleton 10.30am Parish Mass at Goldthorpe
Monday 29th
S.Thomas Becket
10am Mass at Goldthorpe
Tuesday 30th, 6th Day of the Octave
7pm Mass at Goldthorpe.
Wednesday 31st
7pm Mass at Goldthorpe
Thursday 1st January
Mary Mother of God 10am Parish Mass at Hickleton
Fr.Carl Schaefer 01 709 898426

St.Martin-on-the-Hill, Scarborough 'Scarborough's Pre-Raphaelite Gem', Albion Road, YO11 2BY.

Christmas Eve
4.00pm Crib & Christingle Service, 11.30 Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8.00am BCP Holy Communion, 10.30am Mass of Christmas Morning.
Parish Priest Fr.David Dixon, frdavidsmart@gmail.com 01 723 363828

St.Gabriel Pimlico, London, SW1

Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday 18th December 7pm
Christmas Eve
"Come to the Manger" children's service 4.00pm Midnight Mass 11:30pm
Christmas Day
Holy Communion 8am Parish Mass 10:30am
Contact Fr.Owen Higgs 0207 834 7520 website www.st-gabriels.com

Christmas in the Parish of Swindon New Town

S.Mark's Church Place

S.Saviour's Ashford Road

S.Luke's Broad Street

Contact Fr Dexter Bracey 01793 538220
swindonnewtown@btinternet.com

The Parish of St.Peter & the Holy Apostles, Plymouth

Christmas Eve
7pm Blessing of the Crib and First Mass of Christmas at St.Thomas, Keyham and St.James, Ham.
11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass of Christmas at St.Peter's, Wyndham Square.

Christmas Day

10am Sung Mass and Carols at St.Peter's.

OCTAVE (including Feasts)
10am Sung Mass DAILY in St Peters
Fr.Sam Philpott 01 752 298502

Saint Silas, Pentonville Penton St N1 (nr Angel tube)

Sunday 21st December
6.00 p.m.CAROL SERVICE
Christmas Eve
4.00 p.m. POP-UP NATIVITY & BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB
Christmas Eve
11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS
Christmas Day
11.00 a.m. FESTIVAL MASS
Wishing you a Blessed and Happy Christmas
Father Wakeling (020 7837 4228) www.saint-silas.org.uk

Parish Church of St.Cuthbert w St.Matthias Philbeach Gdns., Earls Court SW5

Tuesday 16th December
7.30pm Parish Carol Service.
Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service, 11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day
10.30am Sung Mass.
Contact: Father Paul Bagott 07711 405750 or 0207 370 3263, email: frpaul@saintcuthbert.org

Saint Catherine's Todmorden Road, Burnley, Lancashire

CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00pm Children's Mass & Nativity Play 11:30pm Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY
8:15am Mass & 10:30am Sung Mass
EPIPHANY COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE
Sunday, 4th January 2015
6:30pm In Aid of Pendleside Hospice
Daily Mass Christmas Week and throughout the year
For other times please contact Father Roger Parker 07977 291166 or see our website www.saintcatherines.co.uk

SACRED HEART MISSION COMMUNITY, PLYMOUTH

S. JOHN EXETER STREET PL4 0NG
S. GABRIEL PEVERELL PARK PL3 4JJ
S. MARY FEDERATION ROAD, LAIRA PL3 6BR
CHRISTMASS EVE
CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE IN S. GABRIEL'S AT 3pm, CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE S. MARY'S AT 5pm. MIDNIGHT MASS (BEGINS AT 11.30pm) IN S. JOHNS
CHRISTMASS DAY
MASS WITH CAROLS AND PRAYERS AT THE CRIB
S. MARY'S 10am
S. GABRIEL'S 10am
S. JOHN'S 10am
S. JOHN'S DAY (SATURDAY 27th DECEMBER)
SOLEMN MASS FOR THE FEAST OF TITLE AT 6pm. FOLLOWED BY BUFFET SUPPER
SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH. MISSION COMMUNITY MASS IN S. GABRIEL'S AT 11am
FR KEITH HAYDON
PARISH PRIEST 01752 220644

St. Agnes, Kennington Park

St. Agnes Place, SE11, ABC FIF (nearest tubes Oval or Kennington on the Northern Line)
Sunday 21st December
Christmas Organ Recital and Carol Service followed by refreshments.
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass.
Christmas Eve
10am Solemn Mass.
Contact: 020 7820 8050 frpaulensor@btconnect.com saintagneskenningtonpark.co.uk

Foundations

Weekly Children's lessons produced by The Church Union
(can be ordered from ACS)

R H H S M P O W C O B I D S Y
I X T B E L B O Q H Y K A F
E M M A U S R O N K B H W P I
W I N K U B Z E V G T X U O R
M I T I F E F L E A V K J E T
H E C J S R G L R G O U C L N
A L L W D N Q L S D A O R C S
R I Y A I T B G A W G R R I H
R F I K S R S P T N D N M J L
M J L Q E U C C I H V N U E K
F A P A A L R S O S E A M S B
W E D H S O E E N N E A H U E
G K T P T D U E J Q Z Y R S K
U P U S E L P I C S I D E T C
I N W R R P L S H R W Z J B S

Disciples	Jerusalem	Recognised
Jesus	Conversation	Eyes
Emmaus	Cleopas	Hearts
Road	Walking	Bread



Parish Profile: **St Mary's, Lansdowne Road, Tottenham**

Fr Simon Morris writes...

I nearly cracked a tooth on the first piece of curried goat I ate. Hospitality and warmth ought to be signature of every Christian institution and in Tottenham we do a great job aspiring to this. Both our churches have three or four 'Bring and Share' Lunches every year and we have two lunch clubs every week, run completely by volunteers and self-funding. These cater for forty people each week.



Food's important here. And so is wine. I learnt a useful tip a few months after arriving: if you don't like the taste of your wine you can simply pour white rum in the glass and everything is fine.

S Mary's, Lansdowne Road was built when we were considered to be in East London and William Walsham How was our Bishop. The parish was conceived and funded by Marlborough College (though this link barely exists today), the work executed following the vision of the Cutts brothers. We have three halls, all just over a hundred years old, which provide the financial backbone of the parish.

The word 'diverse' is so battered through overuse I won't use it to describe us. The ethnic make-up of the congregations is about forty-five percent African, forty-five percent West Indian. The rest is a mixture of white British and others. When I first visited the parish in 2007 what attracted me to it was its harmonious and compelling fusion of formal and informal, traditional and modern. The singing takes off with gusto when singing both 'This little light of mine,' and 'O Bread of Heaven' (we don't tend to clap when singing the latter though).



On an average Sunday there will be about 185 at the main Mass at S Mary's (and we're hoping to attract more once our new heating system is completed). Four years ago we reopened the Church of the Good Shepherd, it having been closed for seventy-two years, and the new Sunday evening Mass there draws about 25. Recently, a few of us did a sponsored walk to Saint Paul's Cathedral from the Good Shepherd and we hope that will raise the funds for a new front garden.

The large vicarage was built to house the domestic staff, of course, as well as the curates. The butler's kitchen remains but is used by the Pastoral

Assistants, two of whom live on the second floor, one working here, the other at S Benet's Tottenham. Fr Bill Beer, recently retired, has a couple of rooms too and does a huge amount that benefits the parish.

'Think of the children,' I hear Mrs. Lovejoy saying (Simpsons reference). There may be advantages to having a Church school, but we have great links with local community schools. Our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Associations across the parish have some sixty young people enrolled, though getting them all to Parade Mass is a different matter. More work to do here, I think!

Hymns as Homilies no 3:

Fr Gavin Cooper reflects on the great Advent hymn, Come, thou long-expected Jesus.

Advent hymns carry in them a decent dose of wonderful imagery and excitement. Inevitably, speaking of the coming of the Lord is going to be a very positive and uplifting exercise. So in the first eighteen hymns of the New English Hymnal we have some of the best hymns in the repertoire. It is all too easy for these to be lost by the second week of Advent, as carol services on an industrial scale begin to eclipse the feeling of expectation with the early arrival of Christmas. On one level, this is no bad thing. It gets people into Church, hearing the message of salvation. On another, it means that there is little sense of excitement or preparation for the coming of Jesus as a child, let alone his second coming.

Amongst the Advent regulars are two of Charles Wesley's most beautiful hymns, 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending' and 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus'. Both of these hymns look not to Christ's birth, but to his coming again to judge the earth. This said, 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus' was

originally part of Wesley's Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord in 1744 (a compilation which was reprinted over twenty times throughout Wesley's lifetime) so was, in fact, part of a group of Christmas hymns.

As it is now most commonly sung to the tunes Halton Holgate and Cross of Jesus, it now appears in most compilations divided into four verses, but it was written as two eight line stanzas. It takes the form of a desperate plea, the first line summing up the whole work. There are six uses of imperative verbs throughout the hymn which further this pleading: come, release, find, bring, rule, and raise. This drives the hymn on and is what gives it its distinctive supplicatory tone.

Throughout the prayer, we are taken through the Old Testament idea of Jesus as Israel's strength and consolation. We are met with the idea of Jesus as the one who will set his people free. We are told of his birth as a child and as a King, and we ask: 'now thy gracious kingdom bring'.

'Come thou long-expected Jesus' is a typical example of Wesley's ability to theologise in a way which skims the surface whilst conveying deep theological truths. It allows us to understand the story of salvation in the context of our own lives: that we should live with the Lord ruling our hearts through his Holy Spirit, with his kingdom as our goal.

The aching longing that this hymn presents should be our longing throughout Advent and into Christmas. We are called to be a people who are prepared to welcome Christ whenever he comes, and our journey through Advent serves as a reminder that we should always be ready. As the secular world celebrates Christmas earlier and earlier, let us strive to keep a holy Advent. Let us contemplate the second coming of Christ and celebrate his first coming as man. As we do we should repeat the plea, 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus, now thy gracious kingdom bring'.