

Roundabout

The Parish Magazine for St. Anne's Church
December 2019



St Anne's is seeking to be a home to invite everyone into.

WEST

Welcoming
Encountering Jesus
Serving others
Telling His Story

HEATH

Hospitality...
Everyone...
Acceptance...
Teamwork...
Helpful...

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Father Paul Writes...



The season of Advent has begun again. It means that another new year for our church calendar has also opened. I preached the first Sunday of Advent, saying, "As Christians, we long for this Day, the second coming of our Lord. As John the apostle wrote at the end of his book Revelation, the final words of the New Testament, *"Come quickly, Lord Jesus."* During the season of Advent, we rekindle, just as we light the advent candles, our desire for our God to come to us so that we might be with him and see him as he truly is." In Advent, we remind ourselves that we are waiting for our Lord Jesus' coming. However, what will we do while we are waiting? I have a very funny story from somewhere.

Some men were overheard chatting around the table at a local restaurant about retirement. One of the men, a guy who looked to be in his early 50's said, "I can't wait to retire." He went on to say that just that morning his wife had asked him what he wanted to do when he retired. He said, "I told her, 'I'm going to sit on the couch and watch TV all day every day.'" There was silence around the table for a moment and then one of the men said, "If you do that, you'll be dead within a year." The guy looked shocked and asked, "Why?" The other man said, "If the lack of purpose or exercise in your life doesn't kill you first, your wife will kill you."

As followers of Christ, we are to be hard-working whatever we do. It seems to me that most of our church family are already retired from your hard-work, but obviously all of us, even retired, are still in some sort of working. St Paul exhorted the Christians in Thessalonica saying, "do not grow weary in doing good". Brothers and sisters in Christ, whatever we do in our church, it is for our Lord Jesus Christ. So, do not be weary in doing what is right." On the contrast, if we feel weary in doing something for our

church even, we think that it is good, we should think again whether this is good for our Lord's church or for ourselves. In this regard, I shared my concern at the Thursday communion service after we heard the gospel. It was Matthew 7. 21, 24-27.

²¹ "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but **only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do.....** ²⁴ "So then, **anyone who hears** these words of mine and **obeys them** is like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock. ²⁶ "But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!"

According to these words, everyone is building, it means everyone is doing something, even for church, but some are building on the rock and some are on the sand. Everyone, I hope, is doing something for the Lord's church, but some are doing on the bases of the words of our Lord, but some are doing on their own will and purpose. We all know the result of these actions. Some do not fall whatever the weather or whatever the situation, but some are felled by whatever the weather or whatever the situation. The Gospel of Matthew 7 which I mentioned earlier omitted out two verses 22 and 23. Here they are.

²² "When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!' ²³ Then I will say to them, '**I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!**'"

The other measurement we can consider as well is from 1 Corinthians 13.1-3.

“I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. ² I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing. ³ I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned—but if I have no love, this does me no good.”

We do all our hard work for our church even in the name of the Lord or by the name of the Lord. However, are we doing all these hard works for God’s Kingdom, for God, and with love? Those will be the question we have to ask ourselves whatever we do. That may be will the way to find out whether we are doing rightly or not. That is who we are – God’s people, not charity workers.

In this season of Advent (Actually, for Christians, every day is Advent), we should not expect any appreciation from people when you are doing things for the Lord, instead we would better look forward to hearing from our Lord Jesus, saying, “Come closer to me my child, you have done a good work and now have a rest in my arms.” Therefore, we **hear** the words of God and **obey** them, and then God will be **pleased** with us. *“Peace on earth and goodwill to all men with whom God is pleased.”*

Father Paul Cho



Letter To The Editor

I was quite excited to receive the first ever 'letter to the editor' the other day. It is good to know that people read the magazine thoughtfully and sometimes do wish to respond.

Dear Editor,

I read Ian Bradley's interesting article in the November magazine and one sentence in particular (page 11) stood out for me :

'Many of the words we use in church are incomprehensible to people outside, so we must learn to translate our beliefs into a terminology which is meaningful to modern people.' I would endorse this view.

Last Christmas (2018), I was invited to read the first lesson in the service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Anne's - Gen 3: *'The Disobedience of Man'*. I was happy to do this, but later I carefully read again the words of the lesson, as translated in the Good News Bible, and I began to worry about how they would be received by some members of the general public, or by young people. These are the very ones we want to reach, but who may come to church only rarely. Obviously, the words cannot be interpreted at face-value (a conversation between a snake and the first human couple and God ?), so how can the lesson be understood by 'modern people'?

Adults with more experience know that the words represent an allegorical truth, not a literal one, which was aimed at the people of ancient times, and which can be explained best by those with proper training. We may not tamper with the best translations of the Bible, of course, but I think there may be good grounds for somehow adding a suitable explanation, in contemporary language, when such a reading is given. This might begin to satisfy Ian's suggestion.

Stephen Skewes.

Messy Church

The theme of November's Messy Church was 'Love God, Love the World'. Eighteen children and their parents and grandparents enjoyed a range of activities including, cooking, painting, crafts and origami. The children and adults could choose activities they wanted to do and have refreshments whenever they wanted them. They also helped create a poster to go on display in the church. At the end of the session everyone gathered in church to talk about the theme and to sing two songs. We now have a group of regular attenders who find that this is the best way for them to be a part of our church as they find it difficult to attend church services on Sundays.



Messy Church



Messy Church



Messy Church



Thank you to Janet and her team for another most enjoyable evening. A lot of the children said they were really looking forward to the next Messy Church.



Sarah is Baptised and Confirmed

The evening of Friday 1st November saw King's Norton Deanery hold its Confirmation Service. This year for the first time each Deanery only held one Confirmation Service, to which all those seeking to be confirmed attended. So it was to this Service that Sarah Burton was sent by Father Paul.

Unfortunately Father Paul was unable to be by her side as he had gone to South Korea for his mother's birthday. So this wonderful, special duty fell to me.

The service was presided over by Bishop David, Bishop of Birmingham. I wasn't the only member of St. Anne's to go to support Sarah: Stuart, Gill and Brenda also went along to cheer her on.

After the Bishop's procession into the Church some of the group stepped forward to be baptised, Sarah was one of these. Bishop David really had the water flowing. He poured water over their heads soaking them and the floor as he went. I must say it was at this point that my Warden's head switched on: all I could see was warning lights flashing and the thought of filling in health and safety forms should anyone fall.

Those that had just been baptised were then joined by the rest of the confirmation group. One by one Bishop David confirmed them. All were presented with a candle to mark the occasion, which they held to lead Bishop David and his procession out of the Church. It was a wonderful and moving service.

Chrissie Price.



Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 10th November St. Anne's held its annual Remembrance Service. Members of our Rainbow and Brownie Units joined the congregation for the service. Elaine and Peter had prepared the flower boxes ready for people to place their remembrance crosses and Georgina and Joy had decorated the altar front. The Rainbows had made their own wreath of paper poppies which they presented during the service.



Church Services During November

Every Wednesday

9 am Morning Worship in St. Francis Chapel

Every Thursday

10:30 am Holy Communion in St. Francis Chapel

Sunday 1st December 2019

11 am Family Communion

Sunday 8th December 2019

9:15 am Holy Communion

11 am Morning Worship

Sunday 15th December 2019

9:15 am Holy Communion

11 am Nativity Service

6:30 pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 22nd December 2019

9:15 am Healing and Holy Communion

11 am Morning Worship

Tuesday 24th December 2019

11:15 pm Midnight Service with candle light

Wednesday 25th December 2019

11 am Christmas Service

Sunday 29th December 2019

11 am Family Communion

Activities taking place at St. Anne's

Monday

West Heath Tea and Chat in the main hall 2 pm - 4 pm

Rainbows (for girls aged 5 - 7 years) in the main hall 4:30 pm - 6 pm (Chrissie: 0121 421 1474)

Brownies (for girls aged 7 - 10 years) in the main hall 6 pm - 7:30 pm (Stephanie: 07784030304)

Activities taking place at St. Anne's

Tuesday

Little Stars (for mothers and toddlers) in the main hall and church 9:30 am - 11:45 am (Chrissie: 0121 421 1474)

Mothers' Union (2nd Tuesday of each month) in George Goodger hall 2:00 pm - 4 pm (Janet: 0121 475 4259)

AA in George Goodger hall 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Wednesday

Colourstrings Music Classes for 3—6 year olds: 10:30 am - 11:10 am in the church (Erin 0121 624 2202)

Move It Or Lose It (Exercise class) £4 per session, in the main hall (Michelle: 07843945178) 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Sing-along in the main hall 1:30 pm - 4pm (Angela: 0121 2511700)

Thursday

Little Stars: (for mothers and toddlers) in the main hall and church 9:30 am - 11:45 am (Chrissie: 0121 421 1474)

Barbara's Ball: (dancing for all ages) First Thursday of the month in the main hall 1:45 pm - 4 pm (John: 01214583686)

Cofton Crafters: Last Thursday of the month in George Goodger hall 2 pm - 4pm (Chloe: 01905775757)

Guides (for girls aged 10—16 years) in the main hall 7:30 pm - 9 pm (Chrissie: 0121 421 1474)

Friday

AA meets in the George Goodger hall 11:30 am—2 pm

AA meets in the George Goodger hall 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday

Choir rehearsal 10 am - 11:30 am in the Church

AA meets in George Goodger hall 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Sunday

AA meets in the main hall 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Puzzle Page

About Jesus (Part One)

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. Where did his parents take him till the death of Herod?
3. In what town was Jesus brought up?
4. How old was Jesus when he first went to Jerusalem to the feast?
5. Where was he when his parents 'sought him sorrowing' and what was he doing?
6. Can you complete the following quotation which is verse 52 of the second chapter of Luke: 'And Jesus increased in and, and in favour with and'?
7. What was the name of the demon-possessed man whom Jesus healed 'in the country of the Gadarenes'?
8. In what city did Jesus call Zacchaeus?
9. Who went up with Jesus on to the mount where he was transfigured, and who appeared in glory and talked with him there?
10. Where did Jesus still a tempest and what did the disciples say as they marvelled?

Answers page 17

Joyce Arnold

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. _____ to the world!

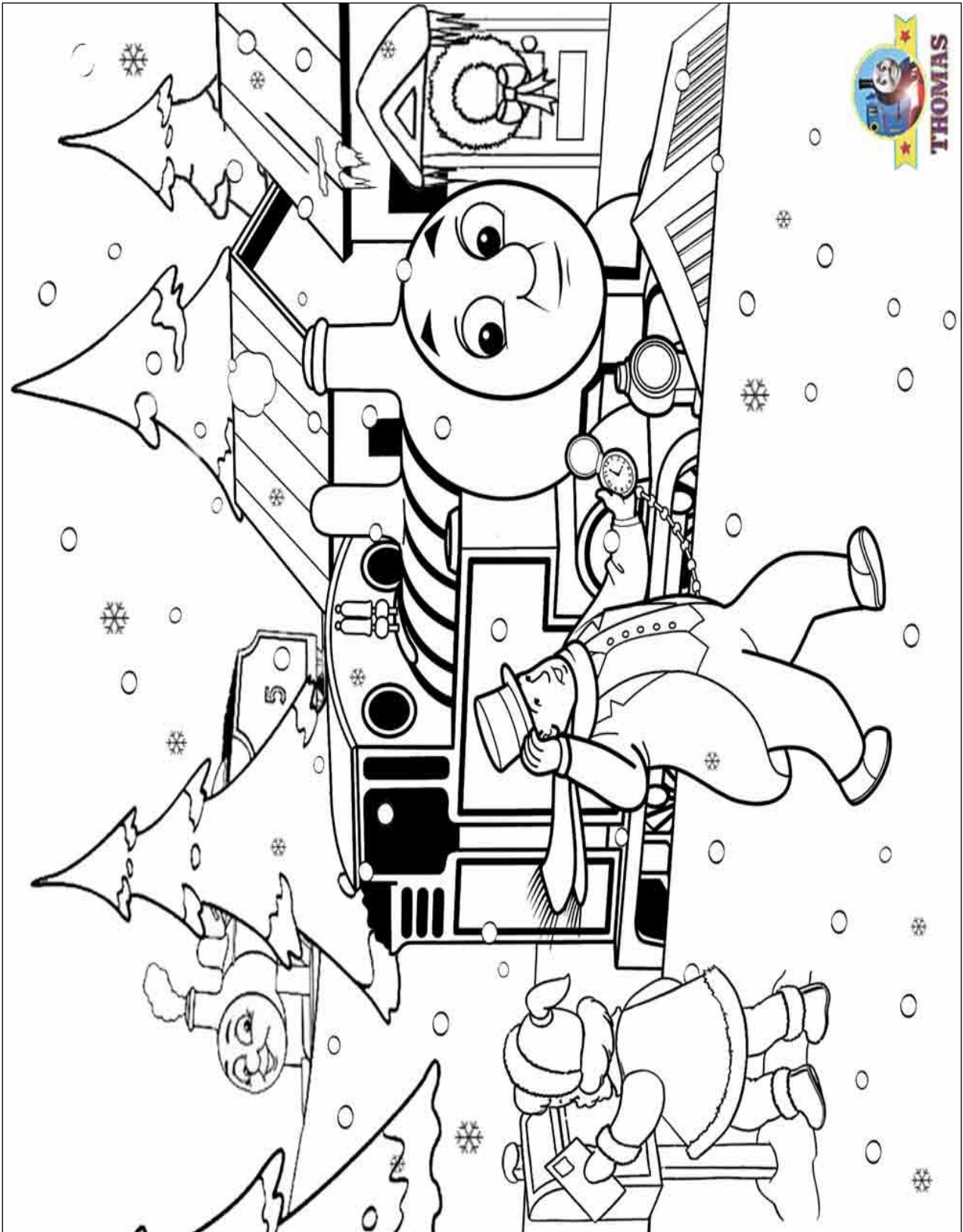


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Children's Page

Colour Thomas at Christmas



Answers to December's Puzzle Page

1. In a stable at Bethlehem.
2. Egypt.
3. Nazareth.
4. Twelve
5. '..... They found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.'
6. Wisdom, stature, God, man.
7. Legion.
8. Jericho.
9. Peter, James and John went with him; Moses and Elias (Elijah) talked with him.
10. On the Sea of Galilee; 'What manner of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey him!'

Health and Safety Concerns

If you notice any health and safety issues when you are in the church buildings please could you make a note of them in the Health and Safety book which is hung on the display board opposite the toilets. The PCC will then be able to address your concerns. If everyone is vigilant we will be able to ensure that we keep all the church buildings safe for everyone to use.

Thank you.

Security of Church Buildings

The PCC has become aware that our security is not as good as it could be. Please make sure that the back door is closed and locked at all times, that the Vestry door is kept locked and that if you are alone in the church or George Goodger Hall that the front door is locked.

Thank you.

Courage At Christmas

At Christmas, we remember one of the most powerful stories ever told: Mary's journey to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus. Mary's bravery, perseverance and devotion brought her family out of danger and enabled God's hope, love and peace to enter the world.

Today, brave mothers are fighting against the odds to bring their children into the world, protect them and nurture them. Mothers like Bibi Aisha in Afghanistan and Ranjita in India.

Bibi Aisha, a 25-year-old widow, lives with her two children. In conflict torn Afghanistan, over two million women like Bibi Aisha have lost their husbands from war. As the sole breadwinner for her family, Bibi Aisha is extremely vulnerable. 'Faced with war and drought, there was nothing to eat,' she says. 'We were forced to leave home and we lost everything.'

Christian Aid's partner RAADA offered her shelter, giving her a tent. Bibi Aisha hopes that, one day, her children will know peace. 'I want a bright future for my children,' she says, 'I want them to be educated.'

In India, Ranjita's children also give her the courage and fighting spirit to break free from poverty. Born into India's Dalit caste, Ranjita's life has been condemned by discrimination and prejudice. When she was just nine years old, Ranjita was forced into manual scavenging work, together with her mother. Every day, under the hot sun, she would shovel human excrement by hand. She was shunned and ostracised, no one wanted to touch her, for fear of becoming 'unclean'. 'They would drop the bread on the plate I carried or throw it on the floor, they didn't even hand it to me,' she recalls. 'They treated us worse than animals.'

Ranjita was determined to find a new life for herself and her children. Thanks to the community group that Christian Aid is supporting, she found new strength and hope. Ranjita learned about her rights and opportunities, and she was helped to apply for a government grant to start her own tailoring business. 'My children and I are happy now. I am earning with dignity, and I am no longer treated like an animal.'

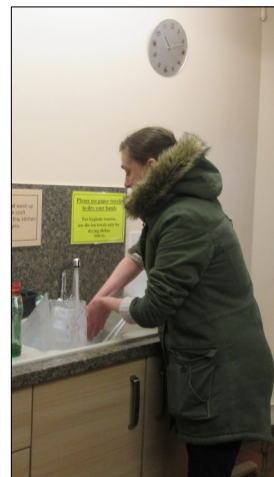
Ian Bradley

Cleaning, Tidying Up and Maintenance

On Friday 29th November a group of enthusiastic church members met to help with cleaning, tidying up and to do some maintenance. After two hours hard work they were rewarded with lunch cooked by Father Paul.



Thank you.



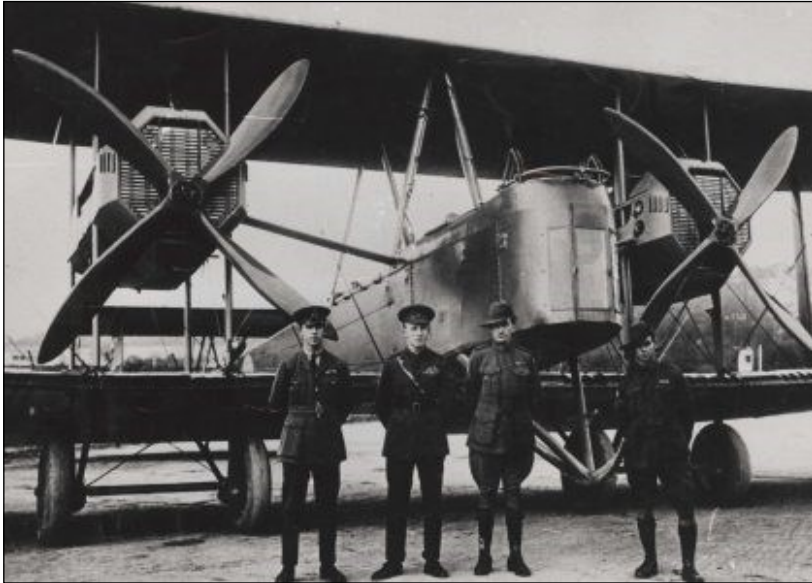
December 1919

3rd December

Pierre Auguste Renoir, French Impressionist painter and sculptor died aged 78.



10th December



Ross and Keith Smith, the winners of Great Air Race from England to Australia touched down in Darwin to receive their £10,000 prize. This opened new channels for mail and freight and was the fore runner to international air travel.

14th December

Felix the Cat was created. He was a funny-animal cartoon



character created in the silent film era by Pat Sullivan and Otto Messmer.

The anthropomorphic black cat with his black body, white eyes, and giant grin, coupled with the surrealism of the situations in which his cartoons placed him, combined to make Felix one of the most recognized cartoon characters in film history.

30th December

Lincoln's Inn in London admitted its first female bar student.

December 1969

14th December

The Jackson Five (featuring a very young Michael Jackson) made their first TV appearance on the 'Ed Sullivan Show'.



16th December

British House of Commons voted 343-185 to abolish the death penalty.

18th December

House of Lords voted to abolish the death penalty in England, Wales and Scotland (Northern Ireland 25 July 1973)

Building Update - It's finally going to happen!

The PCC has agreed that Ryders Construction will carry out the work to create three new toilets and storage space. The work will begin in July 2020 and should be completed by the end of August. We are still busy raising funds for the project and applying for grants. We currently have nearly £30,000. We are being ambitious and are trying to get enough money through grants to enable us to extend the range of the building work so that we can make the George Goodger Hall more accessible. We would like to have a new front door which is wheelchair accessible. We would like to create an accessible toilet by combining both toilets together and improve the layout of the kitchenette and have new kitchen cupboards. We have gratefully received a donation of money to replace the flooring in the following places in the George Goodger Hall: the entrance, office and hall. This work will be carried out in January. Georgina has volunteered to paint the George Goodger entrance and hall and hopes people will sponsor her to do this to help raise extra funds for the Building Project.

A Fund Raising Committee is going to be set up to organise events to raise extra money. If you have any ideas for how we can raise funds please speak to Georgina, the treasurer. All ideas will be most welcome.

Thoughts From the Garden - November 2019

Peter and I sorted out the flower boxes on the 6th November ready to put the poppy crosses in. I think the Squirrel had been having fun as I found a half-eaten eating apple in one box and a whole cooking apple in another box. We topped them up with compost as some of the bulbs were already showing through.

We also sorted out the bags of leaves, putting some in the compost bin, some in an old dustbin and some in black bags in the back garden. We have emptied some leaf mould out of the old dustbin on the main flower border, which just needs to be spread out a bit.

I moved the flower boxes back to the back garden on Monday 18th putting some on top of each other. When I went on Thursday 21st to put a net over them, the Squirrel had already been messing them up. So they are now sorted and covered by a net but I must try and check them regularly.

The white rose in the right side of the main border and the orange rose amongst the Lilac have both been in flower in November. The Heathers are also still flowering in the main border. The winter Jasmine has just started flowering at church but at home ours have been in flower the whole of November.

At the allotment all the potatoes are dug up, not a good crop this year as it has been so wet. We just have a few cabbages to harvest but they have been badly affected by flea beetles as have the sprouts. The runner beans have been taken down as have the sweetcorn. So there are just the Blackcurrant bushes to prune then some weeding to do when it is a bit dryer.

The Oak trees are still full of brown leaves but nearly all the other trees are now bare. The cold weather forecast this weekend may cause the leaves to drop. We have had flocks of Long tailed tits in the garden this week looking for hidden insects.

Keep an eye out for some winter visitors like Redwings or Fieldfares if the weather is cold.

Regards Elaine.

Church Bulletin Bloopers (Not from our church!)

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some of the older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5.00 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake feast next Sunday.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Santa Lucia (Saint Lucy) - 13th December

Lucy was born in 283 AD in Syracuse, Sicily during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian and was killed there in 303 AD. Much of what is known about her may be fabrication.

She was a sincere Christian who was engaged to marry a rich young man. When, however, her mother was cured of an illness after Lucy had prayed for her at the shrine of Saint Agatha at Catania, she persuaded her mother to sell their goods and give the proceeds to the poor, and also to allow her not to marry but to remain a virgin like Saint Agatha. The young man was annoyed by his rejection and, because she had given all her wealth away, he denounced her to the Roman Prefect, since people were at that time forbidden to acknowledge themselves Christians. The Prefect ordered her to be executed in 303 AD.

Lucy, whose name means 'light', is the patron saint of the blind.

*Merry Christmas
And a
Happy New Year*



Articles for Publication

Please submit articles either by email to:
arnold112@btinternet.com

Or leave a printed copy in the Parish Office clearly marked for the attention of the Editor.

Submission Deadlines

Items for inclusion in the January 2020 edition must reach the Editor, Georgina Arnold by 4pm on Friday 27th December 2019.