



# *Spire & Tower*



**St Andrew & St Mark Church Magazine**

**Surbiton**



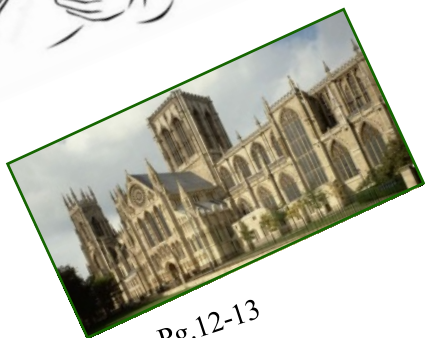
**November & Dcember 2016**



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## A VIEW FROM THE VICAR

I'd like to write of an old-fashioned virtue, namely going to church on a Sunday morning.

When I first became a Christian as a teenager, the youth group I was involved with, emphasised three things as being important to keeping one's faith alive: reading the Bible regularly, praying regularly, and going to church. I once asked the senior leader which of the three he felt was most important, and he said this:

"They are all important, but when I look now at the people who still have a real faith as adults, having started as teenagers, the people who've survived are the people who have gone to church. So I think that's the most important."

I think I can expand on that analysis a little. The thing is that one of the triumvirate for keeping your faith alive, going to church, includes the first two.

On a Sunday morning, we read the Bible by following the readings laid out by the church in what is called the 'lectionary', over a three year cycle. These readings cover all the Gospels, the key letters of St Paul and highlights from the Old Testament. That is to say, if you were to attend church every single Sunday for three years, by the end of that time, you would have heard read 90% of the text in the Gospels, almost all of Paul's key letters (Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians and more), and a significant portion of the Old Testament. (For those with an interest, the 10% that is missed out of the Gospels is almost always when the same story is told in one of the other Gospels, with almost the same words.)

By the same measure, if you come to church once a month, say, you only cover a quarter of it over that time.



As for prayer, while nothing substitutes private prayer, the standard service also includes both prayers we say together (like the confession) and time to pray on our own. Here, I think especially of the time before and after we receive communion, when the choir are singing and our own prayers can go to God, or – perhaps better – we can allow our prayers turn to where God would have them be. When I was a member of the laity (perhaps more than now when I am normally active at this time and my more personal prayer is at other times), this would often be the deepest time of prayer in my week.

And then, of course, we can draw closer to God through the eucharist, the receiving of bread and wine, consecrated as Jesus asked us to do.

So when (if!) you are sat on a Sunday morning, half wondering whether or not to come to church, remember that you're not just coming to church to hear a sermon and be part of Christian fellowship; you are also sustaining yourself with the core of the Christian life, the reading of the Bible and setting aside a time to pray, a time you yourself have chosen to devote to God.





QUESTION HOUR

*My name is Sarah Thomas*

What family do you have?

An elder brother and his wife.

Job/ retired?

On disability benefits

How long you have been attending St Andrews's & St Mark's?

More than 20 years

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Being in the company of friends and family

What is your most treasured possession?

An illustrated Bible was given to me when I left school and signed by my teacher and friends.

How do you relax?

Reading, watching T.V and listening to the radio.

Which character in the Bible, after Jesus, inspires or interests you most?

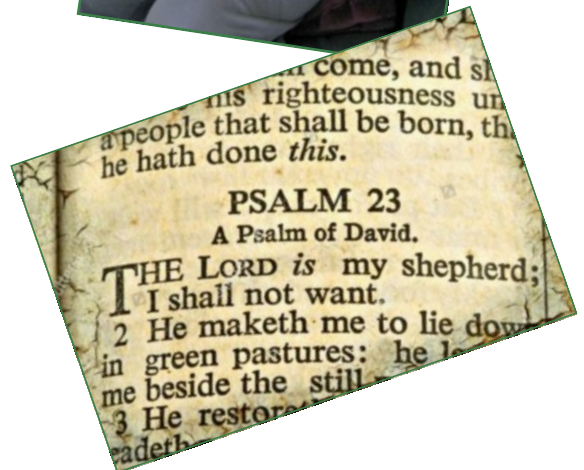
Peter who had so many second chances.

What are your favourite Bible verses?

Psalm 23 – there are so many lovely settings

What do you think is the hardest thing about being a Christian?

Remaining hopeful when things go wrong.



Hope

## THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

I have arthritis so less pain and more mobility.

What is your favourite journey?

Being taken out by friends and family.

What is your favourite meal?

Pasta with any tomato sauce.



Most enjoyable book?

Wind in the willows – it's not only for children.

Where do you like to go for holidays?

Antoinette Hotel, where the staff look after me so well. And there's a garden.

If you had a choice where would you like to live?

Somewhere where there's a ground floor flat or a lift.



What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

Perseverance.

Thank you Sarah

## **I WISH I KNEW THE REASON WHY I FEEL SO UPSIDE DOWN**

I asked myself, myself replied,  
is he the only man that's died?  
You've seen it all before, and yet  
he is the man you can't forget.

He lived a long courageous life  
was busy as a bee.  
I didn't know bereavement could  
have this effect on me.

I know that he is better off,  
his body free from pain,  
I never will forget you, Joe,  
nor wish you back again.

I'm glad your spirit is at peace,  
Your life a history,  
but all the same, bereavement still  
is quite a mystery.

**Ann Thomas**



**LIGHTEN THE DARKNESS**

What is the world's longest running radio programme? No, not those seagulls, but Choral Evensong, which is 90 years old. It was first broadcast, from Westminster Abbey on 7 October 1926. Now it is usually relayed from one of Britain's Cathedrals or college chapels; in the summer it picks up from one of the choral courses such as Edington. Occasionally it ventures to St. Thomas church or Fifth Avenue, New York or to Dublin or to South Africa.

Our parishioners may remember that not long after she left us, Rev'd Erica Longfellow could be heard leading the service from New College, Oxford – that unmistakably American voice praying for our sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth II. Engineers were sorting out a technical problem right up to the start time, she said. I've been in the congregation when the service was recorded at Southern Cathedrals Festival, and one was painfully aware that the prayers were avoiding mention of a current tragedy since the service was not to be broadcast for some weeks.

A year after the destruction of the Twin Towers, microphones were back in New York on Wall Street; you could hear quiet sobbing from the congregation the producer recalled. Better that than the broadcast that caught the sound of choirboys being sick in the middle of the Responses.

Occasionally, Vespers replaces Evensong; the music may be as well sung, but what a difference when all the worship is in Latin, instead of English. In 1970, in one of those periodic outbursts of corporate stupidity, Choral Evensong became a monthly, rather than a weekly, broadcast – though not for long, as sackfuls of complaints powered into Broadcasting House. I remember the novelist and critic Marghanita Lahrki publically protesting that though her faith was Jewish, she regarded Choral Evensong as an indispensable part of English culture. So, on to the centenary.



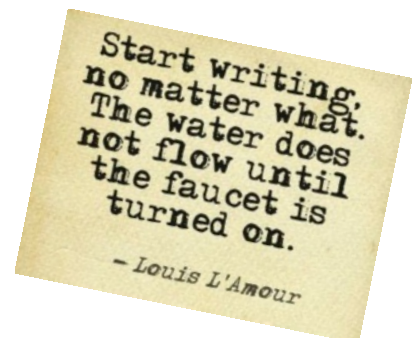
## THIS IS YOUR LIFE

I started coming to St. Andrew's at the beginning of this year following a memorial service for my friend Ann Bradshaw who had attended here for some time and was a member of the Mothers Union. My first impression was of a friendly and welcoming congregation and I soon felt a sense of belonging.

A long-term interest of mine has been writing, ranging from short stories, articles and longer pieces usually with a humorous touch. At different times I've attended creative writing short courses, one at Kingston University, and belonged to an amateur writers group.

A few years ago two friends went on the holiday of a lifetime to South America, travelling by coach round Venezuela, the highlight of the trip being a boat ride on the Orinoco river. It was, of course, no ordinary holiday, their coach being re-routed due to rebel activities in the area. When they finally arrived at their hotel, hot and tired and slightly anxious, the luggage compartment could not be opened as they key had broken off in the lock and they had to stay in their travelling clothes for several days. They suffered food poisoning and serious insect bites but insisted it had been a wonderful experience.

This seemed to me a good subject for a story and I wrote a piece called Up the Orinoco with the Co-Op (their travel agent) which won first prize in a competition.





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJESTY

In the 1970s I lived in Australia for a time and was fortunate to be in Sydney when the Queen and Prince Philip opened the new Opera House. I was on a boat in the harbour along with many cheerful young Australians enjoying this special day in their usual noisy fashion. But when the Queen's voice came over the tannoy there was an immediate and respectful silence. This was in 1973 and seeing Her Majesty at her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations recently made me realise what a really long and dedicated life of service she has led.

My current project is to find a publisher for a 3 act play entitled Thee Time of Your Life which I've worked on for many years (being a somewhat lazy kind of writer). It is a light-hearted feel-good piece concerning twin sisters who are about to inherit their father's money - due to an error in his will - at the age of 71! However, a long-lost brother turns up unexpectedly and tries to claim it all. Dismay and confusion follows and they consider ways of getting rid of him, but I'm glad to say all ends happily.



“Money wrongly  
gained will disappear bit  
by bit;

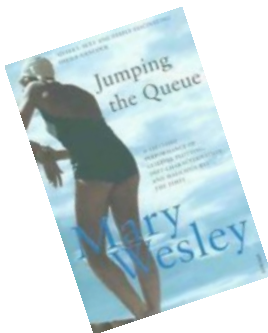
Money earned little by little  
will grow & grow”

**Proverbs 13:11**

## MY GRANDFATHER & BEYOND

At the moment I'm working on the very early stages of a novel based loosely on my grandfather's life. He was brought up in London where his parents ran a public house near Leicester Square in the heart of theatre land. Their regulars' included Sarah Bernhardt, W. G Grace and members of the horse-racing fraternity. Grandfather became involved in the racing world, becoming great friends with Fred Archer (the Frankie Dettori of his day) and owning a number of horses, but unfortunately was not always very successful with his investments.

I'm looking forward hopefully to perhaps becoming a published octogenarian author, greatly encouraged by the fact that Mary Wesley wasn't published until the age of 73.



Sarah Bernhardt 1844-1923



William Gilbert Grace 1848-1915



Fred Archer 1857-1886

## YMCA CHRISTMAS LUNCH

In December we'll be holding our usual Christmas lunch at the YMCA. This is a great opportunity to work with local shops, charities and other churches in Surbiton to offer hospitality at Christmas. You may well have noticed that the Surbiton Waitrose collection this

month – and next – supports the lunch. We hope to have contributions from our other regular

supporters which, as we were told in Waitrose, makes this a real community venture, working

for others in their community, at a season when the church can take a practical lead in showing

those who may not often come to church some of what Christmas is all about.

E Mails have already gone out to volunteers from previous years and we are beginning to gather people to undertake the various roles to be filled. Within a month or so, invitations will

go to local people who might otherwise spend Christmas by themselves.

We are always pleased to receive further offers of support. In particular, the services of anyone who owns a large people carrier, that might take somebody with mobility issues and their wheelchair, would be really appreciated! Just contact Carole if you would like to know more.

**Carole: 07500 039452**  
**cbeezles@me.com**



“My command is this:  
Love each other as I have  
loved you. Greater love has no  
one than this: to lay down  
one's life for one's friends.”

**John 15: 12-13**

**YORK MINSTER**

As a visitor to York recently, I naturally went to the Minster, and was also lucky enough to attend Choral Evensong—I say lucky enough because you have to queue to get into the quire area where these services take place.

The Minster is the largest medieval cathedral in England, and is also famous for its stained glass—the cathedral has more medieval stained glass than any other church in England. It dates from 1220, though the guide books tell you it took 250 years to complete, and so contains a variety of church architectural styles.



The famous Rose Window in the south transept gable commemorates the end of the Wars of the Roses, with the marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. The only problem I found during my visit was that the cathedral was preparing for the staging of the famous York cycle of medieval Mystery plays—only the second time in 800 years the play (several condensed into one long one) has been staged in the Minster. This meant a great deal of scaffolding being erected and a considerable amount of banging and clanking going on. We, the visitors, had to dodge around the busy workmen. But I was still able to wander around and appreciate the absolutely magnificent stained glass windows and the quite fantastic quire and high altar, and the vast nave with its great arched roof.





## YORK MINSTER

Visiting the undercroft is an experience in its own right, as it contains Roman, Norman and Gothic architecture, a history of the excavations, and the story of the Great Dig, done to install stronger foundations under the central tower. To wander around the area, with its ancient walls, makes you acutely aware of Time, the passing of centuries, and most importantly the faith of ordinary people, who lived, worshipped and died in the shadow of the great building.

The quire, where Evensong is held daily, is a study in exquisite carving in wood and stone, with the high altar towering at the far end. Carvings are everywhere, shields and kings and queens and armorial bearings, with candles flickering and the voices of the choir soaring to the vaulted roof.

This Evensong was unusual as it contained the installation of the Rt. Hon. Frank Field MP as a Canon Provincial, an honorary title given to individuals who have made a distinguished contribution to the building up of Church and Society, not least in the north of England. (part of the speech of presentation.) This meant the attendance of the Archbishop of York, the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Sentamu, which one of the minster sidespersons assured me was a rare event.



**ORIGINAL SERMON NOTES**

Good Morning

So why am I here and why am I a Christian.

I have always felt from an early age that I wanted to be a Christian. Even though my parents never really went to Church or there was any discussion in the house about God or faith, I felt it was right and something I wanted in my life.

I grew up in a large industrial town called Merthyr Tydfil and my 1<sup>st</sup> experience of church was attending Sunday school at my Grandmother's small Welsh Baptist church. We would rush in at the end of the last hymn sung in Welsh and the grand mothers of those attending would smile with delight, that their grandchildren had come to chapel.

Both my parents were brought up as Christians in a very relaxed Baptist style and often felt that their regular attendance as children, often 3 times a day, they were quick to remind us of (this must have been Easter and not every week) was the reason why they no longer needed to go as adults.

My sisters and I were disciplined by the fear of God, and my mother would often use the words God will pay you back! Thankfully this never put me off, nor did the demonstration of full immersion baptism during Sunday night bath time. In fact we love it and laughed our heads off and cried out again! again!



“Our God is a  
great big God,

Our God is a great big God,

Our God is a great big God,

And he holds us in his  
hands”

ORIGINAL SERMON NOTES

I don't have much memory of church after that for a while apart from being cast as King in the Chapel nativity of which I was most disgusted and thought that I would have suited the role of Mary or and angel, or course every little girls dream.

After many years of no church in my life I became church curious and overheard my friend Sally Ann was going to a little Chapel near her home, so I took myself off there on a Sunday afternoon whilst my parents slept off a heavy Sunday lunch and a few sherry's.

I loved the greeting we had from an elderly couple, Mr & Mrs Davies and loved more the incentive of a sticker on my chapel card for attending and also an additional one for learning a verse from the Bible.

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Entering my teens I felt God calling me to church even more and not brave enough to sort a suitable church, I turned to Sally Anne again and decided to go along to the main Baptist church in the town, where my parents were married.

Making a conscious effort to walk the couple of miles there on a Sunday morning I was comfortable with it and by now I was at an age to listen and understand the sermon from the Rev. Dr. Offerfield. All was going well, members of the congregation were friendly and my parents were not really taking any notice of my Sunday morning disappearance until..... the minister came to visit! To put it mildly this freaked out the family and over time I stopped getting up early to walk to Chapel.

Boy friends and teenage rights of passage took over and became a louder voice than that of God, or maybe it was the voice that I was more interested in listening to.

However, God never gave up on me. From somewhere inside me came the faith that God was there in my life and that one day I would invite him to be in my heart.

My longing to belong to a church community never went away. 20 years ago this August, I moved to North London and one Sunday evening as I was walking home, I came across a Anglican style church and I could hear the most inviting gospel singing coming from it. I stood outside the church longing to go on in as I said to myself. I want to be part of that!!

**ORIGINAL SERMON NOTES**

Nothing much really happened in my conquest to join a church for the next 16 years, but through that time I had always felt God presence. I had prayed when things were desperate and turned to my Gideon's New Testament for guidance, given to me in school at the age of 12.

Through that time I had had invited God into my life and I was very sure I wanted him to guide me and that he was protecting me.

I had every faith that one day I would have the confidence to bring me back to a church community that I could grow in spirit and fellowship. I always had faith that I would meet someone I would want to marry and I did; I met Chris who happened to come from this area. So God had a plan and it was beginning to work out.

Chris and I got married and a while later came along Gracie, by this point the draw to church was even greater as I really felt close to God for blessing me with the miracle of my child.

A couple of years into Gracie's life and a friend invited me to a lovely Children's service at St. Andrews, feeling awkward I declined and said that it interfered with my Sunday lie in that I had worked hard to get

Eventually after experiencing something wonderful at the Children's Christingle and wanting to cry through the service, I felt that finally this could be a place for me. The simplicity of the 9.15 service was great, the message was delivered in a simplistic manner that a tired agitated mother could pick up.

Then there was the action song that stayed with me. I would catch myself going down the escalator at Waterloo singing Our God is a great big God.

**"I FELT THAT  
FINALLY THIS  
COULD BE THE  
PLACE FOR  
ME"**





## ORIGINAL SERMON NOTES

I began to attend the regular service on time and to be honest often felt like a banana! I really wasn't use to such formal worship and didn't know when

to sit, stand, respond or just keep quiet. I got the hang of it in later years made the commitment to God that I'd always know I'd wanted to do, I was baptised by Helen Hancock in St Andrews. I was a wonderful experience for me be able to take part in the Eucharist every week and still is today. Becoming one with Jesus and sharing in his body and blood still moves me each time. The post Eucharistic prayer of 'You met with us and brought us home' really ring home to me because after years of wandering, God really did bring me home

And just like the reading of the prodigal son that we have listened to this morning, when I was ready to turn my life over to God and come back, he welcomed me with open arms.

God has never left me. Sometimes my mind and actions are far from him but his presence is always there when I give him the space to be with me. When I go to Sainsbury's after shopping at a cheaper rival Asda, or Aldi and I hand over my nectar card and pay, the till goes crazy and spews out lots of money off vouchers and offers. It does not present me with a penalty but instead floods me with rewards. And so this is how God welcomes me also. He has not turned me away when I have not been committed to him but is delighted with me and respond with the love of the doting Father he is, that his lost sheep has returned.

I'm sure If I don't shop at Sainsbury's for 16 years, Mr Sainsbury may get disheartened with me and not offer me such great delights as £5 off shopping, however God waits until the disheartened shopper returns and the reward is his unfailing love.

**Amen**



### KINGSTON STREET PASTORS



For the last 3 months I have been the new co-ordinator of Kingston Street Pastors. Street Pastors is a ministry which began in Brixton in 2003, our initiative in Kingston has been operating since 2005. There are now over 11,000 Street Pastors volunteering in 270 locations around the UK.

Street Pastors is about Christians engaging with people on the streets, to meet with them and ensure that they are safe and looked after. All Street Pastors volunteers are Christians who attend local churches.

In Kingston, we patrol the town centre every Friday and Saturday night from 10pm til 4am from our base at Kingston United Reformed Church. Each team consists of four Street Pastors (one of whom is a leader) and two prayer pastors who remain at the URC to pray for the work of the team and for the people that they encounter. This requires a committed team of more than 50 volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life. We are always looking for more.

Street Pastors perform a variety of different tasks while out in the town. They work with the homeless to ensure that they are safe and cared for, often forming relationships with long term homeless people in Kingston who they see regularly. They assist people (primarily younger people) who have had too much to drink, have been separated from friends or have been victims of crime.

Street Pastors work with the police, the local council and businesses in the night-time economy of Kingston to form part of a team that helps keep people safe in Kingston Town Centre. Our teams are in contact with police, CCTV and door staff by radio and we all work together. Street Pastors are often called to assist vulnerable people or diffuse potentially volatile situations. All of our volunteers undergo 8 training sessions which cover a whole range of issues from conflict resolution and befriending, to drink and drugs and mental health.



## **KINGSTON STREET PASTORS**

Our teams also give out bottled water, flip flops (for ladies who have grown tired of their shoes) and lollipops. We also collect discarded glass bottles from the Streets to keep the town centre tidy and prevent them from being used as weapons in any potential conflicts.

While Street Pastors is an explicitly Christian initiative, it is not street evangelism. Our teams focus on serving practical, material needs of people first and foremost but are always ready to have discussions about their faith where they are invited.

Any of our volunteers would tell you that being a Street Pastor is immensely rewarding. It's a brilliant vehicle for Christian volunteering in a really helpful way and this is reflected by the high regard in which we are held by our partners, the police and the local council. It's a big commitment but our volunteers are well trained and well supported and always report that going out at night in the town centre isn't nearly as intimidating as they thought it would be.

If you would like to know more about Street Pastors or would be interested in volunteering or contributing to our work financially or in prayer (by receiving our weekly prayer letter) then please come and speak with me or email me on [kingston@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:kingston@streetpastors.org.uk) . You could also speak to Carole Bourne or Sarah Stokes at St Andrew's and St Mark's to learn more about what being a Street Pastor is like.



[kingston@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:kingston@streetpastors.org.uk)



# SASM CHILDREN'S CORNER

## FOCUS ON CHRISTMAS

As the year draws to a close, the Christian Church starts to prepare for the coming of Jesus in December. Christmas is celebrated on 25 December, which is the day we believe Jesus, the Son of God, was born. The period leading up to Christmas is known as Advent and involves counting the days to Christmas, for example, by lighting an Advent Candle. Our theme this edition is the expectant season of Advent and the joyful celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Christmas is celebrated around the world: a happy time remembering Christ's birth, life and his living amongst us.



### Coventry – Flock – Manger – Hark - David's

Once in Royal \_\_\_\_\_ City;  
Away in a \_\_\_\_\_;  
While Shepherds Watched Their \_\_\_\_\_ by Night;  
The \_\_\_\_\_ Carol;  
\_\_\_\_\_ The Herald Angels Sing.



## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

Can you think how Christians celebrate Christmas? Often children perform Nativity plays – retelling the story of Christ's birth. We also sing happy songs about the story of Christmas – these are known as carols. How well do you know yours? Can you fill in the blanks above and complete the titles using the words?

## DID YOU KNOW?

- **Some surprising facts about Carols...**
- Silent Night is actually German: Stille Nacht.
- O Come All Ye Faithful used to mark you out as a Jacobite revolutionary!
- Good King Wenceslas, in real life, was only a Duke and he wasn't good either: he was hacked to death!
- The tune for Hark! The Herald Angels Sing was written by Felix Mendelssohn to celebrate 400 years of printing – so nothing at all to do with Christmas! Wesley originally called it Hark! How All the Welkin Ring & sung it to a different tune.
- In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the only carol allowed to be sung in church was While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night.







## SASM CHILDREN'S CORNER



### CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



#### CAN YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS?

CHRISTINGLE BETHLEHEM JESUS MANGER MARY JOSEPH

ANGELS REJOICE STAR WISE MEN DONKEY



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

### INTERESTING FACT

Christmas is always celebrated by us on 25 December whatever day of the week that it. However, like Easter, Advent changes: it always starts on the nearest Sunday to 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Look at a calendar: Can you work out when Advent starts this year?



#### AND FINALLY... A CHRISTMAS JOKE & RIDDLE – HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

What is a parents' favourite carol? **Silent Night!**

How many presents can Father Christmas fit in an empty sack?



*Answer to the interesting fact & riddle at the bottom of page 27*

## DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WITH CANCER?

MARTIN & LINDA  
TAYLOR  
EXPLAIN THE  
IMPORTANCE OF  
BEING A PLATELET  
DONOR



Do you enjoy having a morning or afternoon rest, waited on by staff with tea or coffee, biscuits or crisps? If, like me, the answer is yes, then perhaps think about becoming a Platelet Donor for the NHS Blood and Transplant. In the UK, 1.4 million people donate blood but only one percent (14,000 across the whole country) donate platelets.

### WHAT ARE PLATELETS?

Blood is made of plasma (the fluid in our veins) carrying red cells (oxygen delivery vehicles), white cells (soldiers against bacteria and infection) and platelets (really small cells) which form a mesh (or plug) to stop bleeding. If someone donates blood then they give up an armful of "whole blood" which can be used for transfusions, etc; if someone is under going emergency treatment or surgery then it is possible that the blood used in a transfusion will simple leak out so does short term rather than long term good. However, whole blood does provide red cells which is essential for oxygen delivery. Platelets are used in a more controlled environment such as when a cancer or leukemia sufferer is undergoing chemotherapy, during organ or bone marrow transplants or following trauma or surgery, i.e. whenever doctors need to stop bleeding.

When you donate platelets your blood is taken out (a little at a time, luckily), put through a centrifuge to separate out the platelets (which are yellow in colour and quite opaque) and then the vast majority of the blood is returned to you through the same needle. During the process you lie in a reclining chair, supping tea, coffee or squash, eating biscuits or snacks, surfing the Internet (free, high speed Wi-Fi), reading or dozing. The attached photo shows just how stressful the process is!

## DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WITH CANCER?

Pain? No. On arrival you will answer a medical screening questionnaire which, whilst personal, is not particularly intrusive. Then a blood sample will be taken to check your iron level - this is done with a finger prick tool and is, often, the most painful part of the whole process but lasts for only a fraction of a second. Your pulse is measured and then off to bed! Your veins are checked for suitability then a needle is inserted into your arm, normally inside the elbow and the process starts. After about 70 minutes the machine will declare it has got all it needs and, after returning the last of the blood including that held in the various tubes, you will be offered another drink or snack and asked to make your next appointment.

Whole blood can only be donated once every 12 weeks (men) or 16 weeks (women) whilst platelets can be donated every two weeks or a maximum of 24 times a year. Each platelet donation can benefit up to 3 adults or 12 children but, and this is a big deal, platelets can only be stored for up to 7 days so a regular supply of donations is constantly required, especially over holiday periods - we both donated on Boxing Day last year.

## INTERESTED?

There are 23 platelet donation centres in the UK and our closest one is at St George's in Tooting (35 minutes after catching a train at Surbiton you can be walking into the donor reception centre) where appointments are available at various times of day and evening, Monday to Saturday. Go to [platelets.blood.co.uk](http://platelets.blood.co.uk) for eligibility criteria or speak to either Linda or myself for more information.

Teach me true generosity.  
Teach me to serve you as you  
deserve.  
To give without counting the cost,  
To fight heedless of wounds,  
To labour without seeking rest,  
To sacrifice myself without  
thought of any reward  
Save the knowledge that I have  
done your will.  
**St. Ignatius of Loyola**



### CHRIS ENNIS

Many years ago, my wife and I were asked if we could represent our parish (RC) on the committee of Churches Together in Surbiton, as the current holder of that position was about to move to a new home in Buckinghamshire. At our first meeting, we received a warm welcome from the ministers, vicars and reps of all the Christian churches in the area. On attending services and social functions in all of these places of worship we have always received a warm, sincere welcome.

We attended the rededication services at both St. Andrew's and St. Mark's Churches. At the latter event, I found myself seated alongside a Cabinet Minister!

We were regular attendees at a coffee morning held each week at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church. Sadly it was poorly supported and soon ceased to operate. On hearing that St. Andrew's holds a "coffee and friendship" morning every Friday, we were delighted to support it. A few weeks after our first visit we found ourselves helping to collate and staple new issues of 'Tower and Spire' so clearly we were accepted into the fold. Despite John Wickenden's laughter on hearing of an injury to my left foot (The humour in this had to be explained to me- Ed) we continue to attend and are happy to support causes for which monies are collected.

*Who we are is God's gift to us; who we become is our gift to God. – Andrew Jones*



# THE LEBANESE MYSTERY

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS “MYSTERY” PLANT?

Earlier this year, I was given three small corms by a Lebanese man who was doing some work for my daughter. Unfortunately, I never got to speak to him. All I know is that the plant grows wild in the area of the Lebanon where the man's family live. He now grows the plants in pots to remind him of home.

I planted the corms up and placed the pot outside in a sunny spot. Very soon, vigorous green shoots started to appear, followed by a massive single flower spike, which later produced beautiful, highly perfumed waxy flowers.

I have been unable to identify the plant and for now, have labelled it ‘Lebanese Lily’.

Can you identify this plant for me?. There is a £10 John Lewis gift card waiting for the person who exactly identifies it (although you may be required to write an article, explaining how you came to recognise it!).

**Mike Smith**





## GHOSTS OF THE SOMME



I am aware that in the last edition, the very moving picture of Simon Lewis was unfortunately not produced to best effect.

We are very happy to rectify this with a better image!

Editor



## COMING UP IN THE NEXT EDITION EDITION

“The 'Ilexholm Family”- The True Story.

Sarolta Buzasi finally gets to write her review

A poem on ..... Brexit!

And much more



Sarolta Buzasi



## CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to send our love & congratulations to Laura & Matt for the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter Sophia Jude Selman. Who came into the world on 1<sup>st</sup> October, weighing 8lb 1 oz.



### **STOP PRESS!**

Two further baby pictures on page 30

**Answer to the Interesting Fact :** 27 November.

**Riddle Answer:** One – after that it's not empty!

## MINISTRY & STAFF TEAM

Rev'd Robert Stanier	Vicar	robertstanier@btinternet.com 0208 399 0639
Janice Price	Reader	janice.price3@btopenworld.com 0208 397 6795
Sarah Stokes	Pastoral Assistant	sarahstokes@btinternet.com 0208 399 2527
Simon Harvey	Director of Music	sharvey@boreham.fsnet.co.uk
Mike Smith	Magazine Editor	mjs50@outlook.com 0208 399 8865
Katie Smith	Creative Layout Editor	kns78@outlook.com

## CHURCHWARDENS

Roger Jones	rogerjones@btinternet.com 0208 399 6261
Martin Taylor	mtonfuss@gmail.com
Anne Miller	a.miller573@ntlworld.com
Ann Knowles	amknowles@blueyonder.com

## PARISH OFFICE

Clare Chesterman	Parish Administrator	sasm@btinternet.com 0208 390 9129
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## ADDRESS

St. Mark's Church, St. Mark's Hill, Surbiton, KT6 4LS

## OPENING TIMES

Tuesday-Thursday 9:20am-3:30pm & Friday 9:30am-Noon.



# SERVICE CALENDAR

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November

8am BCP Communion, St Andrew's  
9:15am All Together Eucharist, St Mark's  
11am Morning Worship with Baptisms (Sophie), St Andrew's  
6pm Evening Prayer with silence, St Andrew's

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Sunday

8am BCP Communion, St Mark's  
9:15am Family Service, St Mark's  
10:50am Choral Eucharist including Act of Remembrance with Sunday Club, St Andrew's  
6pm Compline, St Andrew's

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November (Christ the King)

8am BCP Communion, St Andrew's  
9:15am Morning Worship with Baptism (Arthur & Caitlin), St Mark's  
11am Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club, St Andrew's  
6pm Evening Service, St Andrew's

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)

8am BCP Communion, St Mark's  
9:15am Family Service, St Mark's  
11am Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club, St Andrew's  
6pm Advent Carols, St Andrews

## Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

7:30pm , Eurcharist for St Andrew's Day, St Andrew's

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)

8am BCP Communion, St Andrew's  
9:15am All Together Eurcharist followed by Parish Breakfast, St Mark's  
11am Morning Worships with Baptisms (Daniel, Wilbur), St Andrew's  
6pm Evening Service, St Andrew's

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

8am BCP Communion, St Mark's  
9:15am Family Service, St Mark's  
11am Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club & Baptism (Georgia), St Andrew's  
6pm Evening Service, St Andrews

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

8am BCP Communion, St Andrew's  
9:15am Morning Worship with Baptism, St Mark's  
11am Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club, St Andrew's  
6pm Christmas Carol Service, St Mark's

## Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December

3:30pm Christingle service, St Andrew's  
5pm Christingle service, St Andrew's (there are two Christingle services)  
11pm Midnight Mass: Carols start at 11pm, service starts at 11:30pm, St Andrew's  
11:30pm, St. Andrew's

## Christmas Day, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December

8am BCP Communion, St Mark's  
10am All Age Eucharist, StMark's

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

8am BCP Communion, St Andrew's  
10:15am New Year Eucharist with Hymns & Carols, St Mark's

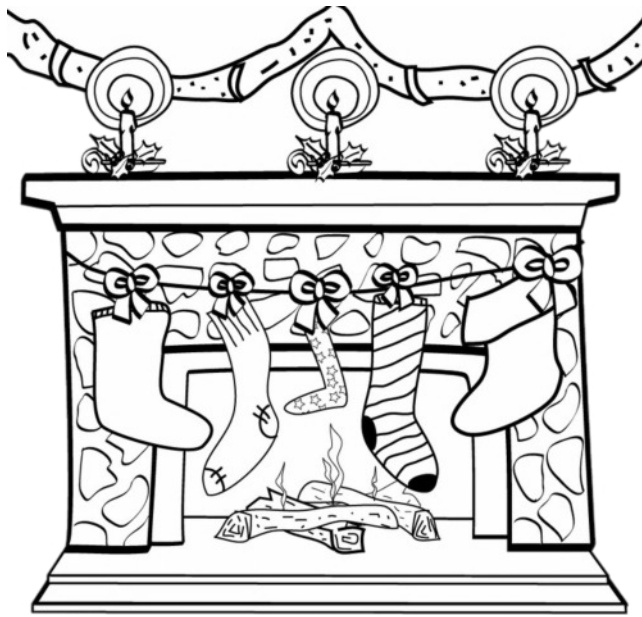




# WELCOME BABY SOPHIA







## CHRISTMAS COLOUR IN FUN

