

The magazine of
the Week St Mary Circle of Churches

Together

January 2017



*Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly.*



United we stand

From the Rectory

What do you do when you're at the cinema and the film finishes? Make a dash for the exit? Or (like me) stay in your seat until the music has stopped and the lights have come back on?

It's not a case of just wanting to get my money's worth – but of trying to drink in every last drop of atmosphere. Lots of people find it really easy to leave the world that the film has created, but (if it's a good film) I find myself held captive by it.

And it's the same with Christmas. Lots of people can't wait, once Boxing Day arrives, to tidy the festive debris and decorations away – and get back to normal.

But I'm never in a hurry to 'get back to normal'. Normal is nice enough – but special is even better! Twelfth Night isn't a joyful time in our household. The baubles are put away only with great reluctance – whilst the tree is parted with even more grudgingly.

They're all part of the magic and the mystery and the joy of Christmas – which we love beyond words. Some church people find the non-religious side of Christmas rather tacky and tasteless, and want something purer and more biblical. But the bad news for them is that they're in danger of building their houses on sand – because the foundations aren't quite as solid as they appear.

Take the Feast of the Epiphany ('Twelfth Day') on 6th January for example (which we'll be keeping this year on 8th January, as that's the nearest Sunday). This was originally a pagan celebration, which later became Christianized into a feast to celebrate the Baptism of Christ.

And although the Eastern Orthodox Church still keeps it in this way, the focus in the West has long been on the arrival of the Wise Men – and despite all the legends, there's nothing about them that's solidly historical.

We don't know their names, or where they were from, or how many of them there were – or even if they existed at all! But that is all beside the

point. What matters is that the Magi (or Magicians or Three Kings, depending on your preference) are an integral part of the panoply of Christmas, and as such help to enrich and enlarge it.

Their role is to mark the significance of Jesus – after all, if even kings journey to see him, then there *must* be something important going on!

The account in Matthew's Gospel (the only one which mentions the Wise Men at all) is almost certainly a Midrash ('elaboration' or 'commentary' or 'storytelling') derived from various Old Testament texts (have a look at Isaiah 60, Numbers 22-24, Psalm 72 or 1 Kings 10 to get the idea) in order to underline the point that Jesus is the long-awaited one, the Messiah.

The Church continues to think of him in this way – but we are not obliged to do so using the thought-forms as those of 2000 years ago. There's nothing wrong with retelling the same stories every year, so long as that's not *all* we do!

Following the example of many of the Bible authors, we need to use *our* imagination and creativity to try and get the underlying claims/truths of Christianity across to the people of our own time.

Those truths are timeless guides to human flourishing – which is why they're as valid now as when they were written all those years ago. And it's why we need to move heaven and earth to make sure they don't get smothered and suffocated by the sheer weight of religious creeper and nostalgia that have grown up around them.

central demand is that we should, in effect, try to capture and bottle the magic at the heart of Christmas, so that it lasts all year. More specifically, it's about taking the sense of goodwill to others, adding all the awe and wonder and mystery that we can find – and going out and putting the resulting glorious life-giving mix into daily practice.

Given that this is the season for New Year's resolutions – there can be no better time to try and do exactly this.

A Happy and a Love-filled New Year to you all!

Revd Tony



Week St Mary ADVENTURE CHURCH

All children are welcome to join in our activities on Tuesday afternoons in termtime; for more information please search for Week St Mary Adventure Church in Facebook Groups and ask to join so that you can see what we are up to in advance and how much fun we have. Phone 01288 341 221 to give us your mobile number if you would like to receive text alerts each week.

HOMELESS?

Seeking Shelter? Know someone who is?

Contacts:

- Cornwall Council 0300 1234 161
- Shelter National Helpline 0808 800 4444
(7 days a week from 8.00am – 8.00pm)

Free Hostels in Cornwall:

Truro:	St. Petroc's Hostel	01872 264153
Camborne:	New Connections	01209 200086
St. Austell:	Cosgarne Hall	01726 74186

Please contact to establish vacancies before travelling.

Stratton Deanery

**Candlemas
Experience
at
Doundstock**



Thursday 2nd February 2017

Service in Church @ 12.30 pm

followed by

Lunch

(Soup, Bread & Cheese & Fruit)

in the Gildhouse

Everyone welcome

(Donations to Christian Aid for the Syrian Refugees)



The Week St Mary Circle online

A reminder that, until the Benefice website is launched, the first port of call for anyone looking for your church online will still usually be your page(s) on

www.achurchnearyou.com

If your church still has no-one looking after your pages, please see if you can persuade someone to take on the job .

Finally, please take a look at the Deanery website:

www.strattondeanery.co.uk

And do please give the Webmaster, David Martin (webmaster@strattondeanery.co.uk), some feedback so that he knows what you value and/or what you would like to see changed.

Farm Crisis Network

Helping farmers in distress, whatever the circumstances.

Farm Crisis Network national helpline: 07002 326 326

More info from Peter Clarke: 01822 811075

Do you need support with . . .

Getting around? Looking after yourself?

Seeing and hearing? Caring for someone else?

For more information, contact

Adult Care and Support Tel: 0300 1234 131

www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4014

email: adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

Claustrophobia!

Meet'n'Eat

in WSM Parish Hall at 12.30pm

on Monday 9th January

Looking forward to seeing you. Sue, Brenda, Linda and the team.



CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other

at Linda's on Friday 20th January from 2pm

For anyone who wants just to share time
over a cup of tea with a friendly group of people.

Contact: Linda Cobbledick (01288 341 468).

Looking forward to seeing you!



MOTHER* & TODDLER

COFFEE POT CLUB

Meets every **Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.00**
in Week St Mary Parish Hall

Tons of toys, carafes of coffee, loads of laughter.

Babes bring your Mum and have some fun!

Want more info? Contact Amy Holding (01566 785 580)

*Fathers, grandmothers/fathers, uncles, aunts, etc, etc, also welcome!

The WEEK ST MARY POP-IN COFFEE CLUB

in the Methodist Sunday School Room
every other Thursday, 10.30am - 12noon

For more details, please ring: 01288 341 513



JACOBSTOW POP-IN COFFEE CLUB

10.30am to 12noon in the Parish Hall

every other Thursday

Please contact Ray Fox 01840 230 153 for details.

WSM CIRCLE SERVICES January 2017

AMW: Revd Tony Windross, **RD:** Revd Canon Rob Dickenson,
RY: Revd Rob Yeomans, **PJ:** Revd Peter Judson, **MM:** Methodist Minister,
GS: Gloria Street, **CG:** Carol Goundry, **DP:** Drue Pratt,
AA: Audrey Atkin, **WT:** Worship Team
HC: Holy Communion, **MP:** Morning Prayer, **ES:** Evening Service,
FS: Family Service, **AM:** Anglo-Methodist Service, **C:** Compline,
UBS: United Benefice Service

JANUARY

Sunday 1st Naming and Circumcision of Jesus <i>white</i>	Numbers 6: 22-end; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21; Psalm 8	1030 Widemouth Bay UBS RD
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Wed 4th		0830 Widemouth Bay HC AMW
Thurs 5th		1100 St Anne's Home HC RD
Fri 6th		1700 Widemouth Bay ES WT

Sunday 8th Epiphany <i>white</i>	Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12; Psalm 72: 10-15	0800 Widemouth Bay HC AMW 0930 Jacobstow MP CG 0930 Warbstow HC AMW 1100 Whitstone HC AMW 1100 Poundstock MP WT 1100 St Gennys MP CG 1830 Week St Mary ES WT
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Weds 11th		0830 Widemouth Bay HC AMW
Friday 13th		1700 Widemouth Bay ES WT

JANUARY cont'd

Sunday 15th Second Sunday of Epiphany <i>white</i>	Isaiah 49: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42; Psalm 40: 1-12	1030 Jacobstow UBS RY
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Weds 18th Friday 20th		0830 Widemouth Bay HC RY 1700 Widemouth Bay ES WT
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Sunday 22nd Third Sunday of Epiphany <i>white</i>	Isaiah 9: 1-4; 1 Cor. 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23; Psalm 27: 1-11	0800 Widemouth Bay HC RD 0930 Jacobstow HC RD 0930 Poundstock MP CG 1100 Warbstow Plough Sunday AA 1100 Whitstone MP WT 1100 Week St Mary HC RD
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Weds 25th Fri 27th		0830 Widemouth Bay HC PJ 1700 Widemouth Bay ES WT
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Sunday 29th Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) <i>white</i>	Malachi 3: 1-5; Hebrews 2: 14-end; Luke 2: 22-40; Psalm 24	1030 Poundstock UBS RY
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FEBRUARY

Weds 1st Thurs 2nd Fri 3rd		0830 Widemouth Bay HC RD 1100 St Anne's Home HC RD 1700 Widemouth Bay ES WT
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FEBRUARY, cont'd

Sunday 5th Fourth Sunday before Lent <i>green</i>	Isaiah 58: 1-9; 1 Cor. 2: 1-12; Matthew 5: 13-20; Psalm 112	0800	Widemouth Bay	HC	RY
		0930	Week St Mary	FS	WT
		0930	Poundstock	HC	RY
		1100	St Gennys	HC	RD
		1600	Jacobstow	ES	DP
		1830	Whitstone	C	RD

Stratton Deanery - Week Day Services

First Tuesday of each month:

Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament,
 4:00pm St Michael, Bude Haven

Every Wednesday: Holy Communion

8:30am Our Lady and St Anne, Widemouth Bay

9:30am St Andrew, Stratton

10:30am St James, Kilkhampton

10:00am St Piran's Chapel, Trethevy – Tintagel (on the first Wednesday of each month the celebration at St Piran's Chapel includes prayer, anointing and the laying on of hands for wholeness & healing.)

Every Thursday: St Michael, Bude Haven

8:45am Morning Prayer

9:30am Holy Communion

Every Friday: Our Lady and St Anne, Widemouth Bay

5:00pm Evening Prayer

Material for the **February Together** by **Weds January 18th**,
 please, to: prmitich64@gmail.com or
 Lihai, Tresmeer, LAUNCESTON, PL15 8QY

Wishing all our readers a Happy and
 Prosperous New Year

DIARY DATES

Changes/additions in **bold type**;

*** indicates a more detailed reference elsewhere in the magazine**

CHRISTMAS EVE Services

3pm St Gennys Church, Crib Service

5pm WSM Church, Crib Service

9.45pm Whitstone Church, Midnight Mass

11.30pm WSM Church, Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY services (all Holy Communion)

8am Widemouth Bay

9.30am Jacobstow

9.30am Poundstock

11am Warbstow

Wed 28th 2.15pm Widemouth Bay Summerhouse,

Discussion Group *

JANUARY

Wed 4th 2.15pm Widemouth Bay Summerhouse,

Discussion Group *

Mon 9th 12.30pm WSM Parish Hall, Meet'n'Eat *

Mon 9th 7.30pm 14 Monterey Cl.ose., Deanery Book Club *

Wed 11th 2.15pm Widemouth Bay Summerhouse,

Discussion Group *

Wed 18th 2.15pm Widemouth Bay Summerhouse,

Discussion Group *

Fri 20th from 2pm at Linda's, CAMEO *

January Diary Dates, cont'd

Sun 22nd 11am Warbstow Church, Plough Sunday service*

**Wed 25th 2.15pm Widemouth Bay Summerhouse,
Discussion Group ***

FEBRUARY

**Wed 1st 2.15pm Widemouth Bay Summerhouse,
Discussion Group ***

**Thu 2nd 12.30 Poundstock Church,
Candlemas Service , followed by lunch***

Mon 6th 7.30pm 14 Monterey Close., Deanery Book Club *

**Wed 8th 2.15pm Widemouth Bay Summerhouse,
Discussion Group ***



Warbstow Church Plough Sunday Service

on Sunday, January 22nd, at 11am

A short service followed by
soup, pasties and sweet lunch.

All Welcome

What goes: now you see me, now you don't, now you see me,
now you don't?

A snowman on a zebra crossing!

Persecuted Christians in Tajikistan

January 2017

Tajikistan in Central Asia has, since becoming independent in 1991, like many former Soviet countries in that area, become more and more restrictive, especially of religious freedom. Following elections in 2015 an even more severe restrictive regime has been imposed, particularly in matters religious. While the majority religion is Muslim, about 1% of the 9 million population are Christian of various denominations.

Persecution is particularly harsh against converts from an Islamic background. By law, all religious literature must be approved by government censors, and all churches and activities have to be registered, with a ban on the instruction of children other than in their own homes.

The fear of radical extremism, especially in Islam, provides the authorities with all the excuses it needs to watch, monitor, and curb all religious activity. In spite of all this persecution and restriction Christianity in Tajikistan continues to grow.

Prayers.

Give thanks to God that his church is growing in Tajikistan.

Pray that Christians will find ways to have fellowship, support each other, and share their faith with each other and with their Muslim neighbours, without fear and persecution.

Pray that Christian children will be confirmed and strengthened in their faith in spite of government restrictions.

Pray for the relaxation and removal of all government controls on Christian activities and for the establishment of true religious freedom in Tajikistan.



Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Discussion Group

meet on **Wednesdays at 2.15pm**
and are currently reading

The Shaking of the Foundations by Paul Tillich

For more info, please ring Hilda on 01288 361 323



STRATTON DEANERY BOOK CLUB

Monday 9th January 7.30 - 9.30pm

at 14, Monterey Close, Bude, EX23 8DX

New members always welcome.

Diocese of Truro Newsletter - Our News Christmas 2016

In this month's edition:

- Christmas message from Bishop Tim
- Christmas dinner in a box

Internship Trainees

How will funding help your church grow

Diocesan directory, changes and updates

If you have an idea, news story or diary date, please get in touch by calling 01872 274351 or email comms@truro.anglican.org

What goes ho-ho whoosh, ho-ho whoosh?

Santa caught in a revolving door!

THE CHURCH YEAR: Thoughts for January

with thanks to Hilda Walter

One time I thought that I would be lucky to reach 2000 and now here we are 17 years later.

At the beginning of a new year we often decide to try and be a better person and among some papers I found this: 'Spiritual Growth. It is right that you should begin again every day. There is no better way to finish the spiritual life than to be forever beginning it over again, never to think that you have done enough.' (St Francis de Sales 1567-1622. His festival is on January 24th)



'Massacre of the Innocents',
Matteo di Giovanni, 1482

On the 6th we celebrate the Epiphany when we think of the Three Wise Men visiting the Baby Jesus. On December the 28th we had Holy Innocents day when we remember the killing of the baby boys by Herod who supposedly had met the Wise Men and was afraid the Baby they sought would threaten his position. How many children have died over this Christmas at the hands of soldiers, bombs and starvation? Nothing is new.

When I was a child there was the occasional tramp. Now we have many homeless people. We watch on the television as a city with modern buildings is bombed to the ground making more and more people homeless. What is this progress that we think we are making?

On the 25th it is St Paul we remember. He never saw Jesus but he had a vision of Christ which overwhelmed him and from then he spent his life spreading His teaching.

As the new year begins let us renew our discipleship and begin each day with determination to follow in the path of all the saints and teachers that have helped us as we draw nearer to eternal life.

Prayer.

Lord Jesus help us in our daily life to overcome our faults. Help us to be willing to travel through hard times. Give us grace to change like St Paul so that our lives may be acceptable in Thy sight.

The main contacts:

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector: **Revd Tony Windross** **01288 341 600**
amwindross@btinternet.com

Reader: Carol Goundry 01840 230 606

Pastoral Coordinator: Joy Farran 01288 341 437
joyfarran@btinternet.com

UNITED BENEFICE COUNCIL

Lay Chair: Graham Jones 01288 361 147
jones@maves.co.uk

Hon. Secretary: Lesley Booker 01288 341 221
bookerfarmservices@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer: Anthony Farquhar 01840 230 384
ac.farquhar@btopenworld.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Jacobstow	01840 230 526	Mr Brian Marshall
	01840 230 153	Mr Ray Fox
Poundstock	01288 361 147	Mr Graham Jones
	01288 361 504	Ms Hilary Kenny
St Gennys	01840 230 151	Mrs Hannah Clifford
	01840 230 006	Mr Robert Andrew
Treneglos	01566 781 421	Mr Peter Mitchell
	01566 781 372	Mrs Heather French
Warbstow	01566 781 835	Mrs Audrey Atkin
	01566 781 081	Mrs Helen Jeffs
Week St Mary	01288 341 221	Mrs Lesley Booker
	01288 341 348	Mr Dick Sowerby
Widemouth Bay	01288 362 254	Miss Judy MacDonald
Whitstone	01288 341 598	Mr Mervyn Collins
	01288 341 699	Miss Phyllis Walter