

The magazine of
the Week St Mary Circle of Churches

Together

January 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2018



United we stand

From the Rectory

Like it or not – the Church is becoming more managerially-minded, with many bishops involved in MBA-type courses. Opinion is divided about it – but there's one aspect of good managerial practice that *does* need taking seriously by all of us. And that's about changing our mindset – to see *Problems as Opportunities*.

One of the most important questions each of us can ask at the beginning of a new year is: *What sort of person am I?* Glass half-empty? – or Glass half-full?

We can probably all think of people who define themselves by their illnesses, and are forever talking about them. Just as we can probably all think of others who choose to make light of whatever medical problems they've got, and simply get on with things.

Similarly, we can probably all think of those who are forever on the go – defining themselves in terms of their incessant activity, and wearing their busy-ness as a badge of pride; feeling stressed and put-upon, but unwilling (maybe unable?) to step back. And then there are others who simply do whatever needs doing, without making a great fuss.

One element of this, is whether we see ourselves as God's gift to others – or others as God's gift to *us*. Whether we see ourselves as so important we're virtually indispensable, so that everything depends on us. Or whether we see ourselves as simply part of a group of fellow workers in the vineyard.

It's also to do with whether we choose to see the future as an unending series of tasks to be done, problems to be grappled with, and hurdles to be surmounted. Or as an unending flow of opportunities and occasions of Grace.

One of my favourite prayers includes the wonderful line 'God give you work till your life shall end; and life till your work is done'. Which says it all really.

Every single new year comes with the alluring prospect of fresh possibilities, as we try to live out the gospel, and do our bit to make

the world a gentler, kinder and more loving place. It's all too easy to see our lives as a battle and a struggle: something we have *somehow* to get through.

There are bound to be times when things *do* pile up – and we hope to tick them all off the to-do list before we run out of steam. But grim determination mustn't ever be allowed to become the default setting. Otherwise we're missing out on the whole concept of Divine Grace – which is that every single day is an amazing gift to be cherished.

Think of those wonderful words from William Blake:

To see a World in a Grain of Sand, And a Heaven in a Wild Flower; Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, And Eternity in an hour.

Or these from William Henry Davies:

What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand beneath the boughs And stare as long as sheep or cows. No time to see, when woods we pass, Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass. No time to see, in broad daylight, Streams full of stars, like skies at night. No time to turn at Beauty's glance, And watch her feet, how they can dance. No time to wait till her mouth can Enrich that smile her eyes began. A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

If you're the kind of person who makes New Year resolutions – how about one that emphasises the need to be *less* busy, *less* fraught, *less* stressed? Given my imminent departure, it would be easy for those with responsibilities in our different churches to see the period until a replacement is found – as a long, arduous slog.

But whilst there obviously *will* be all sorts of things that need dealing with – it doesn't have to be a desperate time. Opportunities not Problems needs to be our watchword, as each of us looks to make our bit of the world a gentler, kinder and more loving place. Something that never, *ever* happens through gritted teeth.

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

DIARY DATES

For Church services see centre pages. For more details see the page listed.

January

- Mon 1** NO Meet & Eat in January (p 5)
- Wed 10** Widemouth Bay Study Group 2 pm St Hilary, Widemouth Bay (P9)
- Fri 12** Widemouth Bay Summerhouse activities, 2.15 pm (p 9)
- Tue 16** Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)
- Tue 16** Adventure Church, first meeting of term at WSM, 4.30 pm with a Speaker on homelessness from St Petroc's Society
- Wed 17** Widemouth Bay Study Group 2 pm St Hilary, Widemouth Bay (P9)
- Fri 19** CAMEO at Wyke House WSM 2.30 (p 5)
- Tue 23** Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)
- Tue 23** Adventure Church, WSM, 4.30 pm
- Tue 23** Deanery Finance Committee Meeting, for all Parish Treasurers, at WSM Church 7pm (p 4)
- Wed 24** Widemouth Bay Study Group 2 pm St Hilary, Widemouth Bay (P9)
- Fri 26** Widemouth Bay Summerhouse activities, 2.15 pm (p 9)
- Tue 30** Adventure Church, WSM, 4.30 pm
- Wed 31** Widemouth Bay Study Group 2 pm St Hilary, Widemouth Bay (P9)

February

- Tue 6** ~~Deanery Synod Meeting at Otterham Hall 6.30 for 7 pm (p 4)~~

OUR BENEFICE IN TRANSITION

The United Benefice Council will be meeting in January to discuss the preparation of our Benefice Profile in readiness for our search for a new priest which will begin as soon as Revd Tony has left for his new post on 18 February. In order to arrange a date for this meeting, please can all PCC Secretaries email weekstmarycircle@gmail.com with the dates of your pre-arranged APCM Meetings and any other dates which should be avoided. Please will all PCCs also consider if there are any substantial changes that will need to be made to their details in the previous profile which will be emailed to you at the beginning of January.

We will be looking for a full time priest whose post will be limited to a three year term, giving the Benefice and the Deanery time to plan and prepare for changes in the future which will inevitably mean further pressures on clergy staffing.

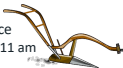
Deanery and MMF Important Dates

There is a meeting of the Deanery Finance Committee on 23rd January at 7.00 p.m. to which all Treasurers have been invited. To be held at St. Mary's Church, Week St Mary. The next Deanery Synod meeting is 6th Feb. At Otterham Hall Diocesan MMF meeting on 9th Jan at 6.30 in Bodmin and 11th Jan Truro.

Warbstow Church

Plough Sunday Service

Sunday 14 January at 11 am



Jacobstow and St Gennys Winter Evensong Time Changes

From NOVEMBER evensong time at Jacobstow Church will be 4pm and at St Gennys Church it will be 4.30pm throughout the winter instead of 6.30 pm

Meet 'n' Eat

Usually held in WSM Parish Hall at 12.30pm on the first Monday of each month **however there will be no meeting in January**



CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other

19th January 2.30 at Wyke House WSM

Contact: Linda Cobbledick (01288 341468)



MOTHER* & TODDLER COFFEE POT CLUB

Meets every Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.00 in Week St Mary Parish Hall. Contact Emma Woolfe or Kathy Jeffrey (Search for Coffeepots in Facebook Groups)

* Grannies, Granddads, Aunties, Carers etc all welcome!

STRATTON DEANERY BOOK CLUB

In December we will be discussing:

Mothers, Mystics and Merrymakers by

Sarah Hopper for discussion in January.



First Monday of each month at 14 Monterey Close, Bude,
EX23 8DX at 7.30pm

Gail Brace: 01288 352412 New members always welcome.

Persecuted Christians in Myanmar. January 2018

Myanmar, formerly called Burma, has a population of 54 million. 85-88% profess Theravada Buddhism, 6% are Christian, 4% are Muslim and 2% other. Myanmar has been under the rule of a repressive authoritarian military regime since 1962. The military ran a Soviet style Socialist regime, which was suspended after the vicious suppression of a nationwide uprising in 1988. The military then governed unopposed. While registered religious groups were allowed to operate, the

government imposed severe restrictions on them making permission to even repair existing places of worship or build new ones almost impossible.

Evangelism was banned and adherence or conversion to Buddhism was a prerequisite for promotion in government and military posts. Anti-Christian and anti-Muslim violence was commonplace.

Christians, mainly among the Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Karen and Eurasian ethnic minorities are largely Baptist with a smaller number of other Protestant groups and Roman Catholics. Over the last two decades, growth in the Christian churches has accelerated largely as a consequence of the growth in Buddhist nationalism among the majority population. In past decades the Christians suffered terrible persecution at the hands of the military.

Rape, torture, and summary executions with the destruction of homes and villages were commonplace, with the Kachin in particular still living in internal displacement camps. Thankfully in 2015 under the new government, a change of policy brought a more peaceful settlement with the Christian groups, though as we see on our televisions, the Muslim ethnic minority are at present suffering similar persecution to what the Christians suffered in the past. With a more tolerant and open attitude under the new government, and in spite of the military's nationalism, a Chin Christian has been appointed vice-president, a Karen Christian made speaker of the upper house, and a Kachin Christian made deputy speaker of the lower house.

We can only hope and pray that the situation will calm down soon, and the country will become a more peaceful, tolerant and inclusive place in the future.

Prayers.

Give praise and thanks to God for the growth in the churches in Burma.

Give praise and thanks to God that the persecution of Christians has diminished and pray that it will cease completely soon.

Give praise and thanks that Christians have been appointed to positions of authority in the new government.

Pray for wisdom that they will use their positions of leadership for the good of the country.

Pray for the new government that it will govern well for all citizens of Burma, and will cease the persecution by the military of all ethnic minorities.

Pray that God will comfort all those who have suffered violence and trauma at the hands of the military, giving them strength and peace.

Week St Mary Circle Services January 2018

(**AMW**: Revd Tony Windross, **RD**: Revd Canon Rob Dickenson, **RY**: Revd Rob Yeomans, **PJ**: Revd Peter Judson, **MIM**: 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, **COMP**: Compline, **UBS**: United Benefice Service)

Wednesday 3rd January 0830 Widemouth B HC AMW

7th January

Epiphany 0800 Widemouth B HC AMW

white 0930 Week St Mary FS WT

0930 Poundstock HC AMW

Isaiah 60: 1-6; 1100 St Gennys HC AMW

Ephesians 3: 1-12; 1600 Jacobstow ES DP

Matthew 2: 1-12;

Psalms 72: 10-15

Wednesday 10th January 0830 Widemouth B HC AMW

14th January

Second Sunday of Epiphany 0800 Widemouth B HC AMW

white 0930 Jacobstow MP CG

1100 Warbstow Plough SAA

1 Samuel 3: 1-10; 1100 Whitstone HC AMW

Revelation 5: 1-10; 1100 Poundstock MP WT

John 1: 43-end; 1100 St Gennys MP CG

Psalms 139: 1-5 1830 Week St Mary ES WT

Wednesday 17th January 0830 Widemouth B HC AMW

Week St Mary Circle Services January 2018

21st January

Third Sunday of Epiphany

white

Genesis 14: 17-20; 1030 St Gennys UBS AMW
Revelation 19: 6-10;
John 2: 1-11;
Psalm 128

Wednesday 24th January

0830 Widemouth B HC PJ

28th January

**Presentation of Christ
in the Temple (Candlemas)**

white

Malachi 3: 1-5; 0800 Widemouth B HC AMW
Hebrews 2: 14-end; 0930 Jacobstow HC AMW
Luke 2: 22-40; 0930 Warbstow MP AA
Psalm 24 0930 Poundstock MP CG
1100 Whitstone MP WT
1100 Week St Mary HC AMW
1630 St Gennys ES ND

Wednesday 31st January

0830 Widemouth B HC AMW

Thursday 1st February

1100 St Anne's HC RD

4th February

Second Sunday

before Lent

green

0800 Widemouth B HC AMW
Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; 0930 Week St Mary FS WT
Colossians 1: 15-20; 0930 Poundstock HC AMW
John 1: 1-14; 1100 St Gennys HC AMW
Psalm 104: 26-end 1600 Jacobstow ES DP

Together

Material for the February magazine by **Mon 22nd January** please, to: weekstmarycircle@gmail.com

This will be the address for all magazine correspondence.
PLEASE SEND YOUR COPY IN PLENTY OF TIME & ELECT A CORRESPONDENT WHO CAN SUPPLY THIS BY EMAIL TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE - THANK YOU



Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Study Group

meet on **Wednesdays at 2.15pm**
Currently reading

The Great Spiritual Migration by **Brian McLaren**
Ring Hilda on 01288 361323 for more details

Sunday, 06:00 on BBC Radio Cornwall 95.2 FM / 103.9 FM

Sunday Breakfast, BBC Cornwall's Faith Programme

Donna Birrell looks at various faiths and ethics across the county and beyond.



Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Activities

Every other Friday at 2.00 pm

January 12: Review of activity plus tea and chat.
January 26: 'My Bucket trip to America' Paul Walter plus Cream tea. All welcome plus dogs ..

Ring Jann on 01288 361931 for more details

BENEFICE WEBSITE www.weekstmarycircleofchurches.org.uk

BENEFICE EMAIL for Magazine etc. weekstmarycircle@gmail.com

THE CHURCH YEAR: Thoughts for January

Red Letter days this Month.

January 1st The visit of the Shepherds

The 6th is Epiphany the visit of the three wise Men.

The 7th records the Baptism of Jesus by John which begins Marks Gospel.

The Last special day is on the 25th when we remember Paul and his conversion.

At one time I thought all four Gospels told the same sequence of events, it is well worth re reading them.

The New Year also brings PCC meetings...fund raising...Church cleaning.

Altar linen to be washed and ironed. Brass to be cleaned and gutters needing attention... there is no end.

What for?

1 To keep alive the yearly festivals that tell us of the life of Jesus and the witness of all who have devoted their lives to following his teaching.

2 To provide a place where the community can come together, To bring their child for Baptism. To celebrate marriage and to say farewell to a parent or child.

3. To provide a haven of peace for the visitor, the sad, the lonely or to give thanks for a blessing.

4 Above all to continue each week to "Do this in remembrance of the last supper that Jesus celebrated with His disciples

5. To thank God that we are able to keep our Churches as places of Worship as millions of devoted people have done over the centuries

Two things that stood out in my reading this past month

"The best Evangelism of all is the Christ like witness of ordinary Christians in their lives "

Rowan Williams "The great Christian is the man or woman who can make me more interested in God than in him or her."

As we enter the New Year let us rejoice that we have the privilege to pay towards the upkeep of the Priests and look after our Churches and stop seeing it all as a burden.

Prayer

We ask Thy blessing on all who use our Churches,

Please God help us to love those that we find difficult.

We pray to be used, to be changed, to be content with our lot and to remember that we are never alone, You are always with us.

Hilda Walter

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Treneglos	01566 781 421 01566 781 372	Mr Peter Mitchell Mrs Heather French
Warbstow	01566 781 835 01566 781 081	Mrs Audrey Atkin Mrs Helen Jeffs
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