

# Addresses

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### Advent calendars and Christmas cards

Advent is the count-down period to Christmas. Things have changed a lot since the middle ages, when Advent was used to remember the four last things: death, judgement, hell and heaven. But in 19th-century Austria, the advent calendar developed, a count-down device in which a daily series of windows for children to open reveals aspects of the Christmas story—pictures of the wise men, their gifts, shepherds, lambs and so on—illustrating the fundamental belief of Christians that in Jesus Christ, God became a human being. Perhaps 30 years ago the fashion for Advent calendars began in Britain, first as a purely religious activity, but rapidly becoming secularised, so that the windows revealed things like pictures of presents and Christmas pudding and later even small sweets or trinkets. So Advent thinking has changed from a contemplation of our inevitable deaths, to a pre-celebration of the worldly joys of Christmas.

Christmas cards had a similar semi-commercial origin in the 19th century, and were successful because of the 19th-century development of a fast, cheap, universal postal service. Many Christmas cards were secular from day one, but the church has not been slow to adopt them: again as witnessing to the belief of God becoming human in Jesus Christ. I was fascinated to see this year a musical Christmas card produced by Lincoln Cathedral, which plays "Ding dong merrily on high" sung by the cathedral choir when you open the card. While some people consider these things as the commercialisation of religious belief, we need to remember that people have been commercialising Christianity for at least a thousand years. The cults of relics, pilgrimages and indulgences were all commercial activities based on Christianity.

So while Christians may regret this commercialisation as a debasement of spirituality, I think that we should be at least be glad that Advent and Christmas are still realities in people's lives, even if their spiritual significance is forgotten or neglected.

Peter Large

Details of all Advent and Christmas services can be found on the Diary page.

Advance notice: Concert on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> in the evening by Louth Male Voice Choir.

## **St. Mary's Ladies' Group**

Elsa Cox presented our first meeting this month with a demonstration to produce beautifully wrapped Christmas presents. Her first piece of advice was to put anything of an unusual shape into a box which made wrapping much easier. Wrapping a bottle is much easier if the paper is pleated at the top before securing with a rubber band and topped with a pretty, seasonal ribbon.

Elsa then showed us how to make a box look beautiful using as little paper as possible. Her equipment was all bought locally for not much money and many of the decorations were cut from old decorations or such as dried orange slices. Bands of different coloured paper are put over the wrapping paper and the present is finished with ribbon and chosen decorations stuck on, ideally using a glue gun.

Members were invited to try their hand at wrapping their own presents under Elsa's watchful eye. She was also selling her hand-made cards in aid of Childline, reminding us that each call, which is free for children, actually costs £4 to administer. GD

Unfortunately Sue couldn't be with us for our second meeting as she had hurt her back so Jill Fraser welcomed everyone including visitors to the group.

After the group prayer, thanks were given to all those who brought cakes, helped on the cake, jewellery and scarf stalls at the bazaar. We made £144 on the cakes and £34 on the Jewellery which was very good. A letter of thanks had been received from Pat Mellows on behalf of Childline for our donation of £75 this was given to Elsa and along with the cards that Elsa sold made a total of £240.

Thanks also from Julia Tyson on behalf of the shoebox appeal, 750 boxes went from the church last Sunday.

It was Margaret Walker's last night at the group; she has been a member for several years and was moving to Chester the following Friday, Wendy Stow relayed our good wishes and farewells to her.

We had a letter from the Ted Lewis group regarding a series of guided walks around Barton, the final one taking place on Sunday December 6th anyone interested could book through Wilderspin School on 635172.

Our planned speaker for this evening, Amanda White, couldn't come because of work commitments so Ruth Barcroft very kindly stepped in to speak to us about her career in television and radio.

She was born in London and moved with her parents to Peterborough before coming to Hull University to study European Politics. Here she met her husband and after gaining degrees they both moved to London.

She worked in a press agency as office "skivvy" which opened her eyes to the greed, lies and misreporting to sell stories in the industry.

She decided she wanted to be a broadcast journalist so did a year's course at Sheffield University and from there acquired a job at Radio Humberside working with most of the male presenters. She also worked with John Peel on radio 4 and on T.V. News South for a while, then Channel 5 doing overseas reporting including war zones and Chernobyl.

Ruth returned to Radio Humberside's morning show, with Andy Comfort in 2001, he presenting in Hull and Ruth in Grimsby. She moved to Barton (which she loves!) and transferred to the Hull office and presented the 10.25 bulletin on Look North for a while. She also spent 2 years presenting Drive Time with Richard James interviewing some interesting "celebrities".

She loves writing poetry and with her husband, who composes music, they have performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She now works as a Family Support Worker and is training to be a counsellor to help with mental health Issues.

Vicky Vickers gave a vote of thanks for a very interesting and entertaining evening. J.F.

## A Time to Move On

To everything there is a season, as it states in Ecclesiastes, and now is the season wherein I must leave my medical partnership of the past twenty-six years. My final day will officially be the 31st January 2016, although my last surgery will be sometime in the middle of January. Between now and then, I will no doubt have the opportunity to say goodbye to many of you on a personal basis.

However, to those whom I do not see within these next three months, I want you to know that I have been immensely grateful for the friendship, trust and indeed, love, that has been shown to me right from the start, when I was the new boy on the patch. 'You're not from round here, are you doctor?' was a phrase that was often repeated in the early days. Yet, it was never a hostile question, but one of gentle inquisitiveness. Indeed, if I were to summarise the sentiment that exuded from the wide community my practice serves, then words such as 'warm', 'welcoming', and 'friendship' would have to be part of that description.

Many of you will know that I have reduced my hours at the surgery for some time now, in order to try and balance a very hectic life. This is, to a great extent, the final step in that process; although in truth, it has come a little sooner than I had anticipated. However, there can be no doubt that the world has changed enormously since I first qualified thirty years ago, and there is little space in the 21st century for someone whose idea of being a family GP harkens more to the time of Dr Finlay than to the modern demands of clock-watching and a goal-orientated culture. When one's ideas and values are not shared, when care and compassion are forced into subservience to finance and targets, then the old must make way for the ideas of the new, and it is time to move on.

Nonetheless, I am far from retiring. Some of you will know that I have for many years tried to balance the demands of general practice with being the medical director for the Clinical Commissioning Group for North Lincolnshire (and formerly the Primary Care Trust). Well, as is often the case in life, when one door closes, another opens, and within a week of making my decision to leave the practice, I was showered with new opportunities. One of those is to contribute more time to assisting the transformation of healthcare services across the whole of North Lincolnshire (and indeed beyond), and I have subsequently decided that is where I will concentrate my efforts over the next few years, in the hope that I can help bring about better care for the wider population. Who knows, I may also turn up as 'the locum doctor' from time to time!

Many of you will also know that my standards of medical care have been driven by a strong Christian ethos. My departure from the practice will now enable me to pursue that calling with greater focus, and who knows, perhaps my concept of the 21st century 'physician-priest' may yet come to fruition?

To the many whose lives have crossed with mine, thank you for being the people that you are. Hippocrates said that a physician should 'cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always'. I know that I have not always managed to get it right for everyone; but I hope that, in some small way, I have at least achieved the last on most occasions.

In parting, I do still have a few copies of my novel, 'Lamplight in the Shadows'. So, if anyone would still like a copy, please contact me at the surgery or e-mail me at r.jaggs-fowler@thetreat-barton.com

Thank you all for your friendship and patience over the years. It has meant a great deal to me, and I know that I am wiser and a better person because of you all.

My sincere blessings to you for the future.

Robert.

Dr Robert M Jaggs-Fowler

## 20 years of St Mary's website

When in August 1995 St Mary's Church website went live on the Internet, it was only the third parish in the whole diocese of Lincoln to have a place on the World Wide Web. How things have changed since then! In those days it was very difficult to actually achieve this. I remember that the first church web pages that I prepared had to be saved to a floppy disk and sent by post to an organisation called ChurchNet UK which operated from Saint Martin's College in Lancaster.

Since then the site has been hosted on several different web-hosting sites but has now for several years been hosted on GoDaddy. Things were not very sophisticated in those days: not many people had scanners, so images were in short supply. Access to the Internet was obtained by dialling a special telephone number using a modem which turned the information into a series of audible squeaks, and connections were charged per minute. The connections were not very reliable and if you downloaded something and the connection broke during the download you had to start all over again! The idea of streaming movies and online television seemed impossible with the small amount of computer memory and the very slow download times that were available in those days.

Young people will find it difficult to conceive of a world in which not only did the Internet not exist but that everybody managed perfectly well without it and certainly there was no need to share every detail of your private life with other people on social networking websites. Our church does not have a presence on Facebook or Twitter, and I have no intention of setting one up. My personal opinion is that social networking websites are best avoided by corporate organizations.

Over the years the Saint Mary's site has become rather more sophisticated and a few years ago I received an enormous amount of help from Adrian Worsfold, whom most of you will remember. There is a large amount of archive material on the website including photographs and reports from old copies of Parish News, all digitized by Adrian, and photographs of relatively recent events. Most people seem to pass this part of the site by and I suspect very few people have looked to find out how interesting it is. In addition, since Gordon came to the parish, he has supplied me with many pictures of current activities of St Mary's and these appear as a photo gallery on the website.

Modern archive material on the site includes copies of the church annual reports for the last few years and copies of Parish News for the last seven or eight years. The most recent technical developments have been the development of a very small mobile website for smartphones. This consists at the moment of a single page which can be viewed either from the St Mary's homepage or by use of the St Mary's QR code, which appears on the contents page of most issues of Parish News. If you scan this with a smartphone you'll be taken to our mobile website.

Peter.

## Mothers' Union

At our October meeting, we sang "Praise my soul the king of heaven", then Pam read a passage from Romans which said how we are all here to look after and love one another. Pam then went to speak about "One day I will....."

Pam spoke about all the trips she had already made and what she had planned for the future. Pam showed photos on a power point display of all the places she was talking about and gave details of all her voluntary work, such as "Love Russia" which is working in orphanages doing work shops and concerts with the children, encouraging the children to take part. Pam also worked at the Foremarke Christian Summer Camp.

Also being a hockey coach she went to the Pre-Commonwealth Games and had quite a collection of Tee shirts from this time. Pam reflected both on her work and her personal life. She quoted "Volunteering is at the very core of being a human" Pam showed us photos of visits to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and a family wedding in Bali. (How lucky she is to have been able to tick these places from her to do list).

Some more of Pam's quotes are: "Make each day a good day", Praise is magic", "Do's work better than don'ts" and "Give 10 praises before 1 criticism".

For our meeting in November we held the "Annual Wave of Prayer Service". Prayer is central to all we do as Mothers' Union and our Wave of prayer is an expression of this. This month's prayer, held from 16th to 18th November was for Iraq, Kenya-Katakwa, Nigeria, Asaba and Katanchan, Trinidad and Tobago. The service was led by Brenda and involved everyone praying for everyone to be held in God's loving hands.

A passage from the service quotes: "Hands reflect our life, they show the marks of hard work, of fatigue, of illness, they are capable of tender care, they can restrain or bless, their touch can communicate when words are inadequate. Through our prayers our hands reach out to touch those for whom we have been commanded to pray. May they feel that love and be encouraged and supported by it. In a moment of quiet we are held in the palm of God's hand." AMEN.

Dec 2nd 9.30 Corporate Communion

Dec 16th 2pm Christmas Carols and Readings

*Flower Rota*

Dec 25th Christmas Day Brenda Skinner

## A Christmas message from the Vicar.....Silence and honey.

"Well" said Pooh, "what I like best," and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called.

St Michael's Yeovil, being a big parish was linked with a vast number of community organisations. This made for a lively diary at the best of times, but never more so than at Christmas, when every organisation

wanted its own Christmas carol service. Consequently the jostling for places got under way early, and one year the first carol service took place in mid-November, all the better-favoured slots having been claimed. Singing 'O come all ye faithful' three weeks after the clocks went back felt decidedly strange!

We all know that the commercial pressures mean that Christmas is celebrated for as long as possible before the 25th and (almost) everyone loves a good party – but maybe it's not just killjoys like me who might feel something's got lost in a world where Pooh Bear's sense of anticipation has been lost. I almost wonder whether in the country at large the only ones who still 'get' Christmas are the tinies waiting longingly for St Nicholas to appear, since he never turns up before the due date.

When life's got a bit humdrum and tedious, to plunge into the bright lights of the funfair and rush around the stalls is a lot of fun and I'm not knocking it. But there is another story to be told, unknown to those who rush into the fairground of Christmas. It's the story known by the seafarer, who catches in the distance the first shimmer of the safety of harbour lights; by the benighted traveller in the wilderness, who sees the sky starts to pale into dawn, of the lover who knows that the train carrying the beloved has set off: these joys are known only to those who watch and who wait. The fierce, silent joys of Advent, of waiting for the light.

Fr David.

#### Belfry News

I am pleased to report that St Mary's bells have all rung out as usual before the recent Sunday morning services and that some progress has been made at our Tuesday practices.

Recent ringing highlights have included the ringing for the Civic Service on 11 October and the fully muffled ringing on 13 October that preceded the service of remembrance held exactly 100 years after the deaths of 17 Barton soldiers in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt – the final act in the Battle of Loos. During the ringing Toby Dennis, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, along with his wife joined us in the ringing chamber. They had never before seen ringers 'in action' so were given a quick introduction to the art and were able to see the bells swinging on our TV screen.

The service that followed the ringing was attended by over 200 people and proved a very fitting memorial to the fallen Barton men.

On 7 November I attended the 378th Annual Dinner of the Ancient Society of College Youths (ASCY) held in London. I was elected a member of ASCY, the world's oldest and most prestigious ringing society, in 1955 and so in this year, my 60th year of membership, I took wine with the Master and was presented with a splendid membership certificate which will eventually grace the walls of St Mary's belfry. On the morning afterwards Ro and I heard the glorious bells of St Paul's cathedral ring out (the heaviest bell weighs over 60 hundredweights!) half muffled following the two minutes silence.

Despite the absence of a number of our ringers the half muffled bells of St Mary's church rang out twice on the morning of 8 November to remind the town of the sacrifices made by many Bartonians in two World Wars.

Geoff Bryant

Britain's national bird:

### **Robin**

Unsought icon  
Of the dying year,  
Courting favour  
From my beneficent hand.  
A jealous lover -  
Sports his lady's colours  
On blood drenched breast.

*Carol Jacklin 2015*

#### The Bishop of Lincoln writes:

The end of another year is a good opportunity to see how far we've come. And it's been quite a year, both in the Diocese of Lincoln, and in our national life. We've had a general election; we've had people coming and people going, both nationally and in the diocese. Some projects have been completed, and others have begun.

December may bring us a reminder of how long our New Years' resolutions have fallen by the wayside, and how much bigger the challenge is for the next year. For me, the big thing is that we're heading in the direction I envisaged when I came to the diocese four years ago. We have resolved to build the kingdom of God in our part of England, and each year brings its new challenges to fulfil the work we're called to do.

We live in a broken world, where society strives superficially for perfection. But at this time of year, we celebrate God being among us, born in danger and poverty. It wasn't the perfect birth for a perfect God. It was a very real human experience, which serves to remind us that despite our imperfections and the challenges we face, we have a Gospel to proclaim.

The celebration of the birth of Christ is the chance to resolve to do the very best we can in the service of God. And while we can never be perfect, we have a perfect example in the birth, life, death and resurrection

of Jesus Christ.

I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

+Christopher

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms:-

Nov 8 Orlagh Jayne WHITTLE daughter of Rebecca Pauline & Daniel Michael WHITTLE

Nov 22 Elliott Alexander ANGUS son of Samantha Rachel & Graham Alexander ANGUS

Summer Rose DAVIES daughter of Zoe Marie & Mark Antony DAVIES

Nov 29 Jacob William JEST son of Samantha Jayne SMITH & Alan Anthony JEST

Funerals:-

Nov 6 Eric CAWKWELL

Nov 10 Irene Mary PARKS

Nov 13 John Joseph HUGHES

Nov 27 Patricia Ann COX

Donations have been made for Church flowers in loving memory of:-

Jean Walton

Reginald and Selena Sorfleet and Basil Sorfleet

Thank you.

Congratulations to Miri Stead who will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Love from all at St. Mary's.

**Over to you.....**

It is strange how random conversations lead to other things.

Talking to my oldest and best friend recently (with whom I went to the Grammar School and we are Godmothers to each other's children) we had an unusual discussion. I brought up the subject of often losing things and not being able to find them quickly. (May be to do with age I can hear you all thinking!)

So, she said that both she and her husband, when this happens, sit quietly and invoke the help of St. Anthony. I must admit, not being very knowledgeable about Saints, I had not heard of him before.

The next step for me was to look him up. His title is St. Anthony of Padua. He was a Friar of the Franciscan Order through which he is also a patron Saint of Animals. [I'm sure Gordon will tell you about him!]

In 1224 St. Francis entrusted him with the teaching of the Friars. The reason he is associated with lost or stolen things is because of an incident which befell him. When working in Bologna his main teaching reference was a book of psalms in which he had added many teaching notes and references. It was taken by a novice who decided to leave the Order. Books were a valuable, irreplaceable commodity then, so Anthony prayed for its return. The thief was moved to return the psalter to him and return to the Order. Apparently this same book can be viewed in the Franciscan Friary in Bologna.

So, as my friend said, whether it is to do with seeking St. Anthony's help or just sitting quietly to think, it certainly helps.

Something we rarely have time to do these days but there is always a welcome for people to come into St. Mary's to offer quiet prayers and thoughts.

Strangely, St. Anthony's Day is January 17<sup>th</sup>.

S.W.

**"Thank You"**

Wow... 750 gift filled shoeboxes left St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 18th November destined for Liberia. This fantastic outcome was achieved as a result of the efforts, talents and generosity of many people within our local and wider community. A huge Thank You to everyone who supported and contributed throughout the year, we very much appreciate all you have done, made and donated.

Our campaign for this year concluded with our Shoebox Celebration Service on Sunday 15th November, where Adam Tankard (Regional Manager of Operation Christmas Child UK) joined us to speak about his experiences at a shoebox distribution in Rwanda. Adam's stories touched all our hearts and it was great to hear first-hand about the impact our shoeboxes have on the children who receive them. Special thanks also to Alan for preparing and conducting the wonderful service.

We continue to pray for the children and communities who will receive a shoebox this Christmastime and hope that their lives will be enriched by our gifts and the knowledge of God's love.

We have lots of ideas in the pipeline for 2016 and have already begun receiving donations... watch this space!

Julia Wilson

[As always, we thank Julia and her team very much for all they do.]

### **Children's Society**

Thank you for helping disadvantaged children. A huge Thank You to all box holders for your continued support over this past year.

The box collection for 2015 reached the grand total of £ 700.

Margaret Searle Box Coordinator

### **WEA Activities in Barton Soon...**

On Monday evenings 7.30pm from 18 Jan, we are starting 7 weeks on A Century of Food and Fiction with tutor Judith Hedley who will link food and reading from 1914. Edwardian excess, wartime rations, the Jazz Age, food in science fiction e.t.c. Each week we will learn more about relevant fiction and have a taste of suitable foods...

On Wednesday afternoons, from 6 Jan, 1.30 pm we start 11 weeks of French Intermediate Plus 2 with tutor Blandine Didbin, focusing on improving students spoken French, new students welcomed. On Thursday afternoons from 7 Jan, 2pm we will start 11 weeks of Music in the Classic Cinema with tutor Graham Saunders. All happen at Wilderspin School Museum, Queen Street Barton. With free parking & good access.

Those on benefits or allowances, fees are waived and others pay fees, £ 44.10 for 7 weeks and £ 69.30 for 11 week courses. All our tutors have teaching qualifications and are paid at a rate agreed regionally plus expenses. To book a place via:-[www.wea.org.uk/yh](http://www.wea.org.uk/yh) or tel 0114 242 369. Branch enquiries ring 01652 632739

Barton-on-Humber Branch of WEA registered charity 1112775 Co 2806910



Lily after her investiture into the choir





ShoeBox Sunday – and the van collection the following Wednesday!



Miri Stead as she nears her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday



Some Victorian Evening Artistes

<b>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)</b>
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group meeting
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.00 pm		Building the Christmas Tree
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm		Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio Divina

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>		<b>Advent 2</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Evening Prayer</b>

Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	10.15 am		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
	2.00 pm		Carols at Beech House
	7.15 pm		Ministry meeting (Vicarage)
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm		Carols at Westbridge House
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio Divina

<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>		<b>Advent 3</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>8.30 am</b>		<b>Prayer Breakfast (St. Mary's)</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Lindsey Lodge Hospice service</b>

Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.45 am</b>	John of the Cross	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Carols at Victoria House
	Home	Communion	this week

Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>7.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
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<b>Parish News deadline</b>			
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
	2.00 pm		Carols at Eagle House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	am		Castledyke Carols
	2.00 pm		St. Peter's Carols
Sat 19th	11.00 am		Lectio Divina

<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>		<b>Advent 4</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Christingle Service</b>

Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>			<b>NO</b> Toddler Time
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Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00 pm		Choir practice
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>

<b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
	<b>6.30 pm</b>		<b>Carol service</b>
	<b>11.30 pm</b>		<b>Midnight Mass</b>

<b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Family Eucharist</b>

<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>		<b>John, Apostle, Evangelist</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Eucharist with hymns</b>

Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>The Holy</b>	<b>NO</b> Toddler Time
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The Editors wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.