

Always we begin again...

New Year has always been a classic time for 'getting up again' in the knowledge that there's an entire nation of folk looking at the calendar and thinking that, just for a few blessed days, hours or minutes, they've not made a mess of things since last year. Although January 1st may not be the best day to start out on the first day of a new life, given the probability of some combination of domestic chaos, hangover, lack of sleep and biliousness, at least it's an easily defined mark in the sand, a time to put the past where it belongs and step into the future, even though we're fully aware that there's a banana skin with our name on it awaiting our footfall – and it's probably not far away.

I can't remember which book it was I was reading, but it made a graphic point: "there is no sin greater than, once we have fallen over, refusing to try and get up again." Now that's not to downgrade any of the nastier things that human beings do to one another, but the general idea's simple – to give up to despair is to prevent ourselves from ever being raised up and healed, to turn our back on the hope that we might, one day, be slightly less prone to foot-in-mouth disease, irritability or whatever other self-imposed calamity we're in the habit of dropping into. Or even, perhaps, to deny that we ever fell over in the first place, which isn't going to help at all.

The heading's an alleged quote from St Benedict, though I think it's made up and just reflects something of his spirit. But it drives home the point that we're all folk who trip up, and start right back at the beginning, time and again, and that we're not unusual, or particularly weak or wicked or hopeless when we do. New Year's one of those opportunities to remember our common, well-meaning and fallible humanity. We all begin again. Because we all fall over.

Fr David

The editors wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year!

Christmas Carol Service Collection

Our collection at the Carol Service this year was for the charity "Embrace the Middle East" which runs well-baby clinics in the Middle East. Malnutrition in the first 1000 days of a child's life will have detrimental effects on the brain and body which could last a lifetime, and a weakened immune system will increase the risk of death from childhood diseases. The clinics provide milk, iron supplements, and medicines free of charge, and the staff monitor children's growth and advise families on how to make sure their food retains as many nutrients as possible. The clinics are under threat from lack of resources and without more funding to pay for medicines, vitamins and experienced health professionals, clinics may have to turn children away. Our collection this Christmas will have helped to bring health and hope to children in the land where Christmas came for the first time.

Mothers' Union

Our last meeting for 2013 was on December 18th when we had a service of Carols and Readings followed by seasonal refreshments. All the Carols and Readings were chosen by members, each member reading their chosen piece.

Linda said opening and closing prayers. We then finished with seasonal refreshments. Once again our thanks go to Janet Petch for her delicious mince pies.

We look forward to a New Year in 2014. God's Blessings to everyone for 2014 from St Mary's Mothers Union.

Jan 8th (note change of date for this month) 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Brenda Skinner

Jan 15th 2pm Annual General Meeting when subscriptions of £20 are due. BS

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

Nov 22 Donna Louise HUMPHRIES (Adult)

Dec 8 Keeley-Rae STEAD daughter of Kirsty Marie WILKERSON
& Gary Peter STEAD

Jed Isaak WAKINSHAW son of Paula Louise & Jamie
WAKINSHAW

FUNERALS:-

Dec 2 Robert John Lawrence FOWLER
Cyril DOUGHTY

Dec 3 Lily HEZZELL

Dec 10 Shirley Margaret PAUL

Dec 11 Charles Granville WALKER
Ronald Cyril PEART

Dec 18 Richard Noel HOBSON

Dec 27 Rosemary Cynthia Lamert

Donations for Church flowers at Christmas have been received in
loving memory of:-

Reg and Lena Sorfleet
Kathleen Mary Rose
Graham Askew
Stanley Welch

Lauretta Welch
Edna May Bellamy
John Bellamy
Hugh McMahon
Hilda Stow
George Lambert
Hilary Ashton
Don Broughton
Ted and Ena Broughton
Judy and Allan Manchester
John Stanley
Arthur and Ruth Winship
Marjorie Radford
Sidney and Florence Hewitt

Thank you for these donations and those given by members of the
congregation for flowers at Christmas. All gratefully received.

Susan Calman – a work in progress at Ropery Hall

Comedian Susan Calman will be undertaking the first stage of her
2014 tour of UK by performing a new 60 minutes untitled show which
she describes as a “work-in-progress.”

Well-known for her own Radio 4 series, Calman is Convicted, Susan
will be appearing at Ropery Hall on Friday, January 31.

As well as her Radio 4 show, Susan is also a regular panel member
on the News Quiz and the Now Show as well as making guest
appearances on TV shows Have I Got News For You and QI.

Susan will be asking lots of questions. She also thinks about a lot of
things, sometimes saying them out loud, often just to her cats, but
sometimes to other people as well. Come and listen as Susan says all
the right funny words, just not necessarily in the right order.

Tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the night. Tickets can be
booked online at www.roperychall.co.uk, by telephoning 01652 660380

or by calling in at the Craft Gallery. The show begins at 8pm. (See picture, centre page)

Requests.....

- Anyone requiring "Every day with Jesus" Bible notes for 2014, please contact Mr. Cowe (633413).
- If you have a copy of the New International Version of the Bible, and would like a crossword every month which uses the NIV, you are welcome to phone 633345 (Brian Robinson).

The Bishop of Lincoln writes:

May I begin by wishing you a happy new year. I am looking forward to sharing all that lies ahead with you in 2014. I am especially excited about the many opportunities that are opening up for us to make God and his love known in our diocese. Together, we are building up our diocese to be faithful, confident and joyful in all that God is doing through us and for us.

Many of us will by now have made at least one New Year's resolution. While a commendable few manage to keep them, the reality for some - including me - is that we cave in even before the Christmas decorations are down.

We tend not to take these resolutions too seriously. That can be a pity, however, because they have a great deal in common with the meaning of Christmas which we have just celebrated in the church.

We make New Year's resolutions because we recognise that the way we have been doing things is no longer how we want it to be. We resolve to start again, to do things differently.

The birth of Jesus which we have just celebrated at Christmas was God's way of starting again with humanity. Coming to us in Jesus, God re-established the relationship with humanity which is fractured every time we turn away from him. In the birth of Jesus, God offers us

the chance to do things differently, rebuilding the relationship that God has always wanted with us.

So, whether your New Year's resolutions have stood the test of time or not, I pray that the light of the One who came among us as the greatest light of all will shine in your lives in this New Year.

Bishop Christopher

Texts.

One or two folk have asked me about some of the texts quoted at Church a couple of Sundays ago.

The quote from George McLeod is included on one of the yellow Gospel Imprint leaflets on 'Praying the Eucharist':

Friends, this is the Table of our Lord. Come, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because of any goodness of your own, but because you need God's mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because Christ loves you and gave himself for you.

attributed to George MacLeod (1895-1991)

and the addition to the Eucharistic Prayer which commemorates the departed is one used as part of the Eucharist at Alton Abbey. It fits in most easily with Eucharistic Prayer E but is easily inserted into several of the others:

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land, Reveal our unity, guard our faith, and preserve us in peace.

Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit, your whole Church offers thanks and praise together with Justin our Archbishop, Christopher our bishop, — [and —] his suffragan bishop[s], and all those whose lives bring hope to this world

Lord of the living and the dead, awake to the undying light of pardon and peace [your servant/s N with] those who have fallen asleep in faith, and those who have died alone,unloved, and unmourned.

The 'Immortal diamond' line is at the end of G.M. Hopkins' poem "That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and the Comfort of the Resurrection".

Over to you

The 3rd Sunday in Advent was Gaudete Sunday; it was also the day after our dear Rosemary Lamert died. Those two events, apparently unconnected, are in fact very appropriately combined.

Rosemary gave many years of service to the church, and not just in Barton. She had been a member of the Local Ministry Team, and served as PCC Secretary for many years. She had the difficult task of keeping vicars on the straight and narrow – a hard task in itself – as well as pursuing people and deadlines. Rosemary was also an assiduous visitor of the sick (and the well), and was not short of a word or three. Her family will miss her; we will miss her.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, was, as we were reminded by Fr. D. on the day, so called because "Gaudete" ("Rejoice") was the first word of the Latin Mass for that day. It provided a little light relief from the rigours of Advent, just as Refreshment (Mothering) Sunday did so in Lent – it also gives the clergy a chance to wear the nice rose-coloured vestments.

So, Rosemary and Rejoice in the same breath – of course; we rejoice that we have known Rosemary, and that she has been here in Barton with us. We rejoice that she is now on another shore, and in a greater light. The last verse of the last hymn on Gaudete Sunday ran as follows:

"Rejoice in glorious hope;

Jesus the judge shall come,

And take his servants up

To their eternal home."

What better tribute to Rosemary.

Alan

St. Mary's Ladies Group Meeting 4th December 2013

Shan welcomed members to the meeting and reported that the trip to Thursford had been a success. She thanked Kathleen for her organisation allowing everything to run smoothly.

A donation of £550 for a shelter box had been sent via the Rotary Group to the Philippines disaster fund.

Shan also invited ladies to help make Christingles on Friday 20th Dec.

Mr Jethro Vivian, Chimney Sweep and Night Man, Master Chimney Sweep of Beverley was this evenings speaker the topic being

"The Victorian Chimney Sweep".

He began by giving a brief history of fires in houses being used for heating and cooking, as houses became more permanent and bigger so the chimneys became taller and larger and it became necessary to have them cleaned because the build up of soot could cause houses to catch on fire.

A large bird such as a chicken was dropped down the chimney several times or a branch of a tree might be used. So chimney sweeping became an important occupation and the sweeps travelled the country shouting "Chimney Sweep". With chimneys being larger, climbing boys were used to clean them. Originally boys were imported from Santa Monica in Italy because of their small stature but in the

early 1800's boys were taken from orphanages. Boys from the ages of 5 were used, the younger ones being sent up smaller flues 23cms square and older boys up larger flues 40cms square. If they refused they were poked with knitting needles or fires were lit beneath them. The death rate was horrendous with only 7 in 100 boys surviving. Causes included lung disease, suffocation, falls and "sweeps cancer" which was cancer of the scrotum caused by lack of hygiene and washing, the toxic soot gathered in their pants.

They climbed up the flues brushing as they went, to get down they slid taking skin off their knees and elbows these were rubbed with brine to toughen them up which was very painful. After the day cleaning chimneys the soot which had been collected in sacks, had to be shovelled into bushel bags and sold to farmers so the boys worked very long days. They might be allowed a bath on a Sunday so they could go to Sunday school. Latterly in the 1800's a "machine" was introduced which was the brush known as "smoke jacks" but these were slow to be accepted.

Jethro was traditionally dressed in top hat and tails this was because the sweeps had cast offs from undertakers. He brought with him a replica cart containing various implements for cleaning the chimneys but it also contained leather buckets and a soil pot. The sweep was also the "nightman" who went around the streets in the morning ringing his bell to empty chamber pots charging a penny a time. The night soil went into the soilpot which was often was emptied into the local river causing pollution and disease for example the river Thames.

The story of the sweeps bringing good luck stems from an incident involving King George 11. The Kings horse bolted but a sweep stepped out from the crowd and stopped the horse and saved the Kings life, the sweep disappeared before the king could thank him. The King said the sweep had brought good luck and this is why sweeps are invited to weddings to wish the bride and groom health,

wealth and happiness giving the bride a kiss and shaking the groom's hand.

This was a very entertaining evening and Shan thanked Jethro.

There was also a Christmas collection for the Barton Food Bank and Shan also thanked members for their generous donations.

Wed 1st Jan	9.30 am	The naming of Jesus	Said Eucharist
Fri 3 rd	5.00 pm		E1W
	6.00 pm		Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 4 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 5th Jan		Epiphany	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 6 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 8 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	10.15 am		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	7.15 pm		Ministry Team (Vicarage)
Fri 10 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 11 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 12th Jan		Baptism of Christ	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 13 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Wrawby)
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee (Vicarage)
	7.00 pm		Teaching Evening
Wed 15 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union AGM
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 16 th	am		Home Communion
Fri 17 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 18 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 19th Jan		Epiphany 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong

Mon 20 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	PARISH	NEWS	DEADLINE
Tues 21 st	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
Wed. 22 nd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Fri 24 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 25th	11.00 am	Conversion of St. Paul	Lectio divina
Sunday 26th Jan		Epiphany 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 27 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
Wed 29 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 31 st	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 1 st February	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 2nd Feb		Candlemas	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong



Susan Calman appearing at the Ropewalk



Confirmation at Gainsborough (l to r) Donna, Joshua, The Bishop, Alicia, Freya, Alan.



Jethro Vivian at the Ladies' group



The Bishop of Lincoln