

WOSGOWUNON

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

Information for the Parish of Hellesdon St. Mary's, St. Michael's and St. Paul's

Rev. Louise Alder writes

Over the last few weeks my email inbox has become increasingly filled with adverts for things I can't live without, special offers on things that I need to give to my friends and loved ones for Christmas, and the opportunity to take a cheap holiday that will change my life. If I sit down to watch the TV, which I manage from time to time, then I am confronted with adverts for perfume, state of the art electrical equipment, and then there's the food and drink that I need to make my Christmas entertaining perfect.



All of this sets out to entice many of us to spend money that we don't have in an attempt to bring about happiness and a sense of doing the right thing for those we care about, or unfortunately for some, those we want to impress.

I won't hide the fact that I try to buy gifts that I know will be enjoyed and treasured by our family and that I do like to buy little food treats for us to enjoy when we are relaxing together as an extended family over the Christmas and New Year period. And yes, Christmas is about celebration and it's a good opportunity to share love and thanks with those around us that have impacted on our life.

But what fascinates me in all the advertising and the warm fuzzy glow that many are designed to give (just watch John Lewis Christmas advert) is that there is never any mention of what lies at the heart Christmas - "Christ". The child in the manger is the only thing that we cannot live without, the only thing that will change our lives and the only food and drink that will bring about complete satisfaction.



Christmas advertising never mentions this and as a result there are many people who have no real understanding of why we do what we do at Christmas. They not only need to hear the Christmas story but to witness how the baby in the manger has changed the lives of those who have allowed the baby to grow into a man, who have heard his teaching and allowed it to change them.

Don't be caught up in all the advertising and expectations this Christmas because you have a gift to give which is without cost but is utterly priceless. The greatest gift we can give at Christmas to those we know and care about is to tell them how the baby has changed our lives and to allow them to see the Christ that is at the heart of Christmas.

May I wish each one of you a Christmas blessed by God, with love, joy and peace.

Peace
For
Earth

Norwich Night Shelter

Jo Holmes will be making her usual Christmas collection for the Norwich Night Shelter, run by the St. Martin's Housing Trust.

If you can help please take any gifts of money, packets of mince pies, biscuits, tinned food, toiletries suitable clothing or bedding to 91 Gowing Road by Monday 17th December.

Thank you.

Mothers' Union

2:30 pm
St. Paul's Church

Tuesday 11th December

Christmas Party

Tuesday 8th January

AGM and Quiz

St. Paul's Wives Fellowship

2:00pm
St. Paul's Church

Wednesday 5th December

Carol Service
With Talk by Kevin O'Grady re
St. Mary's Food bank Collection

Wednesday 9th January
New Year Lunch
Wensum Valley Golf Club

Parish Services

Tuesday 25th December
10:00 am
St. Paul's
Holy Communion

Sunday 30th December
3:00 pm
St. Mary's
Holy Communion -
a quiet service of reflection for the
end of the year

Sunday 6th January
10:00 am
St. Paul's
Holy Communion



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

This year, members of our congregations generously filled 24 shoe boxes which are now on their way to children in need around the world.

Parish Wedding

Please pray for Oliver and Melissa who live in Hellesdon and are to be married in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Aylsham in December.

Picture quiz

Once again, I have had my scissors and Pritt stick out to put together my 'Guess the famous faces' picture quiz. At just £2 a copy it's great value and will give hours of entertainment when there's not much on the TV over Christmas.

Please buy a copy, or 2 or 3. Copies will be available in both Churches from 1st December. All money raised goes to Church funds.

Debbie Cronk

Prayer Triplets

As you meet together to pray this month, please consider the following:-

All those who will visit our churches over the Christmas period.

The work of Norwich Night Shelter.

Peace in the Middle East.

Update on St. Paul's buildings.

At our last PCC meeting an update was given regarding St. Paul's buildings. We have been advised by the Diocese that the issues relating to the restrictive covenant on the land were being resolved by way of an Indemnity Insurance policy. This will safeguard the Diocese of any future liability resulting from that covenant when selling any land.

A site visit has also taken place to enable some drawings to be produced by Spire, the Diocese buildings company, showing us the feasibility and cost implications of the redevelopment. There will also be a plan indicating sufficient land for car parking and which parcel of land would then be sold. We are hopeful of these drawings early in the New Year.

Rev. Louise

The Psalms

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

St. Paul's Wives Fellowship (Young Wives)

The formation of St. Paul's Wives Fellowship started in October 1958. It was originally known as "St. Paul's Young Wives" and came from the inspiration of Mrs. Molly Isaacson, wife of the then Vicar Rev. Cecil Isaacson.

It was originally affiliated to the Mothers' Union but later Mrs. Isaacson and her committee decided to become independent so that it could be run in their own way. This meant that the community could benefit from the Young Wives' activities and it would make the monitoring of any money raised for the benefit of St. Paul's Church more efficient. Being independent meant we were able to support charities such as The Bishop Herbert House, The Muscular Dystrophy Association and The Umbrella Scheme run by Mrs. Angela Dugdale. We then later raised money for The Priscilla Bacon Lodge.

Our members became volunteers for some of these groups and often provided catering arrangements for various social activities connected with the Church, including providing refreshments for the induction of any new clergy, harvest suppers and church bazaars.

On one special occasion in the early 1970's with the help and support of family and friends we furnished a whole house as a temporary home for a family in crisis. Then the leadership was often taken by the Vicar's wife but in later years Audrey Pollard took over with the support of the very active committee and Audrey still fulfils that role today

All of our members had young families and friendships were formed which still carry on today.

Meetings were held on Wednesday afternoons in St. Paul's Church where members would welcome a speaker. Our children were looked after in the Coronation Hall by the older ladies of the congregation. Many topics were discussed. One humorous suggestion made by Mrs. Isaacson was to produce an opera in the style of Gilbert and Sullivan but after much hilarity this suggestion was abandoned and we continued our yearly outings to other shows performed at Great Yarmouth.

Later, as we all matured, we thought it appropriate to change our title to "St. Paul's Wives Fellowship". At our meetings we still try and support any charity that is brought to our notice by visiting speakers and we give any help to the parish where necessary. We still meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 pm and would give a warm welcome to anybody who is interested in joining us.

From your editor

Thank you to everyone who has submitted items for our newsletter during this year.
Please keep them coming!

The next edition of "Wosgowunon" will be available at the end of January.
Please let me have any articles you would like to be included by Sunday 20th January.
My e-mail address is andrewjcossey@gmail.com

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year!