



A NOTE FROM THE PULPIT

All too often we make resolutions and personal promises which have gone by the board by February, here a just a few thoughts that perhaps can help when we look at how our lives are and perhaps the way that we would like them to be.

Christmas is now behind us and a new year beginning. Let's look at 2018 as an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

- What's one thing we can do this year to deepen our relationship with God?
- What's the most humanly impossible thing we can ask God to do this year?
- What can we do could do to improve the quality of our family life this year?
- In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress and what will you do about it?
- What's the biggest time-waster in life and how can we put our time to better use?,
- What is the most helpful new way we can strengthen our church?
- For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
- What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
- What can we do to improve our prayer life this year?
- What can we plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

With my prayers and thanks wishing each of you a peaceful, happy and blessed New Year

Rev. Tony



THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January. The theme of the week this year comes from the churches of the Caribbean, and addresses some of the problems which affect the people there, but also worldwide.

Thus, as abuses of human rights are found across the region, the week will challenge us to consider our manner of welcoming the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence.

What are Christians to do, in the face of such vast problems? The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in people's lives, but also know that reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

St Blasius Church is observing this annual national week with a service on 21st January at 4:30pm.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

We are very pleased to announce that Bishop Christopher has accepted our invitation to attend our morning service on Sunday, February 4th to help us celebrate the Patronal Festival of St. Blasius.

St Blasius PCC

INTERVIEWS FOR OUR NEW PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Most of you will be aware that interviews for the new Priest-in-Charge for St Johns Sandown and St Blasius took place in late November. Unfortunately no agreement could be reached so the candidate selection process will recommence in the New Year. We are very fortunate at St. Blasius that whilst the position of our Priest-in-Charge is uncertain, the position of our Local Minister is not. Reverend Tony Richards will continue as our Local Minister both now and when the new appointment is made.

St Blasius PCC

The deadline for the February issue is Friday 12th January.

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2018

Please note: services are correct at time of going to press, if there are any changes updates will be given in the weekly Notices and on the Church website: www.st-blasius-church.org.uk.

7th The First Sunday of Epiphany The Baptism of Christ

10:15 Parish Communion

14th The Second Sunday of Epiphany

10:15 Parish Communion

14:30 Service for the Laying Up of the old RBL Standard and the Dedication of a new one.

21st The Third Sunday of Epiphany

10:15 Matins

Officiant: John Bonaker (TBC)

16:30 United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

28th CANDLEMAS Presentation of Christ in the Temple The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10:15 Parish Communion

THE DAILY SERVICE CELEBRATES A BIG BIRTHDAY

Ninety years ago this month BBC Radio broadcast for the first time a short Daily Service at 10.15 – in those days, the start of its daily output. It's half an hour later now, but it's still there, the longest running programme on the BBC, after News and Weather forecasts. Its appearance in 1928 was, in fact, the result of a tireless and determined campaign by a lady in Bushey, Herts, Miss Kathleen Cordeux. For two years she had campaigned for a short Christian service each morning 'for the sick and house-bound' – 'just some sacred music, a hymn, a Bible reading and prayer'. Through the letters column in the Radio Times, and then by bombarding the director-general of the BBC, John Reith, after two years she got her way – at first as an 'experiment', to test the demand. The response from listeners was immediate and enthusiastic and 90 years later, I think even she would be surprised to find that it is still there every day on Radio 4. And it still follows her proposed content: sacred music, a hymn, a Bible reading and a prayer.



PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH



The Sunday and Festival Collects for this month, with the endings ('Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen', etc) omitted.

1 January - The Naming of Jesus

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was circumcised in obedience to the law for our sake and given the Name that is above every name: give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world.

6 January - The Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face.

7 January - The Baptism of Christ

The First Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children.

14 January - The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory.

21 January - The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power.

28 January - CANDLEMAS Presentation of Christ in the Temple

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy
are those who will have sought and found how to serve.*

Albert Schweitzer

THE ST BLASIUS 2017 CRIB FESTIVAL

Our Crib Festival was held between December 1st and 3rd with the church beautifully decorated with fifty four Nativity scenes ranging from the Ray Dyke's spectacular scene complete with real sand to the small but no less beautiful scenes.



The tradition of hosting a Crib Festival was started by Reverend Alan Swanborough about fifteen years ago following inspiration he received from a neighbour (Tony Sinclair) who was Polish. Crib Festivals were popular in Poland but not so well known in this country and Alan thought this theme would make our Festival stand out from other popular seasonal church festivals held around the Island. Other churches now hold their own versions of a Crib Festival but we were one of the first churches on the Island to start this tradition.

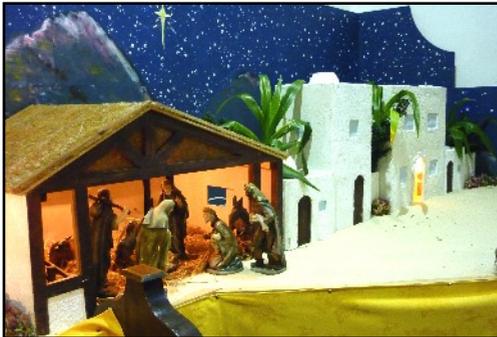
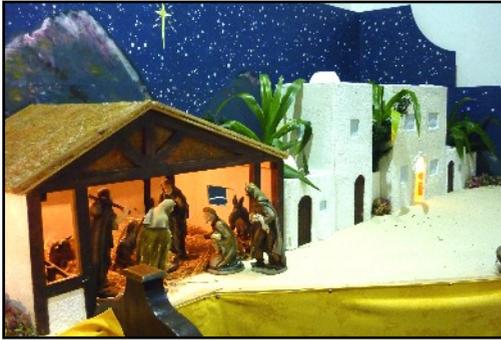
We have not held a Crib Festival every year and your PCC will be considering whether we should make this an annual event to increase its local visibility. The idea of having a concert as part of the three day Festival proved to be an excellent and a very enjoyable evening was had by all who attended the concert by the Simon Langton School for Boys Chamber Choir splendidly directed by Emily Renshaw

Hosting the Festival requires a lot of hard work, both in setting up the displays and making sure the church is appropriately decorated and in providing a warm welcome to our visitors. To help spread the word 840 flyers were distributed to every house in the Parish and over 70 posters delivered to local businesses. To all of the volunteers who helped to clean the church, set up the displays and put up the decorations, deliver the flyers and posters and to those who provided a warm welcome to our visitors I would like to express my sincere thanks.

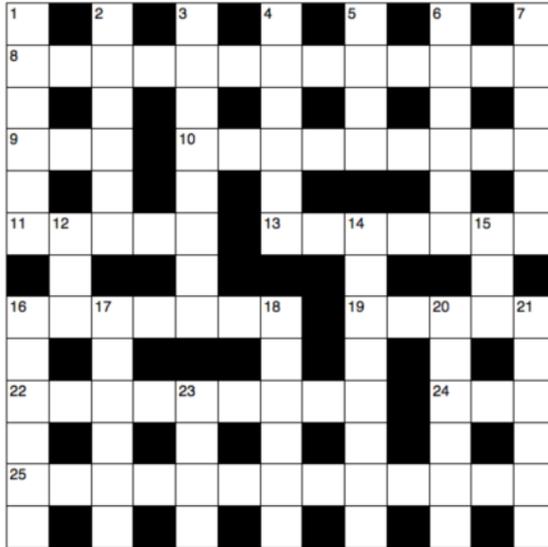
The general consensus appears to be that the Festival was not as successful as in previous years judging by the number of visitors we had but in my opinion it was a great success. Firstly the energy and enthusiasm of all of our volunteers engendered a great feeling of congregational solidarity, the church was beautifully decorated and will stay so throughout Advent and Christmas and we generated the not insignificant amount of £479; £209 from visitors to the Festival and £270 from the concert on Saturday evening. Well done everyone!

Bob Crawley, Treasurer and Churchwarden

SCENES FROM THIS YEAR'S CRIB FESTIVAL



CROSSWORD



Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as - , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy - doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their - at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)

- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would - - or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new - ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful - - , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts - - special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

FESTIVALS IN JANUARY

From the Church of England Calendar: Major Festivals in bold

Monday 1.....**The Naming of Jesus**

Tuesday 2.....St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nazianzus,
379 & 389 — *Bishops, Teachers of the Faith*

Saturday 6.....**The Epiphany**

Friday 12.....St. Aelred of Hexham, 1167 — *Abbot of Rievaulx*

Saturday 13.....St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, 367 — *Teacher of the Faith*

Wednesday 17.....St. Antony of Egypt, 356 — *Hermit, Abbot*

Friday 19.....St. Wulfstan, 1095 — *Bishop of Worcester*

Sunday 21.....St. Agnes, 304 — *Child Martyr at Rome*

Wednesday 24.....St. Francis de Sales, 1622 — *Bishop of Geneva,
Teacher of the Faith*

Thursday 25.....**The Conversion of St Paul**

Friday 26.....St. Timothy and St Titus — *Companions of St Paul*

Sunday 28.....St. Thomas Aquinas, 1274 — *Priest, Philosopher,
Teacher of the Faith*

Tuesday 30.....King Charles I of England, 1649 — *Martyr*

SHANKLIN TOWNSWOMEN'S EVENING GUILD

Wednesday, 17th January **10:00am** in The Methodist Hall
Mark O'Sullivan - Age UK Good Neighbourhood Scheme will be our guest
speaker.

HYDE SHANKLIN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, 12th December 7:30pm in the Methodist Hall
T.B.A.

JULIE
Ladies & Gentlemen's Hair Stylist
Phone Number: **07855 190112**
Please use this new number for all appointments

CANTERBURY TALES OF A CHOIR CONCERT

On Saturday evening 2 December St. Blasius Church was the venue for a fine concert given by the Chamber Choir of the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys at Canterbury. This was a repeat visit, as we hosted a similar concert in 2016.



The Chamber Choir consists of boys and young men from the school, ranging from 'year 7' pupils aged 11/12 through to the 'Upper Sixth' at the senior end, singing in four-part harmony. They sang a balanced variety of ancient and modern music, ranging from Vivaldi and Mendelssohn to Philip Stopford and Will Todd. They also included a Gilbert & Sullivan medley, that they clearly enjoyed very much. Many of their choral pieces also included solos or duets for various voices.

The choir was led by their highly qualified and experienced Musical Director, Emily Renshaw, who originates from the Island. Her great enthusiasm was clearly evident, transmitted into the performance given by every member of the choir. One of the younger students also performed a very competent saxophone solo, and a splendid guitar solo was given by one of the older pupils. He was later joined by two others, to perform an enjoyable guitar trio. The whole evening's music was accompanied on our Clavinova by Fergus Carver, a senior student at Canterbury, and a very accomplished player. He also gave a short solo recital towards the end of the evening's entertainment.

This was another wonderful evening of music, with an interval when mulled wine was served.



The choir had spent their weekend on the Island, and had already given two similar concerts at venues in Cowes on the Friday evening and Saturday morning, so ours was their last engagement before their return to Canterbury on the Sunday. They very generously made no charge for coming, so all of the retiring collection will go to our Church funds. The almost capacity audience enjoyed what they did, and the effort they all put into it. We hope they will return again next year, and look forward to another great concert from this fine school choir.

NOTES from the November 9th 2017 PCC MEETING

- The interview process for the three candidates for Priest-in-Charge which were due to take place on November 21st was discussed.
- We discussed the status of the purchase of new Altar Frontals with the £5,000 Bequest from the estate of the late Frederic Alan Walker.
- It was agreed to approach the St Blasius Academy to involve the students in the competition to design a new Logo for our church.
- Plans were made for the Crib Festival, including a return concert by the boys from Simon Langton School for Boys, Canterbury.
- Members agreed that we should have an illuminated tree in our churchyard this Christmas.
- As part of our mission outreach several people have volunteered to deliver leaflets about our December events to over 800 homes in our parish.
- Members plan to have a new, wooden notice-board near the Lych gate on which we can advertise forthcoming events and services.
- There will also be a movable A-board to place outside in the Summer when the church is open.
- The Treasurer reported on receipts and expenses for the ten month period to October 31st. The results show a surplus of £7,570 with receipts slightly above budget and expenses materially below.
- It was agreed to prepare a budget for the replacement of our boiler next summer because of the age and inefficiency of our current boiler. This will include the cost of the removal of the asbestos lagging in the boiler room.
- It is planned to install mesh guards on the two windows which were vandalised earlier this year. First we need to be obtain a faculty from the Diocese.
- The handrails will soon be installed outside the main door. Our Treasurer informs us that the faculty cost more than the handrails. We are very grateful that the cost was covered by a donation.
- Our Choir Director, Coral Bratherton, is planning two Choral Evensong services for next year in May and August.
- Members of the Mothers' Union have planted daffodils in the churchyard, ready for a Spring showing.
- The meeting discussed the filling of the vacancy of a Foundation Governor at the St Blasius Academy by a Lay member of our congregation.

A PCC meeting is planned for 25th January. If there is a matter you wish to be raised please speak to a Churchwarden or to Jo Hardy-Bishop.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A		S		W		F		U		A		A
B	O	T	T	O	M	L	E	S	S	P	I	T
D		R		N		O		C		A		H
I	C	E		D	E	C	A	L	O	G	U	E
E		A		R		K				A		N
L	I	M	B	O		S	E	C	O	N	D	S
	O			U				R				Y
C	R	I	M	S	O	N		E	A	G	E	R
R		N				E		A		A		E
A	B	H	O	R	R	E	N	T		L	A	P
V		O		E		D		I		L		E
A	L	P	H	A	A	N	D	O	M	E	G	A
T		E		D		O		N		Y		T

ST. BLASIUS PRIMARY ACADEMY

From the school's Newsletter:

As an academy, we try to offer as many different experiences as we can for the children; one example is that the older children are encouraged to do some work related to careers, where they develop and showcase their entrepreneurial skills. I cannot think of anything more boring than discussing with a 10 year old the next 60 years of their life. However, at the Christmas Fayre last month, the children produced items to sell or they made games to play. They planned the activity, making signs to market it and then to run their stalls. Most importantly, they had fun doing it!

Last month we were privileged to have survivors from the Blitz come in to talk to our school newspaper journalists about their experiences. This forms part of our community project which is focussing on organising activities that get the children out into the local community and inviting people from our local community into school. The children were filmed interviewing our visitors and the footage will be used to create a film all about Shanklin and its history. Thank you to Mr Pease and Mr Priest for organising the visits and to Mrs Fox and the children for all their hard work.

SHANKLIN WEATHER REPORT NOVEMBER 2017



The Sunshine records for Shanklin have been suspended. The average amount of sunshine for November is 82.4 hours.

November 2017 was the 13th coldest in the last 35 years.

November had a mean temperature of 8.5°C. The warmest day was the 22nd when 14.8°C was recorded. The coldest days of the month were the 29th and the 30th both with a recorded maximum temperature of 6.1°C. The coldest night was overnight on the 24th/25th November when the temperature fell to 0.0°C. The highest overnight temperature was recorded overnight 21st/22nd when 12.8°C was recorded.

The rainfall for November amounted to 51.7mm. It was the 7th driest November in the last 35 years. The days with the highest totals were the 22nd with 12.4mm, 7th with 7.5mm, 27th with 7.2mm and the 3rd with 6.3mm. The period 11th till the 20th was the driest with just 8.4mm of rain 8% of the months expected rainfall. The average amount of rain for November is 112.8mm. Rain was recorded on 16 days the average is 16. A rain day is defined as 0.2mm or above.



Clive Cooper

Shanklin Weather Observer

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

On 6th December last, our members attended the Island Advent Service at All Saints Church, Freshwater. The choir, which included four members of Shanklin Branch, sang heartily throughout under the direction of our own Karen Crowhurst.

We have arranged a full year of meetings, speakers and events for 2018, the first of which will be on Monday, **29th January at 2pm** in the Parish Room. We will enjoy an illustrated talk by our member Karen, who with her husband, joined a group of Island churchgoers who visited The Holy Land early last year.

INCENTIVE TO SUCCEED

An old gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery. He had insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son, to encourage him. 'Don't be nervous, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, and something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife.'

LONELINESS

**(This was told to me by an elderly man whom I used to visit
and who is now dead)**

I think loneliness is worse than illness: illness can bring medical attention and death, but loneliness can go on and on with no end in sight. It's harder to cope with, there's no prospect of it ever changing. It's a terrible thing, living in a place surrounded by others, hearing them move about, with no prospect of anyone popping in and no-one to claim as a friend.

Early morning is the worst time. I force myself to stay in bed until 8 but I'm wide awake at 4 and there is nothing to do but think, think about how alone you are. It's a dreadful feeling.

When I get up I have 4 different medicines to take and then I get my breakfast. I have porridge. Sometimes later in the morning I ask myself if I've taken my medicines - I can't always remember actually taking them. There's no-one to ask, no-one to check on me, no-one to care if I have or I haven't.

So I get up. But what for? I'm not expecting anyone: I've no means of getting out. In the past, when I was working, I was out all day, every day, meeting people. Now my life is so dull, so boring, it's boring even talking about it. And the thoughts, the feelings of desperation go round and round. I can't stick it any longer but I can't think what to do about it.

I might have a sandwich for lunch and then watch television to pass the afternoon. The evenings are pretty much the same as the days. Sometimes I go to bed at 7 o'clock. Seven o'clock! The reason? There isn't one except it's a change of scene: I just have to get out of the sitting room. I prop myself up on the pillows and sit there hour after hour, nothing to do, just thinking. Thinking the same thing as in the morning: what a miserable mess. I just fall asleep eventually.

I could be so happy living my last bit of time, 5 weeks, 5 months, 5 years. You're entitled to think that when you're in your 70s that you will be happy, with no worries and problems. A lot of people my age have pain and illnesses, I know that. But it's not the aches and pains that get me down, it's the loneliness, the dreadful, empty loneliness.

Sent in by Jo Hardy-BIshop

*Every man's life lies within the present;
for the past is spent and done with, and the future is uncertain.*

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

ST BLASIUS CHURCH DUTY ROTA'S

WELCOME ROTA	
10.15am SERVICES (unless otherwise mentioned)	
7 January	Beverley Taylor & Angela Norris.
14 January	Moira Erwin & Bob Crawley.
21 January *	Ces Tibbitts & John Gilland.
28 January	Karen & Norman Cave.

Would one of the two Side-persons please position themselves below the altar rail during Communion to both guide and assist Communicants if required.

* Matins

*N.B.: If you are unavailable on your allotted day
please arrange for someone to replace you.*

Thank you all for your help and co-operation, Hazel.

FLOWER ARRANGERS	
5 January	Jenny Wright.
12 January	Jenny Wright.
19 January	Pat Dean & Hazel Knowler.
26 January	Pat Dean & Hazel Knowler.

CLEANING ROTA	
5 January	Jenny Wright & Beverley Taylor.
12 January	Angela Norris & Peter Hyde.
19 January	Jo & Brian Hardy-Bishop.
26 January	Norman & Karen Cave.

***The Church Wardens and PCC would like to thank you
for your continued help and support.***

CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN SHANKLIN

Informal Shared Worship

Evening Services This Month

7 January	6:30pm	Informal Shared Worship United Reform Church, High Street
14 January	6:30pm	Informal Shared Worship St Paul's Church, Regent Street
21 January	4:30pm	United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity St Blasius Church, Church Road
28 January	6:30pm	Informal Shared Worship Sacred Heart Church, Atherley Road

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!