

Brookfield News

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C of E partners with Twitter to launch new ™@ChurchLive Service

The Church of England is partnering with Twitter UK to broadcast services across the world, using mobile technology.

ChurchLive, was created in conjunction with Twitter UK as a way of showcasing a broad range of live church services to global audiences, simply and accessibly, through use of a smartphone. ChurchLive could be the first taste of Church for those unfamiliar with church services and an introduction to the best of worship, preaching and prayer. ChurchLive will also enable other people to rediscover church in a new way or for those in other countries to learn more about Church of England services.

The Rev Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Archbishops' Council said: "This is a project designed to bring Church of England services from Malton to Miami, Middlesbrough to Milan and Manchester to Mumbai. Those who may not make it to church on a Sunday for all sorts of reasons will have the opportunity to be part of a service. The ability to join in worship shouldn't be restricted to geographical constraint. We know that Periscope users are a global audience and we expect that there will be as many watching services broadcast via Periscope as are physically present at the services themselves."

Earlier this year parishioners at

one village church, St Radegund's Church in Grayingham, in the Diocese of Lincoln, were joined by another 350 people around the world for their regular traditional Sunday service after becoming the first to experiment with Periscope.

Julia White from Twitter UK, said: "Periscope gives people and communities the opportunity to live broadcast everything from on-the-spot breaking news through to individual reflections. It's great to see the Church of England taking the best of what they have to offer and using Periscope to show it live across the world."

Tallie Proud, Digital Officer for The Archbishops' Council of the

This Month.....Did Jesus exist?.....Page 4

Services

Sundays

11.00am Sung Eucharist

"Sunday Supplement" the children's activity takes place every Sunday in the sacristy during the service

Weekday Services

Said Eucharist

Tuesday 7.30pm

Wednesday 9.30am

Friday 7.30am

Saints' & Holy Days

Wednesday 6th January Epiphany

7.30pm Choral Mass

Sunday 10th January The Baptism of Christ

11.00am Parish Mass Preacher Fr. John Hawkins Archdeacon of Hampstead

Sunday 31st January The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

11.00am Choral Mass and procession

Clergy Day off: Fr. Guy is off duty on Monday but don't hesitate to call him in emergencies.

The Vicar is usually available in the Vicarage, 85 Dartmouth Park Road, from 8:00pm until 9:00pm on Tuesdays for the purpose of interviews, arranging Baptisms, reading of Banns and Weddings etc. he is also available to hear confessions then or by appointment.

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Church of England said: "It could be someone too ill to attend, a family who want to 'attend' even when on holiday or someone who just wants to know what the church is like before they make the sometimes scary step of walking into the building for the first time."

"@ChurchLive" will see a different church in the Church of England broadcast a live weekly service to global audiences via the Periscope app over the course of a year.

Softly

A churchwarden went to the Police Station wishing to see the burglar who had slipped in and out of the church during evensong. "You'll get your chance in court," said the Desk Sergeant.

"I don't want revenge," said the man. "I want to know how he got out of the service early without the vicar noticing. I've been trying to do that for years!"

General Synod discusses 'game-changing' research on evangelism

'Facts are friends!' That was the message from Rt Rev Mike Hill, Bishop of Bristol, when presenting the 'Talking Jesus' report to the Church of England's recent session of General Synod. (www.talkingjesus.org/)

He said we need to change the flow. Instead of asking how to get people to come to church, 'we need to go out sensitively and willingly talking about our faith.'

The report, which explores people's perceptions of Jesus, Christians and evangelism in England, showed that 40% of people do not even realise that Jesus was a real person. However, more than half of non-Christians have had a conversation with a practicing Christian about faith in Jesus (57%). Having had that conversation, of those who had not become a Christian, one in five (19%) still wants to know more about Jesus Christ.

Bishop Mike said, "The best kind of communication that we do person to person is with those people with whom we are in relationship. We are not talking about insensitive approaches. We are talking about the right time and in the right way. The antidote to poor witness is not no witness, but good witnessing.

"Facts are friends. Even if we don't like the facts, what we need to do is to define reality before we can make any impact on that reality. There is evidence here that we can go out, sensitively and willingly to live and speak our faith, and that this might be a game-changer for some people."

The report, commissioned by the Church of England, HOPE, and

the Evangelical Alliance, has surprised church leaders. It showed that most non-Christians already know a practising Christian (67%); a friend (40%) or family member (34%) who they would describe with words like: friendly, caring, good humoured, generous, encouraging and hopeful.

When people do become Christians, 41% say that they were influenced by growing up in a Christian family, 36% by a conversation with a Christian, 28% by attending a church service, and 27% by reading the Bible.

Commenting on the report, Dr Rachel Jordan, national adviser for mission and evangelism for the Church of England, said "We did this research because we thought Christians were not talking to others about their faith. And we found that more people are interested than I ever imagined. The survey shows that followers of Jesus are good friends and they are fun. We can take confidence from this."

She drew Synod's attention to the statistics which show that only one per cent of the population knows a church leader. "The task of evangelism has to be enabling all the people in our congregations – who are in touch with 67% of the population – to talk about Jesus."

And she added that already more under-34-year-old non-Christians know a practising Christian (who is their peer, not their grandma) than any other age group. Also, 18-34 year olds are more active in sharing their faith.

Dr Jordan is part of the team that commissioned the research on behalf of churches across the spec-

trum of Christian denominations. Roy Crowne, executive director of HOPE, Steve Clifford, general director of the Evangelical Alliance, and Yemi Adedeji, associate director for HOPE and director of the Evangelical Alliance's One People Commission, also attended the Synod presentation.

Roy Crowne said: "The results are a game-changer for churches wanting to share the good news of Jesus. We often hear reports of declining church numbers, but this survey shows that Christianity in England is full of life, and many people are passionate about sharing their faith. Yes, there are some big challenges for churches to face, but the report has given us insights which we can use to help Christians to talk about Jesus relevantly and effectively."

Steve Clifford said: "There are challenges for our schools as well as for our churches. There is overwhelming evidence in the New Testament and from independent, non-biblical sources indicating Jesus was a historical figure. That nearly 40% of people in this country are unsure of this or think Jesus was a mythical character paints a worrying picture of our education system. While it's great to see that non-Christians think positively of Jesus, it would be even better if they realised the significance of His life, death and resurrection for their own lives today."

Yemi Adedeji said: "This invaluable research will give confidence to churches from across denominations, regions and ethnicities and the insight it provides will enable us to answer the questions people are asking of us, not the ones we think they are."

Next time someone tells you that Jesus did not exist^o

Recent research in England revealed that 40% of people do not realise Jesus was a real person. Among 18-34 year olds, 25% think Jesus was a mythical or fictional character. They probably have no doubts about other famous people from the past. Of course, it matters more when the authenticity of Jesus is questioned. If Jesus was as 'real' as the Christian creeds imply, then the whole purpose and destiny of humanity are changed. There's a lot at stake.

How do we know that Jesus actually existed? For that matter, how do we know any historical figure existed? We need to look for corroborative evidence.

In any other historical investigation we would examine all literary sources. However, as sceptics often discount biblical material because they suspect the writers distorted the facts, we look outside the New

Testament to non-Christian authors for clues.

First, to Roman historians. Tacitus (56-117 AD) wrote "Christus was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius". Suetonius (69-130 AD) wrote of "Chrestus" and of his followers having been persecuted by Nero. In 112 AD a Roman Magistrate, Pliny the Younger, sought advice from the Emperor Trajan, having failed to force Christians to renounce Christ whom they "worshipped as a god", when worship was due exclusively to the emperor. The Jewish historian Josephus (37-100 AD) referred to James as, "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ." None of these authors questioned Christ's existence.

Even-handed enquirers would also want to know what the New Testament has to say. By comparison with texts of other ancient literature now available, we have

infinitely better records. Over 5,000 separate manuscripts are now available. One complete New Testament in the British Library is over 1600 years old. A substantial collection of New Testament documents is dated mid-3rd Century and is split between Dublin, Michigan and other locations. Much of the Gospel of John is in a document dated 200 AD or earlier. Modern translations of the Bible result from studying all these manuscripts. It is false to suggest that they suffer from multiple translations.

Let historian Michael Grant have the last word, "...if we apply to the New Testament, as we should, the same sort of criteria as we should apply to other ancient writings containing historical material, we can no more reject Jesus' existence than we can reject the existence of a mass of pagan personages whose reality as historical figures is never questioned..."

The lady who gave us Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple

Dame Agatha Christie, the crime novelist who is probably as widely known as any modern writer in English, died 40 years ago, on 12 January 1976. Not least among her achievements is her play *The Mousetrap*, still in the West End after more than 26,000 performances. In its 64th year, it is the longest running show of any kind in the world.

But most people encounter Dame Agatha as author of one of her many detective novels, often featuring either Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple. She also wrote a series of six romance novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott,

and 19 plays. Thirty of her detective novels were turned into films, and she wrote over 80 books in all.

Her detective novels have been described as both moral and theological, in that guilt and justice are at their core. It has also been pointed out that hers was a profoundly Christian world.

She was baptised into the Church of England and kept a copy of *The Imitation of Christ* at her bedside – as did her amateur sleuth, Jane Marple. Her outlook was conservative.

Born Agatha Miller in Devon in

1890, she lost her father at the age of 11 and went to finishing school in Paris. She married Archibald Christie, an aviator, in 1914, but by 1926 he wanted a divorce and Agatha disappeared, abandoning her car on a cliff. She was found 11 days later at a Harrogate hotel, registered under the name of her husband's mistress.

The couple divorced in 1928 and Agatha took to travelling. She met her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, a big fan of hers and considerably younger, at a dig site in Ur. She married him in 1930 and they remained happily married. His work inspired many of her subsequent plots.

“Dear Friends...”

From the Vicars Desk

With the visit of the new Archdeacon of Hampstead Fr John Hawkins this month I thought I would begin by saying a bit about the role of the Archdeacon.

Firstly he is responsible for the finances of the Episcopal Area. As a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Area Council he is answerable for the proper financing of the Area. Each Area has a Stipends budget and a target for meeting a proportion of its costs. Over the whole diocese Common Fund contributions amount to 75% of the funds raised. The remainder comes from property management and other investments as well as a small number of charitable grants. Completely by chance the same proportion, 75% is what we spend on clergy stipends so in effect what we give as a parish all goes on paying the clergy of the diocese. In our case of course we rely on other parishes to make up what we are unable to give.

Each year he will hold meetings in every Deanery which Churchwardens and treasurers are encouraged to attend to explain the current financial position of the Diocese and its coming needs. For the first time our new General Secretary in cooperation with the Archdeacons is seeking to create a five year financial plan so that we at least have some forward planning.

Then the Archdeacon is responsible for the encouragement of parishes to use and maintain their property. This will include church-

es, halls and any other property they happen to own. Grants and loans to parishes are only given when they have the Archdeacons approval.

But this area of work will also include the development of new projects. In our Area we currently have some very significant developments. In Tottenham, we are in the midst of building the first new church in London for 40 years, St Francis at Tottenham Hale a project costing some £2.5 million. Then in North Finchley St Barnabas parish are in the midst of purchasing and developing an existing office block to convert it into a huge replacement church for their congregation of over six hundred people. The purchase alone cost £7.5 million and there is the conversion on top of that. Closer to home Holy Trinity Finchley Road are looking at redeveloping their 1970's church using the existing site another multi million pound project. For all of these as well as much smaller projects such as a replacement church hall in Hornsey the Archdeacon has to be involved.

Then there is the coordination of the maintenance and improvement of Vicarages. As you know when a parish priest leaves a parish the opportunity is usually taken to make some improvements. This again is a major part of the diocese budget each year.

This all sounds very financially orientated, but it is balanced by the round of Visitations that are done

by the Archdeacon when he will meet parish staff where they exist, Churchwardens, the PCC where they will look at mission in the parish and also inspect all the parish documentation, the registers of services, accounts and marriage and Baptism records to see that they are all properly maintained.

Yet another task for the Archdeacon is to assist the Bishop with appointments and in difficult situations of pastoral failure or breakdown to help make it possible for clergy to move on.

This is by no means all of Fr. John's tasks so we need to pray for him regularly as he seeks to help build up the church in the Edmonton Area. It will be a delight for me to welcome him as we have been friends since he came to the parish of St John Hendon some years ago. I do hope that you will do your best to be in church to welcome him on Sunday 10th January.

Your Parish Priest

100 Club Winners

Draw for December 2015

1st prize: Christa Keeler
2nd prize: Henry Potts
3rd prize: Michael (the Chemist)
4th prize: Fr. Guy

Congratulations to you all and thanks for your support each month.

If you would like to purchase a number in this monthly draw please do make enquiries of the Mr Mark Williams.

The top 10 Bible stories: no. 5: The Ten Commandments

We are now half-way through our series looking at the top ten Must Know Stories. This month we look at the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20), the law which God gave to Israel.

The computers that we use on a daily basis have thousands of component parts which can go wrong. We need the Maker's instructions to guide us when things go wrong and show us how to get the most out of them. Human beings are also wonderfully complex, physically, psychologically and spiritually. We also have a Maker's handbook to show us how God wants us to live. This is the

2016 - 'You have never been this way before'

A poll conducted last year of the top New Year resolutions included: getting healthier (63%); drinking less alcohol (57%); losing weight (34%); getting out of debt (26%) and stopping smoking (22%). However, what are our resolutions for 2016?

Do we want to spend more time reading the Bible and praying? How can we do this? Do we want to be a better spouse? How might we express our love to our spouse? Do we want to be a better parent? How can we demonstrate our commitment to the children? Do we want to make more impact at work? How can we demonstrate an attractive faith to colleagues?

When the people of God stood on the banks of the Jordan ready to cross to the Promised Land they were assured, 'you have never been this way before' (Joshua 3:4). At the beginning of a New Year, we don't

10 commandments, which God gave to Moses on Mt Sinai. 'And God spoke all these words: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery'. (Exodus 20:1,2).

If we want to grow to become more like God, we have to take seriously the Commandments in our lives. The rest of the Bible could be described as God's repair manual, spelling out the gospel of grace that restores sin-damaged human beings to relationship with God.

How should we approach the 10 Commandments today? You may say 'I try to take them seriously, but every day I fail somewhere.'

know the future and how we will keep our resolutions. What can we learn from their example?

Keep your focus on God: The people were told to follow the Ark, symbolising God's presence, as they crossed the river. Let's keep our focus on God and His Word throughout this year and keep in step with where He is leading.

Consecrate yourselves: Joshua said, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.' (3:5). God has exciting opportunities ahead for us in this coming year! Let us dedicate our lives afresh to Him, as we let go of known sin and keep our eyes open on seeing God at work in all of our lives.

Will 2016 be a good year for us? 'In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.' (Abraham Lincoln)

We have to admit our weaknesses, but we can turn to God for pardon and forgiveness. In the power of the Spirit, Christ brings us a new kind of life, in which our heart's deepest desire will be to go God's way and obedience will no longer be a burden.

God says 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.' (Jeremiah 31:33). The word of command becomes a promise of obedience: 'You shall not...'

Transfusion of Life ± 100 years on

1st January is the centenary of an important medical milestone. On that day in 1916, the RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps) carried out the first successful blood transfusion, as we know them today – by using stored blood that had been cooled.

The desperate need to save men, who were literally bleeding to death in the front-line dressing stations from battle-field wounds, was the great motivation. Minds were focused, experiments tried, first class brains employed to find an answer. A hundred years later the procedure they employed on that New Year's Day long ago is still saving countless lives – indeed, most of us have probably received a blood transfusion at some time in our lives.

'Necessity is the mother of invention', the old saying goes. It's strange how many vital developments in medicine – antibiotics, more recently - have sprung out of the horrors of war.

'He gave us eyes to see them' - The Church Door: St John's Adel

George Herbert is a much-loved Anglican poet, who died just 40 years old in 1633. His volume of poems 'The Temple' was published later that year. In it the poet leads the reader through the church door into the building to meditate on all that is seen inside. That procession through the church is the theme of our monthly articles this year. We shall visit a variety of English churches as we make our way from the font to the altar. We begin this month outside the glorious Norman building of St John's Church, Adel, near Leeds in West Yorkshire.

The church has a very fine south doorway with ornate carving. The oak door is a Victorian copy of the original door; the Sanctuary Ring is a replica of the Norman ring/knocker. It shows a monster about to swallow a man, but open the door and there is safety and protection away from the harms of the world. It is the theme in St John's Gospel of Jesus as the door to the sheepfold. Enter through Jesus, we are told, to find the safety of the flock, and also to find nourish-

ment and renewal. We can stand at the door of this beautiful church or at the door of our own churches. It opens and welcomes us to enjoy the friendship and refreshment within.

The door could stay closed, protecting us from the storms of life without that threaten us like the dark creature in the Norman sanctuary ring of Adel church. But we know that in the church building we have no abiding city. Our worship ends and the door will open once again to



lead us out into that world. Within we have found nourishment in the sacrament of the altar, in the word of scripture, and in the fellowship of the flock. We go out to share those gifts with the world that others may come to know Jesus as the door that leads to life eternal.

How illicit drugs are changing national economies

The illicit drugs trade is now so powerful that it is virtually shaping the economies, governance and social fabric of entire nations, warns a new report commissioned by Christian Aid.

The huge profits involved have rendered those in the drugs trade largely immune from prosecution. Instead, they seem able to expand and distribute rewards to those in favour, across national boundaries.

The report, 'Drugs and Illicit Practices', examines four countries where an increasingly active drugs trade has begun to affect development. The countries are Afghanistan (opium), Columbia (cocaine), Mali (a route for cocaine) and Tajikistan (route for heroin). In each case, drug networks have become providers of jobs and investment, drug barons have been elected to government office, and criminal syndicates serve as shadow sub-contractors of state security.

The report has been produced by Christian Aid to broaden the debate on drugs policies worldwide prior to a special session of the United Nations General Assembly this Spring, to discuss the global drugs problem.

The report is at: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/Drugs-and-illicit-practices-Eric-G...>

The Way I See It: `minute particulars' change lives

I was struck last Autumn by the way public reaction to the news was shaped by apparently small events – small, that is, against the backdrop of the ‘big’ news of the refugee crisis. One photo – of a Greek soldier carrying the body of a tiny boy who had drowned when a refugee boat sank – literally transformed public opinion in Britain.

The man leading the prayers in my church, who had pleaded with God to help us to wake up and do something about the plight of these people, admitted to me after the service that he had originally felt that stronger measures should be taken to limit this mass migration from Middle East war zones. ‘What changed your mind?’ I asked. ‘Simple’, he said. ‘That picture. Instant conversion!’

I thought of that when I watched an elderly woman putting a bag of pasta in the food bank bin in our local Co-op store. Such a small gesture, but full of profound intent. And then I remembered the words of the poet William Blake: ‘He who would do good to another must do it in minute particulars.’ That’s profoundly true, because our lives are built of ‘minute particulars’. Jesus pointed out to the crowds on one occasion that He, and the prophets of old, dealt with individuals. Not everyone was being healed, not every blind person restored to sight. If minute particulars would change things to the extent He did, then I’m all for them.

As the saying goes, I can’t do everything, but that’s no reason to do

nothing’. There’s probably a New Year resolution there somewhere.

The bump

A man who had just undergone a very complicated operation kept complaining about a bump on his head and a terrible headache. Since his operation had been an intestinal one, the nurse was concerned. Finally she spoke to the doctor about it. The doctor assured her, “Don’t worry, he really does have a bump on his head. About halfway through the operation, we ran out of anesthetic.”

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Glory and Simplicity

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him (John 2:11)

At the age of eight, I was being driven by my missionary dad near Embu, on the lower slopes of Mount Kenya, when we suddenly drew up. "Look now!" said Dad. "Just here you can see how the road passes directly over a gully that was never dug out by human beings. It's always been there. They call this place Ndarasha ya Ngai – 'God's Bridge.'"

Pantheism – the identification of 'God' with nature – was always the traditional mindset in East Africa, before Christianity took over. God was present – in a gully, in the rocks, the rivers or in certain trees. He was near, but.... tiny!

What, oh what, is that person's name?!

Do your New Year Resolutions include the forlorn hope that you will be better at remembering people's names in 2016?

Many of us – and not only those of the older generation – have difficulty remembering names. It's not just TV personalities and so on, but people we meet in the street. We know exactly who they are, we see them every week in church or the supermarket, we know what job they do and which school their children go to. But as for their name – it's a blank.

Help is at hand, however. Not to solve the problem, but at least to name it. 'Nominal asphasia' is the clinical name for the inability to re-

In much Middle-East belief, God is 'great'; transcendent and immutable – but.... utterly remote! He might reveal laws, but never his person, for He is unknowable and inaccessible.

But in Jesus, the glory of God becoming human has changed the entire outlook of two point three billion people today. The Incarnation has brought Almighty God near in forgiveness and friendship – and without shrinking him!

'We have seen his glory,' testified John, in his first chapter. Chapter 2, then, instances this 'glory,' with the turning of the water into wine by our Lord. Here is the very style of the Incarnation, when:

God takes hold of the ordinary
What more simple than a baby in
a cattle trough, a carpenter's shop

member a name, even when we can remember everything else about someone. It was a great relief to me to find it had a name. Up till then I thought it was the first symptom of dementia, or just plain stupidity.

There is also the strange truth that the cure for asphasia comes spontaneously, often in the middle of the night, when that elusive identity pops unbidden into our memory. We must be sure, of course, to put the light on and write it down, because it will be gone again with the morning light.

"Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver." (Carol Malia, BBC Anchorwoman)

in Galilee – or a crisis at a wedding reception? Life can never be dull when Jesus is present! Prove it yourself, this coming year! But then:

The ordinary becomes better For John's Gospel features seven miraculous 'signs' – all of them pointing, more and more, to the divine identity of the world's Messiah. Once we have started with Christ, we can expect more!

The best is yet to come The toast-master was unknowingly prophetic when he exclaimed, "Fancy keeping the best wine till the end!" So it was, with the saving 'hour' of the Cross and all that has followed since – for your salvation and mine.

No Longer Volunteers ± the horror of 1916

1916 was to be the year of mass slaughter in the Great War. The huge volunteer British army was being decimated in the plains of northern France – and the generals knew that worse was to come.

On 29th January 1916 Parliament passed the Military Service Act, which would introduce conscription for the first time. From March all unmarried men between 18 and 41 would become liable for military service. They would be joined from April by married men – the extra month may have been to give them time to make domestic arrangements.

Provision was made, as we have seen, for 'Conscientious Objectors', but conscription was a recognition both of the scale of the slaughter across the Channel and of the involvement of the whole nation in what was now a titanic conflict.

Celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday

A message from the Church Buildings Council on 6 November 2015

With the approval and agreement of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Church Buildings Council is encouraging every parish church in England to organise a festival on the weekend of 10-12 June 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and her role as head of the Church of England. This will coincide with official celebrations taking place in London.

The variety of potential forms for the celebrations is huge, from flower festivals to organ recitals, bell-ringing or choir festivals, food

or even beer festivals! – and it is hoped that, wherever possible, every church will take part.

In addition, to coincide with the Queen's birthday we hope that every church will be able to organise an exhibition of the life of its parish over the previous 90 years. Such exhibitions should, by charting the changes in the lives of our communities since 1926, highlight the ways in which parish churches have been and remain the focus of those communities, and be a celebration both of our churches and of the people that they serve. We hope that most parishes will be able to find photographs, artworks and oral history connected with

their church and the local area.

Though the onus will be on parishes to arrange their events, the Church Buildings Council will act as a hub for ideas and as a central co-ordination point. We will soon be sending out guidance on the organisation of these events, and all relevant guidance will be available on www.churchcare.co.uk Details of events will appear on www.churchdays.co.uk

So how about St Mary's? Any suggestions or volunteers! We could make it a real community event.

The Holocaust ± and worrying growth of anti-Semitism today

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed every 27th January – the day on which Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, was liberated in 1945.

This annual commemoration was established by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, but the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was actually observed 20 years ago this month, in Germany. It has been observed in Britain since 2001.

The United Nations resolution, which was promoted by the state of Israel, aims to honour the memory of Holocaust victims, and encourages the development of educational programmes about Holocaust history to help prevent future acts of genocide. It condemns all religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against

individuals or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief.

Despite this, anti-Semitism has not died, and many Jewish people have fears about their future in Europe. Often attacks against Jews stem from both far-right extremists and from Muslims: a recent poll by the Anti-Defamation League revealed that an average of 55 per cent of Western European Muslims harboured anti-Semitic attitudes.

There are approaching 300,000 Jews in Britain, and according to the Community Security Trust, 2014 saw the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents here since its monitoring began in 1984. It recorded 1168, more than double the number in 2013.

But while there may be fear in some areas on the streets, in France, Belgium and Germany leaders have

recently been outspoken against anti-Semitism, with notable emotional speeches from German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel and the French leaders President Hollande and Prime Minister Manuel Valls.

In Britain Prime Minister David Cameron made a pledge to protect Jewish communities in a video message to mark the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, in September last year. Remarking on “the tragic loss of life that we have seen following a number of horrific and abhorrent anti-Semitic attacks”, he added: “Jewish communities will not be left to live in fear. I will do everything I can to stamp out such hatred now and in the future.”

Hymns and Readings

January 3rd Christmas 2

Readings Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Psalm 147
Epheisans 1: 3-14
John 1: 10-18
Hymns 21 A great and mighty wonder
387 Jesus good above all other
40 What child is this
465 Thou didst leave thy throne

Sidesperson: Elizabeth Oyedemi
Readers: Stephen Nicoll , Rob Nesbitt
Intercessions: Nicky Pittam

January 10th Baptism of Christ

Readings Isaiah 43: 1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8: 14-17
Luke 3: 15-17 & 21-22
Hymns 12 On Jordans bank
339 Be thou my vision
271 Alleluia sing to Jesus
352 Crown him with many crowns

Sidesperson: Monica Sarpong
Readers: Lucy Boyd, Nicky Pittam
Intercessions: Ian MacGregor

January 17th Epiphany 2

Readings Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm 36
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 2: 1-11
Hymns 57 The race that long in darkness sat
140 Holy Spirit come confirm us
55 Hail to the Lord's annointed
47 As with gladness

Sidesperson: Nick Bethune
Readers: Denise Sealy, Joe McKenzie
Intercessions: Carol Kenning

January 24th Epiphany 3

Readings: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6 & 8-10
Psalm: 19
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
Luke 4: 14-21
Hymns 415 O for a thousand tongues
407 Lord thy word abideth
302 O thou who at thy eucharist didst
pray
303 HON I cannot tell

Sidesperson: Bill Saunders
Readers: Nick Bethune, Ruth Godwin
Intercessions: Lucy Boyd

January 31st Candlemas

Readings Malachi 3:1-5
Psalm 24
Hebrews 2: 14-end
Luke 2: 22-40
Hymns 33 Of the fathers heart begotten
234 Christ whose glory
156 Sing how the age long
157 Hail to the Lord who comes

Sidesperson: Rob Nesbitt
Readers: Rosie Price Timmins, Carol Kenning
Intercessions: Bill Saunders

New network of champions to combat human trafficking

The Church of England has been encouraged to help provide support for the victims of modern day slavery at the recent launch of a new network of 'champions' to combat the growing crime of human trafficking. Last year more than 2,300 people were identified as victims of trafficking in the UK from more than 96 different countries.

The Bishop of Derby, Dr Alastair Redfern, said that the Church can work with statutory and non-statutory agencies at a local level, to care for the victims of trafficking and human slavery through various initiatives and support networks. "The key to tackling modern day slavery is through building partnerships and creating networks.

"That is the strength of the Church – our parish system looks outwards and provides a neutral, open space for people to come together to learn and be aware of this tragic issue that affects the most vulnerable people who are often hidden but are nevertheless members of the community. We have to build networks of love, support and care for them that are long term and sustainable."

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For your prayers

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 2015

3rd Woodsome Road
10th Those who live outside the parish
but worship at St Mary's
17th Bellgate mews
24th Boscastle Road
31st Chetwynd Road

SAINTS & HOLY DAYS

2nd St Basil
3rd Christmas 2
10th Baptism of Christ

12th St Aelred of Hexham
13th St Hilary of Poitiers
17th **Epiphany 2**
19th St Wulfstan
21st St Agnes
22nd St Vincent
24th **Epiphany 3**
25th **Conversion of St Paul**
26th Ss Timothy & Titus
28th St Thomas Aquinas
30th Charles King and Martyr
31st **Presentation of christ in the
Temple (Candlemas)**