

CONTACTS

ST CLEMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Rector: | Rev Andrew Stoker | 624425 |
| Readers: | Les Tomkinson | 671256 |
| | Tony Hunt | 621454 |
| Churchwardens: | Ken Baldwin | 706562 |
| | Lance Andrews | 624132 |
| Deputy Churchwardens: | Fred Drake | 630071 |
| | Isobel Bamford | 630181 |
| Churchwarden Emeritus: | Audrey Cobley | 625296 |
| PCC Secretary: | Elaine Tomkinson | 671256 |
| Treasurer: | Reg Thompson | 410445 |
| Bookings: | Liz Charman | 670599 |
| Organist: | Robin Dickson | 07899 650297 |
| Electoral Roll: | Sybil Hewitt | 628786 |
| Seekers: | Judith Rigg/Sue Poole | 641565/641392 |
| Servers: | Norman Clay | 791896 |
| Bible study: | Audrey Cobley | 625296 |
| Prayer Group: | Danny Walker | 476359 |
| Web site: | www.stclements-york.co.uk | |

ST MARY'S:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Vicar: | Rev Andrew Stoker | 624425 |
| Churchwardens: | David Wilson | 430254 |
| | Robert Mason | 651367 |
| PCC Secretary: | Kathryn Knibbs | 423792 |
| Treasurer: | John Davidson | 705566 |
| Organist: | Kathryn Knibbs | 423792 |
| Electoral Roll: | Harley Wenham | 793670 |
| Web site: | www.stmary-bishophill.co.uk | |

REGULAR SERVICES

ST CLEMENTS:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|--|
| Sunday Services | 10.45 am | Parish Eucharist (Including young peoples group) |
| | 4.00 pm | Evensong |

Weekday Services

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------------|
| Monday | 7.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| Tuesday | 7.30 pm | Eucharist |
| Wednesday | 7.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| | 6.45 pm | Evening prayer |
| Thursday | 9.30 am | Eucharist |
| Saturday | 7.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| | 6.45 pm | Compline |

ST MARY'S:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Sunday Services | 9.15 am | Solemn Eucharist |
| Weekday Services | | |
| Wednesday | 7.30 pm | Eucharist |
| 1st Saturday in month | 10.00 am | Orthodox Liturgy |



Comments, criticism and suggestions for improvement to The Lily and Anchor will be gratefully received by Kathryn Knibbs and Mary Andrews.

The Lily and the Anchor

The Newsletter of St Clement's, York
and St Mary's Bishophill, York

January 2007



A letter from Andrew

Gold may well have been one of the original Christmas presents, but let us not kid ourselves – there has been never a golden age in the church free of controversy and struggle. It is no secret that the Anglican Communion is experiencing great difficulties at the present time and no doubt these will become more evident in the year ahead. But before we get too downhearted let us not forget that this is nothing new. Galatians and Acts tell us about a particularly big controversy in the early church. It seems that pagans, like Cornelius and Titus, began stepping forward to accept Christ. Many assumed that this meant that these pagans now had to become good Jews – circumcision, eating Kosher, observing the Sabbath and the Jewish holidays.

But Paul, had a revelation, an "Epiphany". He saw clearly that the story of salvation, from Abraham to the Baptist, was but a prologue. That God's call to the Jews to distinguish themselves from Gentiles was only to prepare them to serve those Gentiles. He saw more clearly than anyone that God's secret plan was to bring the human race back together again as one family. After all, we began as one family before sin fragmented us into rival nations (Gen 11).

The revelation of a new era experienced by Paul was anticipated by earlier Epiphanies or revelations that we celebrate during the Christmas season. First, there were visitors to the infant Jesus of Bethlehem. Luke tells us of the shepherds who paid homage to the infant king. They were Jews who belonged to the lowliest strata of society – rough, unlearned, and very poor. Then, Matthew tells us of wise men from the East who come with very costly gifts. These visitors are pagan Gentiles – learned, wealthy, and from the most prominent class of society.

But there came a time when God gave us more Epiphanies. Many were baptized by John, but only upon Jesus did a dove descend. Because only he was the Son of God destined to baptize people of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Many were invited to the wedding feast at Cana (John 2), but only Jesus turned water into wine. The vessels used to contain the water turned wine were not chosen by accident – they were stone jars used in purification rituals of Jewish law. For this was an Epiphany, not only of who Jesus was, but what he had come to do – change the water of the old law into the rich wine of the new kingdom.

These events are what the Church commemorates in the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. But it is not enough to celebrate this feast with family and friends. We are called to invite all to join the family and make everyone Christ's "friends".

with every blessing for 2007 for you and yours

Andrew



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

JANUARY

| | | | |
|----|----------|----------------------------|--|
| 6 | 10.00 am | St. Clement | Coffee Morning |
| 7 | | | CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY |
| 9 | 7.30 pm | St Clement | PCC meeting |
| 10 | 2.00 pm | St Clement | Mardle - Pot Luck |
| 10 | 7.30 pm | St Clement | Spirit Spark |
| 11 | 7.30 pm | 118 The Mount | Prayer group |
| 13 | 6.00 pm | Lo Spuntino | Seekers eat Pizza |
| 15 | 2.00 pm | 17 Aldreth Grove | Bible study |
| 17 | 8.00 pm | St. Mary | PCC meeting |
| 17 | 7.30 pm | St Clement | Spirit Spark |
| 21 | 1.00 pm | | Parish lunch - Lady Anne Middleton Hotel |
| 21 | 6.00 pm | St Columba's Priory Street | |
| | | | Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity |
| 24 | 7.30 pm | St Clement | Spirit Spark |
| 25 | 7.30 pm | 118 The Mount | Prayer group |
| 25 | | | CONVERSION OF ST PAUL |
| 28 | | | PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE |
| 28 | | | Homelessness Sunday |

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|----|----------|------------|--------------------------|
| 2 | 7.30 pm | St Mary | Celebration of Candlemas |
| 3 | 10.00 am | St Clement | Coffee morning |
| 4 | | | Education Sunday |
| 21 | | | ASH WEDNESDAY |

PARISH REGISTERS

| | | | |
|-------|---------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Dec 9 | Wedding | St Mary | Ruth Tromans and Mike Royce |
| 17 | Baptism | St Clement | Abigail Lily Hughes |
| 22 | Funeral | Crem | John David Goulden |
| 28 | Funeral | Crem | Connie Raine |

SPIRIT SPARK

Following on from ALTERnativity, which received excellent feedback from all who visited and engaged with the journey, Spirit Spark is a course designed to explore Christian Spirituality. The sessions are based on work done since 2000 in South Yorkshire, where it has had a very positive reception.

The course will consist of six sessions, beginning on Wednesday the 10th January 2007, then weekly each Wednesday until 14th February. Each Session will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m., and will end at around 9:00 to 9:15 p.m. The approach is experiential rather than didactic. It uses a model that is different to Bible Study and discussion groups, prayer groups, teaching courses, and other common approaches used in church life. It seeks to foster spiritual experiences rather than provide 'head' knowledge. Rather than talking about prayer and God and hoping that some of this touches people, the starting point is prayer; to pray and notice the effect this has. It encourages prayer rather than taught theology, which is personally involving and transforming.

The sessions are being run by Les Tomkinson and all are welcome. Please contact Les for more information after any service, or on York (01904) 671256, or by email at les.tomkinson@mail.com

THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

T. S. Eliot



A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.

Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped in away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for Birth or Death?
There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

'He even makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak.'

This week, January 18 to 25th, has been celebrated throughout Christendom since the mid 1960s. This year it is based on the experiences of a group of Christians living near Durban in South Africa, who have undergone great suffering and deprivation. South West Churches in York celebrate the week with a service for all at St. Columba's, Priory Street on January 21st at 6.00 pm.

A comment from the BBC website: 'Many people see it as their duty to pray not just for the unity of Christians but for the unity of all people made in God's image.'

COVENANTS

In 2003 the Methodist and Anglican Churches in north and east Yorkshire and Teesside signed a covenant. It commits us to partnership in mission and affirms all the things we have in common. The Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Church Synods agree that we should now explore the URC being a third partner in the Covenant.

In spring 2007 our Synods will consider a proposal and decide whether to go forward with this three-way Covenant.

THANK YOU

Christmas music at the Mardle: The theme on which Christopher Goodman, our talented pianist, based his recital was a journey by the shepherds, through the night, until they reached the Holy Child. Christopher had given much thought to his programme and gave a description of each piece before it was played. The recital was very enjoyable and so was the party atmosphere which followed, when we had mince pies and brandy butter. Our sincere thanks to all who helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable.

There were **new crib figures** this year, painted in splendid rich colours. Seven children from Scarcroft School helped to build the crib this year while mothers and others were preparing enough oranges for the whole school to have at their Christingle Service on the last day of term. Thanks.

The Seekers have raised enough money through the Tradecraft stall and the Advent sale to buy Oxfam gifts for the developing world. A donkey, a fishing net, two mosquito nets, twenty five trees and some fertiliser are now on their way. Thank you.

NEWS NEAR AND FAR

A parish lunch for St. Clement's and St. Mary's will take place at Lady Anne Middleton's on Sunday January 21st at 1.00 pm. It will consist of three courses followed by coffee and mints. It will cost £11.50 and there is a specimen menu at the back of St. Clement's. Please sign up for this. The restaurant comes highly recommended and there is car parking.

The carpark and new gates at St. Clement's are now completed. We all wait to see the 'greening' when newly sown grass appears in the spring. Some unknown person secured the gates with a padlock before Christmas Midnight Mass. A hack saw proved very useful.

The Seekers are gathering together for a pizza at Lo Spuntino on Blossom Street on January 13th. They made the interesting star which hung over the crib.

Mary Andrews, as part of her reader training will be spending three months at St Edward's Dringhouses. She will not be at St Clement's on Sundays, but is always ready to receive copy for this newsletter.

THE PRAYER LIST

Cameron Anderson has been on the list for about a year. This 12 year old is a relative of Gladys. He has had cancer of the bone and a rod has been inserted in one of his legs. Chemotherapy has finished and he is now undergoing extensive physiotherapy to get his leg moving. He really enjoys going fishing with his father.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Methodists, frequently on the first Sunday of the year, renew their commitment and membership in the Covenant Service which was instituted by John Wesley. This prayer is the central feature of the service and was used by the Archbishop of Canterbury at his enthronement.

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS - Have you made any yet?

Here are some suggestions.....

Volunteers to form a cleaning rota for St Mary's - See Kathryn

Help with Lent Lunches - see Joyce (706562)

Volunteer to do the intercessions - speak to Elaine. Training can be organised.

Join a prayer group - info from Danny

Take part in the Bible study group - info from Audrey

Attend a weekday celebration of Holy Communion - St Mary's, Wed 7.30 pm
St Clement's, Tues 7.30 pm or Thurs 9.30 am

Help with the Seekers on Sun am - see Sue

Become an occasional singer on Sun am - see Judith

Write articles for the Lily and Anchor - see Mary A or Kathryn

Make food for or serve at Arclight - info from Isobel

Become involved with York Credit Union - see Sue

Mow or weed the church yard - see Fred

Have a collecting box for the Children's Society - see Gladys (642225)

TWO SAINTS FOR JANUARY

St Benedict Biscop - January 12th

Like many people today, the seventh-century St Benedict Biscop spent a good deal of his time travelling, and like many of today's travellers, he brought back not only objects he collected on his travels, but new ideas and practices that were to have a lasting impact on his homeland.

Throughout his life Benedict Biscop made altogether five trips to Rome, and after each trip he brought back books and art treasures for the monasteries he had founded here.

We have special reason to be grateful to Benedict Biscop for three important innovations he imported from his time spent abroad. After his first trip to Rome in 653, he introduced the Roman rite which displaced the Celtic rite originally brought to northern England by Irish missionaries. He persuaded the chief cantor of St Peter's in Rome to come to Britain and teach the monks Roman monastic chant in the singing of the daily offices. Benedict Biscop was also a pioneer in the construction of stone churches, recruiting stonemasons in France to apply their skills across the Channel here in England. We owe Benedict Biscop a particular debt of gratitude in these windswept islands, as it was he who introduced to Britain the art of making window glass.

So who exactly was this resourceful and innovative man Benedict Biscop? Born Bisco Baducing into a noble Anglo-Saxon Northumbrian family in about 628 A.D., his personal qualities impressed the Pope to such a degree that he was entrusted with the mission of accompanying the newly-appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, Greek-born St Theodore, to his new see.

Some time previously Bisco Baducing had become a Benedictine monk and had spent three years as a monk at the monastery of Lerins in the south of France. So when he arrived in Canterbury with Archbishop Theodore, he was made Abbot of St Peter's monastery in that city. In 675 he was on the move again, and proceeded to found the monastery at Wearmouth. Seven years later Benedict Biscop founded another monastery – St Paul's – at Jarrow. The Venerable Bede, who wrote the first history of England, grew to manhood under Abbot Benedict Biscop's tutelage.

After suffering from a particularly painful form of creeping paralysis for three years or so, St Benedict Biscop died at Wearmouth Abbey in January 690.

St Adrian - January 9th

At the same time as St Benedict Biscop was making one of his pilgrimages to Rome, another Benedictine was being offered the see of Canterbury. His name was Adrian and like Benedict Biscop he was to have considerable impact on Christianity in England.

Originally from Africa, he had previously been Abbot of the monastery of Nerida near Naples. Although he was offered the Archbishopric of Canterbury by Pope St Vitalian, he considered himself unworthy of the office and asked the pope to appoint St Theodore instead. The pope agreed but insisted that Adrian should accompany Theodore and act as his adviser.

It took Adrian two whole years to get to England from Rome! He was detained in France since he was suspected of carrying secret messages to England from the Byzantine Emperor Constans II. By the time Adrian reached Canterbury, St Benedict Biscop had moved back north to found new monasteries at Wearmouth and Jarrow. Adrian was the man chosen to be his successor as Abbot of St Peter's monastery in Canterbury, a community originally founded by St Augustine himself.

The new abbot proved to be an inspiring leader of this monastic community. Under his guidance, St Peter's very quickly became one of the leading centres of learning in the British Isles. Adrian went on to found other schools in England. These schools were later to produce many of the great missionaries and scholars of the 8th century, such as St Boniface, who took the faith to Germany and revived Christianity in France.

After 39 years of dedicated work in the service of the English church, St Adrian died on 9 January 710. He is buried in Canterbury.

David Wilson

Roll up – and sign up!

the Diocesan Secretary, Peter Warry writes.....

"When you wake up in the morning, Pooh," said Piglet, "what's the first thing you say to yourself?"

"What's for breakfast?" said Pooh.

"What do you say, Piglet?"

"I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today?" said Piglet.

Pooh nodded thoughtfully. "It's the same thing," he said.

During the Archbishop's deanery visits over the last year, many of us discovered that his response to mornings is somewhat Piglet-like and have been inspired by his energy and enthusiasm!

Whilst we are still getting over the fuss and bother of Christmas, it's cold, damp and miserable outside, and we're starting yet another year of doing the same thing that we did last year, it can be hard to summon up the energy and enthusiasm for a New Year.

Early this year we will all be invited to re-join the Electoral Rolls of our local churches. I guess that isn't something that tends to stir up much of a sense of excitement either!

"real members"

I've heard many churches say that their Electoral Roll is not really an indicator of their "real" membership. In the light of the Archbishop's call at his inauguration, reiterated during the deanery visits, for what might be termed "real disciples", I'd like to suggest that now it's time to encourage all those disciples to sign up as "real members".

If we truly believe that we have been called to follow and serve our Lord, we should see it as both a privilege and a responsibility to participate actively as members of the body of Christ. The act of signing an Electoral Roll renewal can provide a tangible way of marking a recommitment of



ourselves - our hearts, minds (& wallets!) - to corporate discipleship through prayer, worship, fellowship and service.

We can't be entirely sure what God has in store for us this year – certainly as a diocese we are learning that the Archbishop will keep us on our toes as well! As we come to the start of this year, may we all have a sense of eager anticipation and a desire to share fully in whatever lies ahead.

These are challenging and exciting times – are you ready to sign up and be counted?

Peter Warry

Sybil Hewitt at St. Clement's and Harley Wenham at St. Mary's will be distributing forms soon.