

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
Seekers:	Judith Rigg/Sue Poole	705400/641392
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
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

The Lily and the Anchor

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

Advent 2006



A letter from Andrew

I am delighted to introduce our all new newsletter especially as it coincides with the beginning of the New Church year with Advent. The word "advent" as you may know simply means "coming". Despite the fact that many people assume it refers to the coming of Christ at Christmas the liturgy of the first three weeks of Advent speaks of another coming, the second and final coming of Jesus at the end of time.

From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to return. Many have claimed to recognize the signs of his imminent return and even have tried to predict the actual date. There is a story about a young priest who rushes into the pastor's office and says "The Lord has been spotted walking up the aisle of the Church. What do we do?" The pastor looks up with alarm and says: "For God's sake, Father, look busy!" We should not be wasting our time fantasizing and theorizing about dates, or the nature of the final tribulation. This is a distraction. Rather, we are not just to look busy but actually be busy preparing the way for his return. That means being prepared and ready, not weighted down, or utterly distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21: 34-36). It means, as Paul tells us in 1 Thes. 3, to work to make greater progress in the life of holiness, "putting on" the character of Christ. It also means preparing the way by calling others to faith in Christ, since all baptized Christians are called to be evangelizers. I hope this newsletter is an important milestone in this task to which all can contribute and surely make their own.

With every blessing.

Andrew Stoker

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Dec 3	6.30 pm	St Mary	South West Churches united service for Advent
Dec 4	2.00 pm		Bible study at 17 Aldreth Grove
Dec 5	6.30 pm	St Clement	Discussion about banner making
13	2.00 pm	St Clement	The Mardle. Recital of Christmas music by Christopher Goodman, followed by mince pies and brandy butter
14	7.30 pm	St Clement	Prayer Group
17		St Clement	Baptism of Abigail Lily Hughes at the Parish Eucharist
17	6.00 pm	St Mary	Carol singing at City Mills and Oliver House
18	2.00 pm		Bible study at 17 Aldreth Grove
18	6.45 pm	St. Clement	Carol singing at Barstow House and other residential homes
19	7.30 pm	St Clement	Carols by Candlelight
20		St. Clement	Scarcroft School Christingle
20	7.30 pm	St Mary	Traditional Lessons and Carols sung by the Rudgate Singers

CHRISTMAS EVE

			No evensong
Dec 24	6.00 pm	St Clement	Blessing of the crib and Christingle.
	11.30 pm	St Clement	Midnight Mass
	11.30 pm	St Mary	Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Dec 25	10.00 am	St Clement	Christmas Family Eucharist
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JANUARY

6	10.00 am	St. Clement	Coffee Morning
7			CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY
9	7.30 pm	St Clement	PCC meeting
10	8.00pm	St. Mary	PCC meeting

PARISH REGISTERS

Oct 29	Baptism	St Clement	Jacob Henry Inkster
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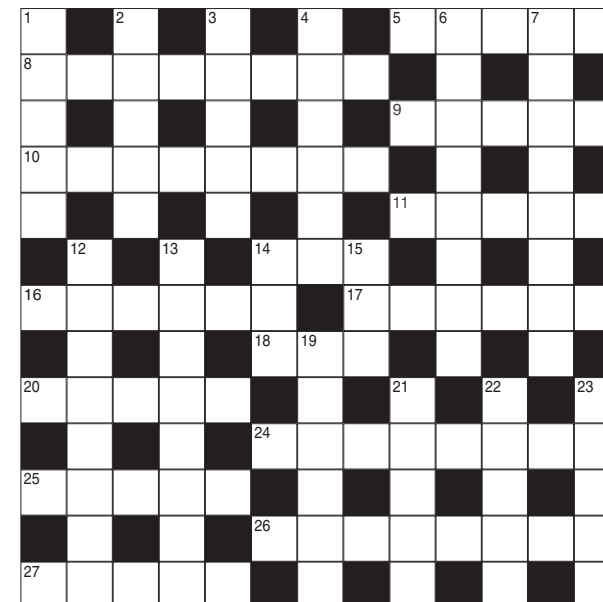
FAREWELL

Our good wishes and thanks go to the Armstong family who are leaving St Clements at Christmas. Helen has recently been found in the vestry counting money, after having spent an energetic time with the Seekers, Kevin is well-known for his amazing banners and for the thought provoking cross whose creation he supervised at the last Good Friday Workshop. Caitlin has been robed in the choir and has regularly read a lesson during the service. Matthew is always ready to speak out in the Seekers. We shall miss them all.

THANKS

Thanks are due to Miss Sybil Hewitt for the numerous Newsletters she has produced over the years. She will continue to collect information . Comments, criticism, ideas and volunteers to produce copy will be welcomed. Please contact Kathryn Knibbs (423792) or Mary Andrews (624132)

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

- 5 Christmas song (5)
- 8 See 9 across
- 9 and 8 ac. His name has transformed into Santa Claus (5,8)
- 10 One of the first visitors to the infant Jesus (8)
- 11 .._____ you feet and cry out (Ezek 6.11) (5)
- 14 Where there was no room for Mary and Joseph (3)
- 16 Feed trough used as a cradle for the infant Jesus (6)
- 17 Season leading up to Christmas (6)
- 18 Shelled reproductive body (3)
- 20 Wireless (5)
- 24 and 27 ac Stage productions performed in many schools around Christmas time (8,5)
- 25 Comparatively unimportant (5)
- 26 Traditionally, the name of one of the Magi (8)
- 27 See 24 across

Down

- 1 Grind the teeth (5)
- 2 Threaded fastener (5)
- 3 Small hut (5)
- 4 Incapable of having children, like Elizabeth in Luke ch. 1 (6)
- 6 Having a tendency to change (8)
- 7 ..an _____ to grace your neck (Pr 3.22) (8)
- 12 He made his offering on the eighth day in Numbers ch. 7 (8)
- 13 Yellow flowered wild plant (8)
- 14 Anger (3)
- 15 Incessantly find fault (3)
- 19 Small beard (6)
- 21 With which the papyrus basket in Exodus ch. 2 was coated (5)
- 22 Polite (5)
- 23 A gift of the Magi (5)

Answers

Across
 5 Carol 8 Nicholas 9 Saint 10 Shepherd
 11 Stamp 14 Inn 16 Manger 17 Advent
 18 Egg 20 Radio 24 Nativity 25 Minor
 7 Ornament 12 Gamahel 13 Agrimony 14 Ice
 15 Nag 19 Goatee 21 Pitch 22 Civil 23 Myrrh
 Down
 1 Gnash 2 Screw 3 Bothy 4 Barran 6 Adaptive
 8 Mash 9 Sock 10 Manger 11 Manger
 12 Egg 13 Agrimony 14 Ice 15 Nag
 16 Manger 17 Advent 18 Egg 20 Radio
 21 With which the papyrus basket in Exodus ch. 2 was coated (5)
 22 Polite (5)
 23 A gift of the Magi (5)

NEWS NEAR AND FAR



A new Lay Reader. Congratulations to Les Tomkinson, who was licensed by the Archbishop in the Minster on November 17th.

Another Reader who has been attached to St. Clement's, Gillian Eweis, has recently moved with her daughter to Pocklington. She was very touched by the gift of a Mulberry Hall token from the congregation. You may meet her as she continues her work in York District Hospital, and in Full Sutton prison.

It was good to see Mrs Laura Mckenning at the November Fair. She is making a good recovery from an 'op'. Mrs Joyce Grant, Mrs Margaret Burroughs, Mrs Edie Saynor and Miss Margie Spence are all in hospital and we send our love and best wishes to them for their recovery.

The Rev. Margaret Cundiff spoke at The Mardle in November. As it is the month of Remembrance, she reminisced about her life from the time she left school at 14, the various jobs she had done and how her training to become a Deaconess, a Deacon and, finally, a Priest, had much bearing on her life and her belief in God. It was a most interesting account and she displayed a lovely sense of humour, which delighted all present.

Welcome back from the sea to Amanda Knibbs, who will be at home for Christmas this year.

The Rudgate Singers, whom you can hear on Dec 20th at St. Mary's, are a group founded ten years ago with the aim of 'restoring sacred music to church services in its liturgical context as opposed to the concert hall'. They will be singing a traditional service of lessons and carols.

The Feast of St. Clement was celebrated joyfully on Nov 26th. Canon Bob Rogers, a chaplain at the Hospital, preached in the morning. There was a lavish bring and share lunch. Choral Evensong was sung in the traditional manner, as was customary in St. Clement's in the past, by the St. Lawrence Singers of Pudsey. Not many parish churches now experience being part of such a service. The words of the introit are memorable:

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict: from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour; wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia

ALTERNativity - A Labyrinth for the Season of Advent.

Why not take a few minutes out of your busy schedule in the run-up to Christmas by rediscovering the real meaning of The Season. Follow in the footsteps of the Wise Men as they journey to Bethlehem to see the Christ Child. Watch and wonder at the starlit sky. Get rid of your excess baggage and visit an Oasis before reaching the Manger. Find the Light of Christ this Christmas!

The Advent Labyrinth will be open at St Clements on Tuesdays from 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:30 p.m. every week until Christmas. Please try and visit!!

WHY?

Anchor and Lily

From the earliest of times the **Lily** has been associated with the Virgin Mary. It symbolises purity. Many paintings of the Annunciation, particularly those from the Renaissance, show the lily, perhaps in Gabriel's hand, perhaps beside the Virgin. Look out for the lily on your Christmas cards.

In St Clement's Church there are many representations of an **Anchor**. Tradition has it that Clement was martyred by being thrown into the Black Sea, weighed down by an anchor.

Do look at the carvings on the high altar next time you are in St. Clement's.

WHY?

Advent Wreaths and Advent Candles

In many churches during advent there is a wreath containing five candles. (In the Minster it is like a cartwheel suspended under the tower). The wreath itself, being a circle, symbolises God's unending and enduring love. The candles can be in different colours, often they are red, but in St. Mary's and St. Clement's there are three purple, one pink and one white. A new candle is lit each Sunday in Advent. The third candle lit is pink, marking Gaudete (ie Rejoice) Sunday, a day when there is some respite from the solemnity of Advent. The final white candle in the centre represents the coming of Christ and is lit on Christmas Day.

CHRISTINGLE

The custom of the Christingle began in the Moravian Church and was first used as part of a Christmas Children's Festival in the Marienborn Congregation in Germany on the 24th December 1747. No one



knows for certain when the word "Christingle" was first used or from what it derived, but wherever the Moravians went in the great outreach of missionary evangelism in the 18th and 19th centuries they took with them the custom of the Christingle. The symbolism gradually developed and today the Christingle consists of an orange representing *the World*, with the candle inserted in the centre and lit to represent *Christ the Light of the World*. The candle used to be held on a goose quill, part of which was split into fronds, on which were impaled nuts, fruits, raisins and sweets. These stood for the *created order over which Christ is King*, and for the fruits of the earth and the benefits that come to our lives through God's bounty and goodness. Since goose quills are not so readily available, today we use cocktail sticks on which to impale the fruit, the wood still being part of God's created order. The red ribbon around the orange reminds us of Christ's passion, through which our redemption has come.

The Christingle Service is usually held on Christmas Eve at St. Clement's, and is a Children's Celebration in which we place the child in the midst of all we do, just as the Christ-Child is the centre of all our lives. At the climax of the service, each child receives a lighted Christingle and in the magical moment of the darkened Church, the visual symbol tells the truth of the Christmas story, – that in the darkness of the world there has shined a great light.

The Moravian Church established Christingle in 1747 as a powerful and moving symbol of Christ's light and his love for all people. The Children's Society introduced it to the Church of England in 1968. For the Children's Society the Christingle is about shining light into the darkness of thousands of children's lives, especially those who have run away or been thrown out of their homes.

TWO SAINTS FOR DECEMBER

DEC 6TH FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS - FATHER CHRISTMAS - SANTA CLAUS

“The original Nicholas of Myra is indeed a shadowy figure. A later tradition says he was present at the Council of Nicea in 325 and boxed the ears of the leading heretic Arius. But that only gets a mention in a 14th century Latin author. His earliest fame rests more on some events recounted in a later 6th century text known as ‘Action for Generals’. According to this Nicholas had intervened with the local authorities to rescue three innocent victims of Myra from an unjust execution. Later those who witnessed this achievement called him to aid them when three generals were put in prison in Constantinople. As a result of this Nicholas appeared before the Emperor Constantine in a dream in the palace bedchamber and ordered him to halt the second execution of men who had been falsely accused of treason. So Nicholas is associated from the beginning with the innocent. He is a powerful intercessor...” Archbishop Robert Runcie.

It is probable that Nicholas became Bishop of Myra in present day Turkey and that his relics were taken to Bari, in Italy, where there is now a great church dedicated to him. There are many legends about St Nicholas: - that he was very generous - that he revived three pickled boys from death - that he threw three bags of gold for dowries in through the window of three unmarried and poor girls - that he calmed a great sea - that he fed the hungry in times of famine. Many groups claim him as their patron, among them children, sailors, bankers, pawnbrokers, scholars, orphans, labourers, travellers, judges, paupers, murderers. He became the patron saint of Russia, Greece, Sicily and Lorraine. There are four hundred churches dedicated to him in England.

St. Nicholas as the patron saint of children is the origin of Father Christmas. Presents were, and sometimes still are, given to children on his feast day. ‘Santa Claus’ is derived, via America, from the Dutch dialect form of his name Sinte Klaas. His emblem is three balls of gold, and this is sometimes seen hanging outside pawnbrokers’ shops.

There is a very fine embroidered altar frontal in St. Nicholas Chapel in the Minster, showing scenes from his life.

DEC 13TH FEAST OF ST LUCY - SANTA LUCIA

Throughout Sweden the feast day of Lucia, or Lucy, is celebrated as a festival of lights. In the early hours of the morning of December 13 a young woman, dressed in a white gown, and wearing a red sash and a crown of lingonberry twigs and blazing candles, would go from one farm to the next carrying a torch to light her way, bringing baked goods, stopping to visit at each house and returning home by break of day. Every village had its own Lucia. The custom is thought to have begun in some of the richer farming districts of Sweden and still persists although the crowns are now electric lights.



In Norway and Sweden it is still a custom on December 13 for a girl in a white dress (representing the Saint), to bring a tray of saffron buns and steaming coffee to wake the family. Today many families have a Lucia-Queen in their own home, often the youngest daughter, who wakes the rest of the family with song.

Lucia symbolises light and growth for man and beast as she emerges out of the darkness. She is said to have been beheaded by the sword during the persecutions of Diocletian at Catania in Sicily. Her body was later brought to Constantinople and finally to Venice, where she is now resting in the church of Santa Lucia. Because her name means “light” she very early became the great patron saint for the “light of the body” - the eyes. Many of the ancient light and fire customs of the Yuletide became associated with her day. Thus we find “Lucy candles” lighted in the homes and “Lucy fires” burned in the outdoors. Saint Lucy’s Day became one of great celebration and festivity because, for the people of Sweden and Norway, she was the great “light saint” who turned the tides of their long winter and brought the light of the day to renewed victory.

Before medieval calendar reform, her original feast day (the day of her martyrdom) happened to fall on the shortest day of the year. The winter solstice was December 13 by the Julian calendar rather than December 21, which it became with the change to the Gregorian calendar in the 1300s, linking it with the far older Yule and Winter festivals of pre-Christian times

ARCHBISHOP’S LETTER

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, writes...

The beating heart of our faith

By Christmas I will have completed twenty one of twenty four Deanery visits taking me all over the Diocese of York, and when the time comes I will be sorry to reach the end of this epic tour!

Over the past year I have been to cities, towns and suburbs; villages and farms; schools, hospitals and laboratories; community centres and hostels; prisons and gyms; people’s homes and workplaces; on train rides, a minibus and a steam bus; to a lifeboat and a lighthouse, a veterinary hospital, a rocking horse shop, a soya-protein factory, a potash mine, several museums - and a host of churches large and small. What a year and what a diocese!

deep impressions

St. Augustine of Hippo wrote that he was a Christian with his community and a bishop for them. In my own ministry I have tried to model Augustine’s words and over the past year I have appreciated the deep privilege of being a Christian with you and an Archbishop for you.

The faithfulness of God’s people in God’s own county has left a deep impression upon me as has the dedication to churches and communities by so many of the clergy whom I have met.

questions

I have ended each deanery with a Question and Answer session which has been open to all. Over the past twelve months I have been asked many times whether I like being Archbishop of York (yes); many times how we can include more young people in our churches (by rediscovering the joy of faith); once or twice whether it was creepy sleeping in York Minster (no – it was beautiful); once whether I shave my head regularly (yes); and a good many times about our attitude to people of other faiths (we should look to Jesus’ treatment of Samaritans). Arriving in the diocese was a great celebration for me but it was only a beginning, and my year’s travels have been part of equipping me to discover what beats at the heart of this diocese. Similarly Christmas is a great celebration but is only a beginning... of hope, which is followed by a faith journey – a journey of life – that leads to the discovery of the resurrection – the beating heart of our faith.

the journey ahead

So as we rest together this Christmas and celebrate the hope found in the birth of the Christ child, so let us prepare to meet the journey ahead rooted in the faith and in the knowledge of our destination together to the heavenly city.

May you all enjoy a peaceful, joyful and restful Christmas.



+Sentamu Ebor: