

January 2019 Monthly News



He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything **new!**” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:5

**St Thomas’
Trowbridge**

**Kingfisher Church
The Mead School**

**St John’s
West Ashton**

**Holy Trinity
Trowbridge**

Happy New Year??

I can't remember a year beginning with so much uncertainty in both national and international affairs. I wonder how the pundits and commentators are going to manage to bring us an optimistic message for 2019 or whether they will even try!



At the annual Carol Service held in the atrium at County Hall before Christmas, I remarked on the *“current political crisis in the UK, where it feels as if there hasn't been any good news for months, whatever camp you're in”* and added, *“and what about the wider world scene? Is there a message of hope we can offer in the face of global inequality, religious and ethnic conflict, climate change, abuse of the internet, Putin's Russia, Trump's America and Brexit Britain?”*

I went on, *“I draw a simple graph of two trends we've witnessed in my lifetime. As faith in God and religious affiliation have declined, a host of social problems (family breakdown, unbridled greed, mental health issues, violent crime and crisis in our prisons) have all increased, with inevitable political and economic knock-ons. I may be naïve, but I see a relationship between those two trends. As God has been excluded from public life, a raft of problems has come in to fill the vacuum.”*

The statement I began with will sound odd to the generation who lived through the Second World War. They faced uncertainty on a level most of us alive now have never experienced. That crisis, however, caused many people to fall back on God and pray to him in a way they had not done before, realizing that he is the only absolutely dependable reality of our lives. This was most clearly expressed in King George VI's famous Christmas Broadcast in 1939 when he quoted a little known poem suggested to him by the 13 year-old Princess Elizabeth:

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

And he replied:

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known
way."*

(from 'God knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins)

At the end of my County Hall address, I suggested we need to return to the same source of hope,

"My simple thought, at what feels like a serious moment in our national life, is this: maybe it's time we started listening again to what the Bible calls Good News: God's message to the world wrapped up in human flesh – in the life, words, works, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?"

If that proves to be the result of all the uncertainty we are experiencing, we will have every reason to be optimistic about the future. In the meantime, even if society at large is not yet ready to turn to God again, we can lead the way individually by entrusting our lives afresh to him this year.

Allan

Thank you

Can I please say personally, and on behalf of the PCC, a huge thank you for the tremendous response to the invoice-intercepting scam that resulted in the theft of £7,560 from our church funds. Thank you for both the monetary gifts and particularly for the messages and gestures of support for me personally.

As well as the money that was given by church members, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group have made a generous ex gratia payment of £2,500. Unfortunately, the attitude of both Barclays and HSBC banks has not been in the same spirit – they haven't even replied to my letters posing questions about internet banking and security (or lack of).

In the new year I will be contacting the Financial Ombudsman to report my concerns about security and the banks lack of action.

BUT, can I urge you please to share our experience of this type of scam – it is only by sharing such an incident that we can hope to stop these thieves defrauding other people. Over the Christmas break I shared it with several people, all of whom are very internet savvy and they had never heard of such an incident, and were amazed about how it had happened. The banks are starting to put together plans to check the account name as well as the sort code and account number – but this won't come in to force until July 2019. A lot of money can be stolen in that seven months.

If you receive an invoice by email – even in pdf form – for somebody who you haven't paid before, either contact the supplier using a tel no obtained from somewhere other than the invoice, or pay £1 and ask the company to let you know that they have received it before paying the rest.

Pat Kerbey

Christmas at St John's

After the wonderful commemoration of Armistice Day, St John's went full steam ahead for the Christmas period of services.

To start December we saw the Christingle Service on Sunday 2nd December, it was wonderful to see about 30 children and parents, plus friends of St John's attending this service. When the lights went out, it seemed magical to witness the children holding the candles in the christingles and brought the real meaning of Jesus the "light of the world" to each and every one of us. We thank Jean and Richard Covington for providing the actual christingles.



Then we enjoyed the Christmas Concert on Friday 7th (see separate article); followed by the end of term school service on the 20th, a really uplifting collection of carols and readings, all put together by the children from the school. A credit to them.

The Carol Service quickly followed on Sunday 23 December, lead by Allan Coutts and a rousing rendition of many well-known carols and readings echoed through the church. Christmas Eve Midnight Communion welcomed Christmas Day.



December saw the Church beautifully decorated for all services, a credit to Marlene Pike, Daphne Peat and all the flower ladies. St John's provided inspiration and enriched the Christmas Season for all.

Christmas Past, Present and Future at St John's

The annual festive concert held at St John's, West Ashton is the perfect start to the Christmas season, and did not disappoint. This year it was held on 7 December and featured the Steeple Rocks Choir and friends. The church was floodlit outside and beautifully decorated inside, and we were greeted with mulled wine and mince pies.



The programme looked quite ambitious, but the choir were extremely competent, performing every song with enthusiasm, technical discipline and style. There wasn't a single cringe moment!

After an interesting start with Budapest, by George Ezra, Sweet Child of Mine by Guns 'n' Roses, and Rosanna by Toto, it was our turn to participate by singing "Once in Royal".

A well-known extract from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" followed.

The choir then sang Christmas Medley, Gaudete, Shower the People (James Taylor) and Lord, is it Mine? (Supertramp).



a

Becky Huckett then took to the stage with her cello and, showing a huge amount of bravery, performed the Prelude from the 3rd Suite by Bach, and the rather funky "Julie O" by Mark Sumner, brilliantly and totally unaccompanied.



A smaller group of female voices then sang arrangements of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” and “Jingle Bells”, before we all joined in again with the Calypso Carol; followed by a confident performance by Rob Bowden playing his guitar, who sang soulful versions of “Sweet Dreams” (Eurythmics), “Baby one more time” (Britney Spears – yes!) and “Hallelujah” (Leonard Cohen). His vocals were powerful and individual, and he really gave these songs a unique twist.



Peter Davidson, in full military uniform, then read “Christmas 1914”, taking our thoughts back to those who suffered and died in the First World War. This was particularly poignant as the choir quietly sang “Silent Night” as he spoke. Very cleverly they kept the war theme going by singing “Keep the home fires burning” unaccompanied, as they returned to their places ready for their final section.

This comprised “Happy Christmas, War is Over” (John Lennon), Signed, Sealed, Delivered (Stevie Wonder), The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth (Bowie and Crosby version), and Africa (Toto).

We closed by all singing “Winter Wonderland” before Allan thanked all those who had been involved in putting on such a wonderful evening, particularly Jean Robertson, who never puts herself on the list but without whom it wouldn’t happen!



Ruth Barber

Sylvia and Jean would like to thank all those who helped in making the concert a success: mince pies; mulled wine;), selling of tickets; etc; all added a festive flavour to the evening. Noel, made sure that the church stayed illuminated in a truly magical fashion, and thanks to Pete and Bev Wills (Power Logistics) for providing the equipment. 198 was given to the church funds. Thank you to everyone and Happy New Year

Annual Giving

At the meeting in November, the PCC agreed where our 2018 church giving would be allocated. Details are as below. We give £20,000 per year, equally split between overseas and home mission. The £10,000 overseas mission has been allocated (and paid) as below

£1,250 each to OMF; Mercy Ships; MAF; The Bible Society; CMS; and Al Kalima and £625 each to Release International; The Barnabas Fund; Flame International; and Bradford Deanery fund for Kadugli Diocese in South Sudan

To date we have allocated £8,000 for home mission and local groups – leaving us £2,000 to be allocated. In past years it has been good to have some money available to allocate to in unforeseen or ‘emergency’ circumstances. We have supported groups as below:

£1,000 each to Hannah Greening, working in Glasgow with Navigators; Soul Survivor (2019 sees the final Soul Survivor event; UCB; CPAS; Fusion (for their work with students); £750 to GSUS (the secondary school version of the Life Exhibition); £500 each to Spurgeon’s Childcare, West Runton Holidays (Jamie Farnell is a leader on their sailing ventures and several of our young people have experienced these camps) and Brunel Manor (we had to cancel our planned weekend away on September 2019 as it coincided with Judy Wright’s licensing at Salisbury Cathedral); £300 to The Trowbridge Debt Advice Service; £250 to Trowbridge Town Chaplaincy; and £200 to Bellefield School (for a spiritual garden that they are developing).

Pat Kerbey

Holy Trinity to host a 'Concert Like No Other'

Saturday 12 January 2019 at 7.00pm

It has all the right ingredients:

- **WORLD** premiere performance of two concert works by our very own Stuart Brown (the guy who plays recorders and congas in morning services)

- **Three** other fantastic professional musicians, including **Idris Harries** (who used to play in St Thomas' and has travelled here from Australia)

- Remainder of the programme devoted to works by **Liszt, Mozart, Richard Strauss and Schubert**



- **A well-stocked bar** provided by our friends at The Stallards Inn

- **ALL profits** (and it's down to YOU to ensure that profits are made!) to **People Against Poverty**

So please support this venture by buying your tickets (preferably) from dimensions2019.eventbrite.co.uk you may be able to buy tickets at the door, but we can't guarantee it!

Price £12 for adults, £4 for children 12 and under.

Feel free to contact Stuart (07712 894728) if you have any questions

Sunday Worship. Monday Life:

Day Conference at Wesley Road Methodist Church

Saturday 26 January 2019: 10.30am to 3.30pm

Speaker: Lindsay Caplin, a consultant with Imagine Church Life.
Lindsay works for the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

Full details on the notice board

Please let Allan or the Church Office know if you are intending to go

'God's Healing Kingdom'

St Katherine's Church, Holt on 2 February, 2019, 10.00 - 16.00

A day with **Rev Mike Endicott**, Founder of the Order of Jacob's Well UK-teaching Kingdom healing – 'the way that God intended it to be'

There will be worship, ministry, teaching and prayer:

Explore the kingdom, enjoy learning the benefits of the Cross

Learn how to grow in deeper harmony with God

Spend the day exploring and experiencing God's grace

To book your free place please contact gatewayhealing@outlook.com or 01225 782717

Full details on the notice board



Church Buildings Development Working Group – Update

St Thomas'

2018 was a year of ups and downs regarding the Buildings Development plans for St Thomas' and Holy Trinity, and huge thanks are due to everyone who has contributed in any way to help progress the work. Especial thanks to Jamie for his unwavering commitment, both in time and effort, despite it being a very difficult year for him and his family: also to Mandi, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that we have followed correct diocesan procedures, both in carrying out the faculty at HT and in obtaining the faculty for the re-ordering at St T's.



St Thomas'

You may, or may not know, that the faculty application for the St T's Phase 1 Re-ordering was first submitted to the Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) back in February 2018, but it required a number of changes before it received the agreement of the committee. The DAC changed its previous advice, which meant that our plans to raise the Dais and remove the heavy Victorian Dais furniture had to be withdrawn.

Following the agreement of the DAC, Mandi was able to formally petition the Chancellor of the Diocese in August for her approval. A further delay was experienced as the Chancellor decided to re-consult with Wiltshire Council, Historic England, and The Victorian Society, the latter of which had complained about the proposals.

Thankfully, no objections or comments were received from the congregation or the public and the faculty was finally granted on the 19th October 2018!



The PCC has now approved the quotation from our Architects, B2B, to administer the tender process and we are proceeding to engage with potential contractors, with a view to receiving tenders early in 2019.

We were successful in gaining agreement for our chosen type of upholstered replacement chairs, and have already placed the order, so that we can avoid proposed price increases in 2019. The AV and PA equipment will also be ordered, again to pre-empt likely price rises.

- Launch of a scheme in February to raise money towards the cost of the chairs – you will be invited to **‘Sponsor a Chair’** (or two or more!)



- **Details of timescales:** we aim to start work soon after Easter, and the re-ordering is likely to take a number of months, but exact timings are not yet known. Volunteers will be needed to help with ‘de-cluttering’ and other tasks prior to work commencing.



Please pray that

- The Working Group will be guided in the right choice of contractor for the work
- The decisions and logistics for moving worship services and groups out of St T’s while work is in progress, will go smoothly
- We will be able to celebrate St T’s 150th anniversary in a beautiful re-ordered church building in February 2020!



The work at Holy Trinity

Work has progressed slowly at HT during the autumn, but we are hoping that the work in the kitchen will be completed early in the new year

Further work planned, as time and budget allows, will be the upgrading of the toilets, installation of a hearing loop, lighting upgrades and the installation of railings to enclose a new toddler garden within the Churchyard.



Please pray

- For the Working Group as they seek quotes for these additional improvements
- That the extra interior work at HT can be completed before the work starts at St T's
- For the BFG submitting an application for grant-funding towards the toilet upgrades

Above all ...

We praise and thank God for his help in all the progress that has been made and for his love and faithfulness to each one of us in so many ways.

Esther Brown

THANK
GOD



Sponsor a chair!

In February we will be launching the 'Sponsor a chair scheme.

In addition to your regular giving and any donations you may have already made or pledged towards the cost of other aspects of phase 1 of the St Thomas' redevelopment programme, are you able to help us replace the pews and current chairs in the church by a one-off gift to sponsor one or more new chairs, or join with a friend to sponsor a chair between you.

The cost, taking in to account the storage dolleys, is £90 per chair.



Donors will not be identified on the chairs, but you will have the satisfaction of knowing that whichever chair you sit on in the future may be the one you sponsored!!

Geoff Tate will have forms available at the beginning of February giving more details and how you can give to this scheme.

The Parish Office

Tel: 01225 754826

e-mail: office@stthomastrowbridge.org

Church Office open 9.30am - 1.00pm, Tues to Friday

St Thomas', Kingfisher Church, Holy Trinity & St John's Church West Ashton

Sunday Services -January 2019

10.30am Services

Date	St Thomas'	Kingfisher	St John's
6	Morning Service	Morning Worship	Holy Communion BCP
	Lead: Allan Coutts Preach: Allan Coutts	Lead: Alison Bennett Preach: Ed Greening	Reuben Dunnings
13	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Service of the Word
	Lead: Allan Coutts Preach: Allan Coutts	Lead: Preach:	Andy Yorke Judy Wright
20	All-Age Worship	All-Age Worship	Holy Communion
	Lead: Jane Palmer Preach: Jane Palmer	Lead: Preach:	Allan Coutts
27	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer
	Lead: Martyn Whittock Preach: Martyn Whittock	Lead: Andy Yorke Preach: Andy Yorke	Angela Grist

6pm Your Kingdom Come, Holy Trinity	
Date	Preacher
6	Allan Coutts
13	Allan Coutts and Judy Wright
20	Allan Coutts
27	Allan Coutts

Children and young people at St Thomas' meet as follows:

Holy Communion – start in groups, join families at 11.30am.

Family Service – all together (with their families) throughout service.

Morning Service – in service for the first 20 minutes, then into groups.

Dates for your Diary October 2018

Mon	7	10.00am/1.00pm 11.00am	Parents and Toddlers at Holy Trinity Childminders and Toddlers in St Thomas'
Wed	9	10.00am 2.00pm	Beracah Holy Communion (BCP) at St Thomas'
Thur	10	9.45am	Messy Church at St Thomas'
Fri	11	4 – 6.00pm	Prayer and Praise re-start at Holy Trinity
Sat	12	7.00pm	'Concert Like No Other'
Mon	14	10.00am/1.00pm 10.00am	Parents and Toddlers at Holy Trinity Childminders and Toddlers in St Thomas'
Tues	15	7.30pm	PCC Meeting, St Thomas'
Wed	16	10.00am	Beracah
Thur	17	9.45am	Messy Church at St Thomas'
Fri	18	4 – 6.00pm	Prayer, Praise and Prophecy at Holy Trinity
Sun	20	1.00pm	Bread and Cheese Lunch, St Thomas'
Mon	21	10.00am/1.00pm 10.00am	Parents and Toddlers at Holy Trinity Childminders and Toddlers in St Thomas'
Wed	23	10.00am 7.30pm	Beracah in St Thomas' Deanery Synod, Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon
Thur	24	9.45am	Messy Church at St Thomas'
Fri	25	4 – 6.00pm	Prayer and Praise at Holy Trinity
Mon	28	10.00am/1.00pm 10.00am 8.00pm	Parents and Toddlers at Holy Trinity Childminders and Toddlers in St Thomas' MenUnited Prayer at St Thomas'
Wed	30	10.00am	Beracah in St Thomas'
Thur	31	9.45am 7.30pm	Messy Church at St Thomas' CATA Forum