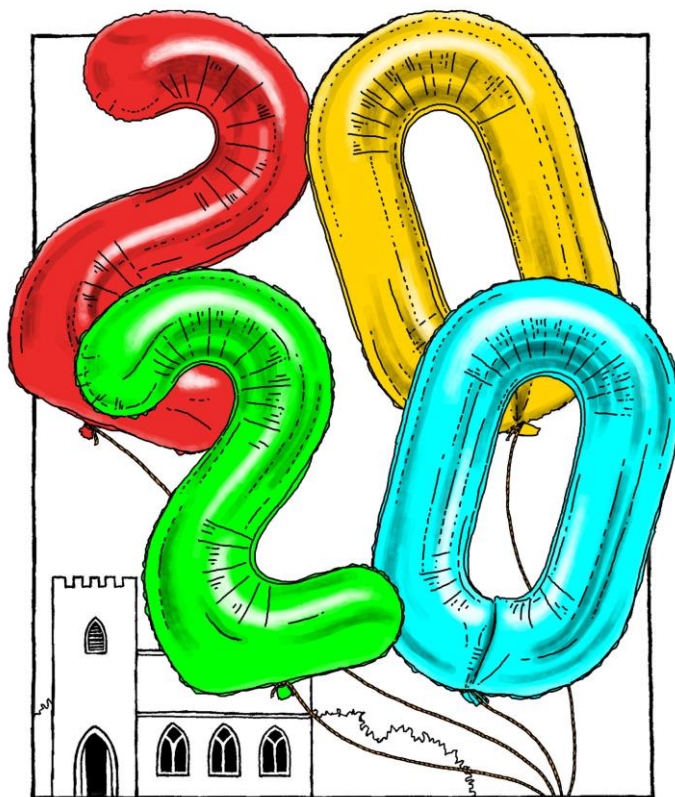


THE

CRAYFISHER

January 2020

£1:00



The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.56

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The editorial team reserve the right to edit, and condense if necessary, items submitted for publication.

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Front Cover Picture: Courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

PARISH LETTER

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.”
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.
At the turn of another year, there is a comfort in the familiar words that
begin the Minnie Louise Haskins poem God Knows as we, too, stand at
that gate and peer, perhaps with trepidation, to 2020. Let us pause, then
and, a little like the Roman God Janus, look backward as well as
forward.

Wasn't December a wonderful month for us in the parish! To begin with,
what a fantastic Cray Parish Nativity. So many provided such brilliance
and imagination, and for this we give thanks. However, none of this
happens, without a great deal of work and time– so many thanks to all
involved, especially Dominica and Cecilia and all their steering group.
And on to our similarly well-attended Nine Lessons and Carols, the
Crib/Christingle Service, Midnight and Christmas day services: thank
you all for supporting us so readily through the busy Advent and
Christmas. And now welcome Epiphany ...

What will 2020 bring to us and what hopes and fears do we have in our
parish? We will each have our own private hopes and dreams and almost
certainly fears. In the Church we will continue to reflect (and hopefully
act) upon how we can serve our parish. What more can we do for the
community in which we live?

The winter months of January and February can seem very desolate and
for some people it is often a difficult time. Perhaps we could all
remember to keep a neighbourly eye open – just in case someone could
do with hearing a friendly voice, a listening ear or a little bit of extra
help.

Whatever 2020 does bring, at the gate of the year another verse from Minnie Haskins may help:

God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.

A very happy new year to you all.

Jessie x

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

Sun 5th **SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY**

Isaiah 60.1-6

Ephesians 3.1-12

GOSPEL Matthew 2.1-12

Sun 12th **BAPTISM OF CHRIST (EPIPHANY 1)**

Isaiah 42. 1-9

Acts 10. 34-43

GOSPEL Matthew 3. 13-end

Sun 19th **SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

Isaiah 49. 1-7

1 Corinthians 1. 1-9

GOSPEL John 1. 29-42

Sun 26th **THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

Isaiah 9. 1-4

1 Corinthians 1. 10-18

GOSPEL Matthew 4. 12-23

REGULAR SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Items in **red** refer to **St Mary's**, **blue** to **St Andrew's**.

All services are open to everyone.

St Andrew's	Sundays 09:15	
	1st Sunday	Praise and Worship with Eucharist
	2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday	Sung Eucharist
	Thursday 19:00	Said Eucharist
	Friday 12:00	Healing & Wholeness with Said Eucharist and lunch
St Mary's	Sundays: 11.00	
	1st Sunday	Praise and Worship with Eucharist
	2nd and 4th Sunday	Sung Eucharist
	3rd Sunday	Informal Praise and Worship
	5th Sunday	Family Holy Communion
	Wednesday 12:00	Said Eucharist
Saturdays	There are different regular Saturday events throughout the month. See the following pages to find out more details.	

ACROSS THE PARISH THIS MONTH

Items in **red** refer to **St Mary's**, **blue** to **St Andrew's**, **purple** to both churches.

Sun 5	10:00	JOINT SERVICE WITH ST MARY'S to be held at St Andrew's, followed by PCC meeting
Mon 6	12:30	SINGLETON'S LUNCH Please see Jill Renwick for details
Tue 7	14:15 15:00	MOTHER'S UNION at Muriel's house APSLEY COURT. Come along and have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with the residents. It is very much appreciated by them. See Jill, Brenda or Malcolm for details.
Wed 8	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB – NO MEETING BUT if you can volunteer to help tidy toys and clean carpets etc. your help would be much appreciated. Thank you
Thur 9	13:00	GOING PLACES AGM in St Andrew's church hall. Fish 'n chips lunch
Sat 11	12:30	COMMUNITY LUNCH/GET TOGETHER 'Bring your own lunch'. Tea and coffee provided
Wed 15	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB – return after Christmas break.
	19:45	HOME GROUP at Jean's house.
Tue 21	19:30	PRAYER GROUP at Muriel's house
Wed 22	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB
Sat 25	10:00	COFFEE MORNING
Wed 29	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE
CRAYFISHER IS THURSDAY 9 JANUARY. PLEASE HAVE
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING
RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL
THE NEXT ISSUE**



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THE CRAYFISHER TEAM
wish you all a very healthy and
Happy New Year.

*Regular meetings of Rainbows are in St Andrew's church hall on Mondays
17:00-18:30 during term time. Brownies meet in*

St Andrew's church hall on Fridays 18:30-20:00 also during term time

**THE CHURCH HALL AT ST ANDREW'S IS AVAILABLE
ON WEEKDAYS, WEEKENDS, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS.**

**Please see page 20 for details of how to book either St Mary's or
St Andrew's hall**

CRAY VALLEY MOTHERS' UNION

The January meeting is on the 7th January at 14:15 and will be held at Muriel's Home, with a speaker.

We did not have our last month's speaker as she was still quite unwell, so we were able to discuss 2020 programme before we put it to print.

An enjoyable time was had at the Bring & Share Christmas lunch on December 3rd at Rosemary & Tony's home, and the fun and surprise of Secret Santa were enjoyed by all present.

Unfortunately with the New Year your Mothers' Union subscriptions are once again due, this year the Diocese has been unable to cover the increase requested by Mary Sumner House so the required amount is £26:00 plus if you are able a donation to our group funds, you can pay cash, cheque or bank transfer. (Cheques payable to A.J. Lathey (Mothers' Union) or bank transfer to Sort Code: 09-01-33 and Account Number 12526504 add your name as reference, so we know who's subs are being paid.

We wish you all a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Take care and God Bless,

If you are interested in any of the above or in joining or finding out more about the M.U. please speak to Muriel, Grace or Tony.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Muriel's home.

A LETTER FROM ORPINGTON FOOD BANK

To the congregations of St. Andrews and St. Mary's Churches, Cray Valley.

Thank you for your recent donation of 30.60 kilos to Bromley Borough Foodbank, this with the other donations received previously from you and other groups, has allowed us to supply food and toiletries to 1654 people in the last three months

We are now in the midst of making up Christmas Hampers to be given out to clients from our Centres, starting on Monday 9th December and going on till Friday 20th December. Unfortunately, we have seen the need for Foodbanks increase greatly in the past few years, which is dramatically illustrated by the requests for hampers. In 2017 we made up 250 hampers, last year it was 524 and this year we are currently in the process of packing 675 hampers, so you can see how important your donations are as they ensure that we can continue to help those in crisis in the borough.

Please pray for us as we plan for the future. God bless, and thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely, Sue (Bromley Borough Foodbank.)

If you require information regarding the Food Bank, the basics can found at www.trusselltrust.org or contact me Tony, for local information.

Many thanks for your contributions.

Tony Lathey (tonyathey@gmail.com)

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

St Mary's Church will be opening its doors again this year, details from Peter or Terry.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT **ST ANDREW'S** AND **ST MARY'S** IN 2019

PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARDS AND LISTEN FOR NOTICES
TO GET THE FULL DETAILS

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR MORE EVENTS TO COME

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
7 MARCH	QUIZ NIGHT	ST ANDREW'S
18 APRIL	QUIZ NIGHT	ST.MARY'S
3 MAY	CONCERT	ST MARY'S
9 MAY	BINGO	ST ANDREW'S
20 JUNE	CREAM TEA	ST ANDREW'S
JULY TBC	BBQ	ST ANDREW'S
18 JULY	CREAM TEA	ST MARY'S
19 SEPTEMBER	QUIZ NIGHT	ST ANDREW'S
24 OCTOBER	ANNUAL DINNER	ST ANDREW'S
28 NOVEMBER	CHRISTMAS FAIR	ST MARY'S

THE CRAY BENEFICE QUIET DAY

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were a small group, the weather was dull, misty and cold. But when we arrived, we were met with a cheery greeting, hot drinks and lovely biscuits.

Our theme for the day was, 'Hope, Rejoice and Peace'. At 12:00 we joined the nuns in the chapel for Sext, then had our lunch and continued with our programme. At 15:00 we again went over to the chapel to share None with the nuns. We then a hot drink and biscuits before we left. The drive back was again dark and wet, but we came away with Hope, Peace, and Rejoicing in our hearts.

The setting of the Abbey is so calm and peaceful, I am looking forward to the better weather to spend time there again. Thank you Jane, for your usual content that means so much to us, thank you also for my lunch and a very comfortable journey.

God Bless, **Muriel Unsworth**

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rossys.rascals@outlook.com



FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

All in the month of JANUARY

It was:

200 years ago, on 27th and 30th Jan 1820 that Antarctica was discovered. A Russian expedition sighted the Fimbul Ice Shelf, but not land. Three days later a captain in the British Royal Navy sighted the Trinity Peninsula.

175 years ago, on 29th Jan 1845 that Edgar Allen Poe's poem *The Raven* was first published, in the New York Evening Mirror.

125 years ago, on 12th Jan 1895 that the National Trust was founded (as the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty).

100 years ago, on 16th Jan 1920 that Prohibition began in the USA, as the 18th Amendment went into effect.

80 years ago, on 8th Jan 1940 that food rationing began in Britain (bacon, butter and sugar).

75 years ago, on 2nd Jan 1945 that the British RAF and US Army Air Force bombed the city of Nuremburg, destroying 90% of its medieval centre within one hour.

Also 75 years ago, on 16th Jan 1945 that Adolf Hitler took up residence in the Fuhrerbunker, a subterranean bunker complex in the garden of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. It became the headquarters of the Nazi regime until Hitler committed suicide there in April.

Also 75 years ago, on 26th – 27th Jan 1945 that the Soviet Red Army liberated Auschwitz concentration camp in southern Poland. It was the largest Nazi concentration camp, and at least 1.1 million prisoners died there.

70 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1950 that the Israeli Knesset declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

Also 70 years ago, on 26th Jan 1950 that India became an independent republic. President Rajendra Prasad replaced King George VI as head of state. This day is now marked as Republic Day in India.

65 years ago, on 25th Jan 1955 that the world's first atomic clock was unveiled by scientists at the National Physical Laboratory in the UK. It measured time by counting the vibrations of cesium-133 atoms. It was accurate to one second every 300 years.

50 years ago, on 11th Jan 1970 that Richmal Crompton, best known for her *Just William* stories, died.

Also 50 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1970 that the Boeing 747 'Jumbo Jet' went into service on its first regularly scheduled commercial flight, from New York to London.

Also 50 years ago, on 26th Jan 1970 that the album *Bridge Over Troubled Water* by Simon and Garfunkel was released.

30 years ago, on 31st Jan 1990 that Russia's first McDonald's fast-food restaurant opened in Moscow. It is said that 30,000 hamburgers were sold the first morning. 25 years ago, on 3rd Jan 1995 that the World Health Organisation reported that the cumulative total of reported AIDS cases had passed the one million mark, with cases reported in 192 countries. With unreported cases included, the total was estimated to be approximately 4.5 million.

20 years ago, on 1st Jan 2000, the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the so-called Y2K 'Millennium Bug'.

Also 20 years ago, on 31st Jan 2000, British family doctor Harold Shipman was jailed for life for murdering 15 of his patients. He is thought to have killed at least 215 patients, making him Britain's worst-ever serial killer.

10 years ago, on 4th Jan 2010 the Burj Khalifa in Dubai opened. It is the world's tallest structure, at 2,722 feet (829.8 metres).

Also 10 years ago, on 12th Jan 2010 that the Haiti earthquake killed at least 100,000 people, and devastated the capital, Port-au-Prince.

For the Young and Young at Heart continues on page 15

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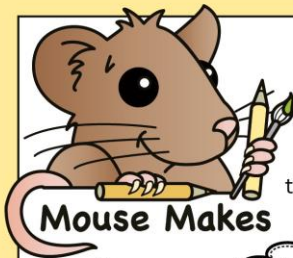
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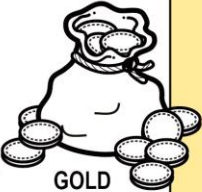
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Mouse Makes

EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus.

They bowed down and worshiped him and left *three* special gifts:



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O	T	O	S	G	O	P	H	B	M	L	E	M			
S	D	T	N	D	R	E	A	M	A	R	Y				

Can you find these words below in the word search?



How did God warn the wise men?



READ
Matthew 2:1-12

- JESUS • BORN • BETHLEHEM • JUDEA • WISE • EAST • JERUSALEM • KING
- STAR • WORSHIP • HEROD • PRIESTS • CHRIST • PROPHECY • SHEPHERD
- ISRAEL • GO • FIND • LOOK • SAW • JOYFUL • MARY • BOWED • GIFTS
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ST AKELDA

Two churches in North Yorkshire share the distinction of being the only ones in our country to have St Akelda for patron saint. The churches are in Giggleswick and Middleham.

Who was St Akelda? She dates back more than 1,200 years. Was she a mythical figure? - or was she real? In some parts of Yorkshire 'keld' is an ancient Saxon word for a water well, and 'aklelda' a holy well or spring. But there is no substantiation in either Roman or Anglo-Saxon church records of any sainthood bestowed officially on the virgin Akelda, said to have been strangled by a scarf and afterwards buried at Middleham. Was she a Saxon princess? Was she murdered by pagan Danish invaders? - at a time when North Yorkshire was known as Northumbria?

Her intriguing story was revived by the recent discovery in Giggleswick of a stained glass window depicting the martyrdom. The churches in Giggleswick and Middleham are now linked by a 3 to 4-day charted walk of 33 miles. The pilgrimage follows ancient trackways that historians have traced as dating from the Anglo-Saxon 9th century. The scenic trail goes through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The commercial history of this area has long been dominated by sheep farming and the wool trade. Today, however, as befits one of our country's most outstanding areas of natural beauty, it is tourism that drives much of the local economy in the Dales.

The church in Giggleswick nestles in a valley beside the River Ribble and the Settle to Carlisle railway line. Nearby, with perhaps the faintest of nods to St Akelda, is the evocatively-named Ebbing and Flowing well, one of many porous limestone wells in that area where there sometimes is water and sometimes not.

Jerry Dowlen

TO MY SPECIAL FRIEND

I must put pen to paper, to thank my special friend June who has kindly been taking me to Beckenham Beacon hospital for several weeks for my treatment. God bless you.

Here's wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year

Rita Openshaw

OPEN LETTER

Tony and I have attended most of St. Andrew's Coffee Mornings, (the last Saturday in the month, 10:00 until 12:00) also some of their other social events, (Dinner Dance etc.).

We would like to thank St. Andrew's for their hospitality and invite the St Mary's congregation to join us for these very enjoyable events in 2020, and St Andrew's congregation to join St, Mary's for their social events.

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to both congregations from both of us,

Rosemary Lathey

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UPDATE ON BURRSWOOD

A congregation of 25 attended the (Burrswood) healing service in the St Thomas the Apostle church in Groombridge on 28th November.

The administrators have now authorised the online auction of all equipment, furniture and home furnishings from the Burrswood estate, bidding ended on 5th December 2019.

We were given to understand that the Bishop of Tonbridge has arranged for the altar from Burrswood's Church of Christ the Healer to be moved to, and installed in, St John the Baptist Church in Sevenoaks.

The last healing service in 2019 has been held at St Thomas the Apostle church on Thursday 5th December and was concluded with a Holy Communion Service conducted by the Vicar the Reverend Sharon Francis.

The future of Burrswood as a Christian enterprise is still uncertain.

Malcolm Hubbard.



Michael Cresswell - Electrician

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'JOY TO THE WORLD' OUR COMMUNITY NATIVITY PLAY

What does it take to put on a community nativity play? Our recipe was a sparkling script – written and directed by Dominica Winter, a lynch pin of the Funshine Club from Our Lady of the Crays church -- brought to life by 24 local children, with amazing behind the scenes support from parents, guardians and church members, who helped them learn their lines and rehearse regularly since October. Different 'crews' exchanged top tips and built esprit de corps through dedicated WhatsApp Groups.

Other vital ingredients included the scenery and staging skills of Trevor Taylor, Bridget Daly and June Jenner who sewed the backdrop that I painted, with advisory input from Angela Lathey (Tony and Rosemary's daughter) and Rita and Bill McKay. Brenda was on 'Programmes and Prompts', and props as diverse as flippers and a Turkish-style tea set were loaned or donated by an army of people, including the Asian shop keeper in St Mary Cray who gave us beautiful baskets, when -- between sorting out the contents of St Mary's 'magic suitcase' of costumes -- Jackie Cook talked to her about the play. Janet Taylor's eye for beauty brought alive the 'gift of gold' by putting fairy lights into a charity shop vase – and the loan of proper stage lighting, arranged by Dominica's some-time Camel husband, Justin, suddenly lifted the performance to new heights for the final dress rehearsal and performances.

There was the obligatory 'wandering angel' (Christine's little granddaughter, Ivy) and from time to time, the cry would go up: "Has anyone seen the Baby Jesus?" as the Andrews sisters' 'Interactive Baby Alex' would go off the grid. But he ended up swaddled for a beautiful final tableau, as Cheryl's friend from choir, Jenny, sang 'O Holy Night', while Dominica's friend, Sarah, kept the musical show on the road as her little daughter – a reluctant seraph- squirmed fretfully in her lap. With so many children and helpers, putting proper safeguarding in place was a major logistical challenge, successfully led by Sarah, Jessie and Danielle.

Blessed are the tea-makers, including Malcolm, Doreen and Anne, who made us all feel welcome.

Our Director's focus on excellence helped us all to raise our game, but for me, the most precious part of the mix was friendship – favours given through existing bonds, but also, the miraculous blossoming of new ties of affection and support, drawn wonderfully together over lip-smacking curry and cheesecake in the joyful after-show party. Apologies that I cannot mention everyone by name, but if you took part, including in the audience, please know how vital and appreciated your contribution was.

For us, this was a big and complex project, in quite a tight timeframe, and working together with God's blessing, we pulled it off. My only regret is that we did not have a 'ba-dum-tss' sound effect after Wise Man Melchior's line: "I had my camel over for a cup of tea. He asked for sugar, so I said to him 'One hump or two'?" But we had the very best take-home message:

"At this time of year, when so much focus is given to giving and receiving presents, we should always remember the true gift of Christmas – Jesus, our Saviour."

Cecilia Yardley

