

# Sunday Services

## St George, Fordington, Dorchester, DT1 1LB

Every Sun 8am Holy Communion  
 1st, 2nd, 4th,  
 and 5th Sun 10.15am Parish Communion  
 3rd Sun 10.15am Come and Worship  
 2nd, 4th Sun 4.30pm Evensong currently postponed  
 2nd, 4th Sun 6.30pm Evensong currently postponed

## St Mary the Virgin, Dorchester, DT1 2HL

Every Sun 8am Holy Eucharist (said)  
 Every Sun 9.45am Holy Eucharist (sung)  
 1st Sun 6pm Taize Service  
 5th Sun 6pm Eucharist for Healing

## St Peter, Dorchester, DT1 1XA

Every Sun 9am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Every Sun 10.30am Sung Eucharist

## St Andrew, West Stafford, DT2 8AB

1st, 3rd, 5th Sun 10am Parish Communion  
 2nd Sun 10am Morning Prayer  
 4th Sun 10am Come and Worship/said Holy  
 Communion O2 alternate months

## St Simon & St Jude, Winterborne Monkton, DT2 9PT

1st Sun 11.15am Holy Communion  
 3rd Sun 11.15am Matins

## St Martin, Winterborne St Martin, DT2 9JR

2nd Sunday 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 1st,  
 1st, 3rd,  
 and 4th Sun 11am Holy Communion

## St Mary, Winterbourne Abbas, DT2 9L

1st, 3rd Sun 10am Holy Communion

## St Michael, Winterbourne Steepleton, DT2 9LG

2nd Sunday 11am Holy Communion

## St Thomas a Beckett, Compton Valence, DT2 9ER

2nd Sun 9.30am Holy Communion

For mid-week services and more information  
 about worship see church pages.

# The Benefice Network

## Office Secretary

June Jenkins 250719  
 dorchesterpcc@dsl.pipex.com

## Benefice Website

www.dorchesteranglican.info  
 Steve Ryder  
 webmaster@dorchesteranglican.info

## Dorchester PCC Secretary

Janet Cooper  
 260259 janeticooper@hotmail.com

## Dorchester PCC Treasurer

Beryl Shuttleworth 266616

## Magazine Editor

Margaret Morrissey 250366  
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## Magazine Advertising

Liz Green 269610  
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**Email** news@dorchesteranglican.info and  
 your message will be sent to someone from  
 the Magazine, Pews News, the Parish  
 office or the Team Website.

## St George

**Vergers** Tony Archer 07484 257612  
**Organist** Evelyn Kingman 265741  
**Sunday School** Maggie Carter 266072  
**Bellringers** Tony Spiller 262442  
**Flowers** Helen Pickhard  
**Church Committee Secretary**  
 Cheryl Taylor 269564  
**Treasurer** Michael Neely 262869  
**Electoral Roll** Dorothy Maggs 262436  
**Social Events** Maggie Carter 266072  
**Servers**  
**Safeguarding** Mark Green 269320  
**Hall Bookings** Meriel Dunham 268551  
**Magazine Circulation** Val Scriven

## St Mary

**Vergers** Cynthia Fry 573076  
**Organist** Geoff Greenhough 267723  
**Sunday School**  
 Teresa Stewart-Sykes 319662  
**Flowers** Margaret Morrissey 250366  
**Church Committee Secretary**  
 Robert Potter 262041  
**Treasurer** Jono Parvin 319662  
**Envelopes** Michael Bains 265530  
**Electoral Roll** Trudy Tabone 246126  
**Servers** Peter Vojak 265994  
**Safeguarding** Peter Vojak 265994  
**Social Groups**  
*Olive Branch* Joyce Potter 262041  
*Monday Club* Rosemary Bassett 262615  
**Hall Bookings**  
 John Williams bookstmarys@live.co.uk  
**Magazine Circulation** Cynthia Fry

## St Peter

**Vergers** Val Potter 264416  
**Organist** David Fawcett 07740818107  
**Bellringers** Will Haydock 07976 276066  
**Flowers** Kate Chapman 756069 and  
 Rosalind Thorpe 259659  
**Church Committee Secretary**  
 June Jenkins 250719  
**Treasurer** Beryl Shuttleworth 266616  
**Envelopes** Beryl Shuttleworth 266616  
**Electoral Roll** Jim Mclean 260126  
**Social Events** Rosalind Thorpe 259659  
**Safeguarding** Jane Pryce 269937  
**Hall Bookings** Pat Davies 267745  
 eastcoombe@btinternet.com  
**Magazine Circulation** Mark Dyer

## St Andrew

**Organist** Gerry Sweetman  
**Flowers** Jill Shepherd 264222  
**Church Committee Secretary**  
 Felicity Murray  
**Treasurer** Kaye Kerridge 268641  
**Envelopes** Kaye Kerridge 268641  
**Electoral Roll** Jill Shepherd 264222

## St Simon & St Jude

**Organist** Duncan Honeybourne 761881  
**Flowers** Rota of PCC members  
**Church Committee Secretary**  
 Wendy Grassby 263762  
**Treasurer** Hilary Hoskin 251085  
**Electoral Roll** Wendy Frost 889510  
**Safeguarding** Peter Vojak 265994

## Benefice House/Prayer Groups

**Friday Prayer Group** Meets at St Peter's  
 Friday 10.30am Penny Blaby 753556  
**Dorcas MU Bible Study Group** Meets on  
 Weds 10am Janet Cooper 260259  
**St Peter's MU** Penny Blaby 753556  
**Emmaus House Group** Meets on 3rd  
 Monday of the month. Robin Bunce 250456  
**Christian Meditation Group** Wednesdays,  
 5pm at St. Mary's. Rosemary Bassett  
 262615  
**Home Bible Study Group** Monday 7.30pm  
 30 Grosvenor Rd Celia Robertson 257621  
**Brownies** Becki Munro 457181  
**Rangers** Lisa Upward 265574



## The Team

### Team Rector

Revd Canon Thomas Woodhouse  
with responsibility for *St Mary the Virgin*  
and *St Simon & St Jude*  
01305 267944

### Team Vicars

Revd Fiona Hall  
with responsibility for *St George*  
01305 262394

Revd Jean Saddington  
with responsibility for  
*The Winterbournes & Compton Valence*  
01305 889992

Revd Claire McClelland  
with responsibility for *St Peter's*  
01305 570733

### Associate Clergy

Revd Jane Culliford  
with responsibility for *St Andrew*  
01305 264360

Revd Joanna Lacy-Smith  
01305 889476

Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes  
01305 319662

### Licensed Lay Ministers

David Bowen 01305 263584  
Allen Knott 01305 267217  
Katherine Marr 01305 263358  
Robert Potter 01305 262041

### Churchwardens

*St George*  
vacant  
vacant

*St Mary the Virgin*  
Trudy Tabone 01305 246126  
Ellie Stephens 01305 263391

*St Peter*  
Val Potter 01305 264416  
vacant

*St Andrew*  
Esther Brown 01305 757377

*St Simon & St Jude*  
Charles Norman 01305 262719  
Judy Norman 01305 262719

*St Martin*  
Dick Corbett-Winder 01305 889410

*St Mary*  
Joy Parsons 01305 889611

*St Michael*  
Ellie Sturrock 07980 089470

*St Thomas*  
Peter Steel 01308 482782  
Jeremy Russell 01308 482227

### Chaplaincy at Dorset County Hospital.

Reverend Ron Martin (CofE)

*Lead Hospital Chaplain*  
email ron.martin@dchft.nhs.uk

Reverend Richard Betts (CofE) *Chaplain*  
email richard.betts@dchft.nhs.uk.

Father Barry Hallett (RC) *Chaplain*  
Contactable via Ron or Richard

## Revd Claire McClelland

### Haphazard by starlight.....

At Christmas last year you might have seen the programme 'Alternativity'. It was about the artist Banksy's hotel in Bethlehem called the Walled Off Hotel – an ironic reference to one of London's most prestigious hotels, the Waldorf. It nestles against the controversial 8 metre high concrete barrier which separates the Israeli-controlled part of the town from the Palestinian territories. It all bears little resemblance to our cosy Christmas card vision of Bethlehem.

Banksy's project embodies the struggle over this most important religious site. By playfully deconstructing the luxuries we enjoy in the West, the Walled Off forces us to think about some of the inequalities that underpin our own privilege: the hotel's fire in the grate glows under a pile of concrete rubble, like at a bomb site, and the traditional seascape pictures in the bedrooms have discarded life jackets littering the beaches.

Banksy staged a Nativity play in the hotel car park, with the slabs of concrete as a backdrop and overlooked by watchtowers occupied by armed soldiers. The children in the play are Palestinians – some of whom have never seen the Wall, as their parents try to protect them from its existence. You might have thought it would be easy to get hold of a donkey in Bethlehem, but it seems not – they have been abused or are in fact mules but they get one eventually. The whole idea seemed to me to embody something so true about God's coming among us at Christmas – that we can only work with what we have got – that God enters in to our broken humanity and works with and through our lives.

The Christmas story is all about light shining in darkness, about the promise we are given that God is to be found right where we might least expect – in a stable as vulnerable new born, in our troubled and divided world, in the mess and confusion of our ordinary lives. God, (unlike a donkey in Bethlehem) is easy to find because God is right with us, is part of who we are – not just our Sunday-best selves. God is in the whole of us: in all that we can love and accept and in all that shames and angers us. God comes to us, into any space we can clear, however broken and makeshift. God comes so that we can know our lives too are sacred and filled with light.

### Dorchester Benefice Magazine

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the Editor at [morrissyobe@gmail.com](mailto:morrissyobe@gmail.com)

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# Dorchester Benefice Diary

*Mondays (except the 3rd Monday in the month) 2–4pm*

**Craft Group** in the choir vestry. Just bring along anything you are doing, knitting, sewing, painting, drawing, etc. and come and have a cuppa and natter. Contact Cynthia Fry on 01305 5730762 for further details.

*First Monday of each month 2–4pm*

**Dorchester Stitchers.** In United Church (the main hall), South St, Dorchester. Expertise is shared and occasional workshops arranged as are visits to exhibitions. Annual subscription £5 plus £1 per meeting to cover costs.

*Wednesdays at 5pm*

**The Contemplative prayer group** meets each Wednesday at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's and at the Quiet Space every Thursday at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

*Tuesday 4 December at 7.30pm*

**Dorchester French Circle** at AgeUK, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester DT1 1PW, for "Jeux de Noel.

*Thursday 6th December, 6.30pm*

**Community carol singing** with short readings, suitable for all ages, in the Engine Room, Poundbury. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

*Saturday 8th December at 9am*

**Mens's Breakfast** at Taste Brasserie, Trinity Street, Dorchester DT1 1UB. All welcome to join us for excellent food and great conversation in this Taste of the West Gold award winning hidden gem. For further details please contact David Elliott on 01305 259236, 07776 256537 or by email at davidelliott220@btinternet.com.

*Saturday 8th Dec and Wed 12th – Sat 15th Dec 11-3pm (Fri 14th 11-2pm), Mon 17th – Sat 22nd 10- 2pm ( Wed 19th 11-2pm)*

**Journey to the stable** in United Church, South Street, Dorchester. In the busyness of all the Christmas shopping, writing the cards and icing the cake take a few minutes to be still and reflect on what Christmas is all about *The true meaning of Christmas.*

Journey to the stable is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 – 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

*Sunday 9th December 4 – 6pm*

**Inclusive Carol Service** at Dorchester Baptist Church, Dorford Centre. Carols, puppets and crafts call 262405 to ensure enough food for tea.

*Monday 10th December*

**The Monday Club** closes 2018 with our annual Christmas lunch, this year to be at the New Inn, West Knighton, when we shall be having a convivial and well-fed outing!

*Wednesday 12th December at 10am*

**Dorcas MU Bible Study group** meet at 155 Damers Road. Mary & the Bread of Life. Luke 2:1-7, John 6:1-15. Newcomers & visitors welcome. Details 260259.

*Saturday 15 December at 7.30pm*

**Christmas Concert** by Weymouth Choral Society at St John's Church, Greenhill, Weymouth DT4 7SS. Guests: Weymouth Concert Brass and singers from the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership. Tickets £10.00 (free for under 16s) available from Harmony Music, Dorchester (01305 260360); Weymouth Pavilion (01305 783225); on the door or by ringing 07712 135150.

*Thursday 20th December from 10am*

**Brass Cleaning morning** until noon in the vestry St Mary's Church. This is a social occasion with tea/coffee - and sometimes doughnuts!

*Before Christmas*

**Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum** in Dorchester will be opening its café and the spectacular Grand Jury Room after visiting hours for parties. The spacious and airy café can host up to 200 people, with wine and canapes starting at just £10 per head, or why not get into the festive spirit with mulled wine and mince pies, for more information please visit [www.shirehalldorset.org](http://www.shirehalldorset.org).

*Sunday 30th December at 9.45am*

**Healing Services.** At St Mary's prayers for healing are offered after our 9.45 am service every Sunday and our next Sung Eucharist with the laying on of hands and anointing will be on Sunday 30th December at 9.45am when our preacher will be the Revd Canon Thomas Woodhouse.

*Saturday 12th January at 9am*

**Mens's Breakfast** at Café on the Green, 7 Dinham Walk, Poundbury DT1 3WU. They normally start 30 minutes later, but are happy to open earlier for us. There is ample free parking adjacent to the venue. For further details please contact David Elliott on 01305 259236, 07776 256537 or email at davidelliott220@btinternet.com.

*Sunday 13 January at 3pm*

**Dorchester French Circle** meets at the Wessex Royale Hotel, 32 High West Street, Dorchester DT 1 1UP, for a tea party.

*Wednesday 16th January at 10am*

**Dorcas MU Bible Study group** meet at 10 Weatherbury Way. Walking with Old Testament Women. Rahab (Part 1). Joshua 2:1-24. Newcomers & visitors welcome. Details 260259.

*Saturday 19th January at 9.30am*

**Ladies Breakfast.** Third Saturday of each month excepting for the month of December. The January breakfast will be held at Carluccios, Dorchester. Contact Maureen Shaw 01305 261771.

*Sunday 20th January at 1pm*

**The Incredible Mrs Van der Elst by Brian Bates** in The Shire Hall, Dorchester. Tickets £6.50 (inc. soup and roll). Pop in for a bowl of soup and an incredible insight into the life of this extraordinary woman! Mrs Van der Elst spent a quarter of a century campaigning against the death penalty, with her self-made wealth. Learn more about how this scullery maid turned business entrepreneur's unconventional methods of protest earned her a reputation and place in the history of capital punishment. For more information visit [shirehalldorset.org.uk](http://shirehalldorset.org.uk) or call 01305 261849.

*Monday 21st January from 2.30pm to 4pm*

**Monday club** Illustrated talk on Handel's Messiah by Jane Howard. As usual we shall meet in St Mary's Hall, Alexandra Road, Dorchester, followed by a raffle and refreshments, all for the reasonable sum of £2.50. Please do come and join us, or for more information speak to Rosemary (262615) or Jill (263757)

*Wednesday 30th January at 10am*

**Dorcas MU Bible Study group** meet at 4 Kingsbere Crescent. Walking with Old Testament Women. Rahab (Part 2). Joshua 6:1-27. Newcomers & visitors welcome. Details 260259.

*Thursday 31st January from 10am*

**Brass Cleaning morning** until noon in the vestry St Mary's Church. This is a social occasion with tea/coffee - and sometimes doughnuts!



# Advent and Christmas 2018

## Services in the Dorchester Benefice

### St Marys, Dorchester

Advent Sunday 2 Dec	8am	Holy Eucharist
	9.45am	Sung Eucharist
	6pm	Taize
Sunday 9 Dec	4pm	Christingle Service
Sunday 23 Dec	6pm	Community Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service
	11.15pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8am	Holy Eucharist
	9.45am	All Age Eucharist
Sunday 30 Dec	9.45am	Healing Eucharist with Christmas Carols

### St Peter's, Dorchester

Advent Sunday 2 Dec	6pm	Darkness to Light
Saturday 22 Dec	11am	Christingle Service
Sunday 23 Dec	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 30 Dec	10.30am	Sung Eucharist

### St George's, Dorchester

Friday 30 Nov	6pm	Carols on the Green
Sunday 2 Dec	10.15am	Advent Carol Service
	4.30pm	Christingle Service
Sunday 9 Dec	4pm	Friendship Club's Christmas Service in Dorchester Baptist Church
Sunday 23 Dec	4.30pm	Carols by candlelight
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Crib Service
	11pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	8am	BCP Communion
	10.15am	Holy Communion

### St Andrew's, West Stafford

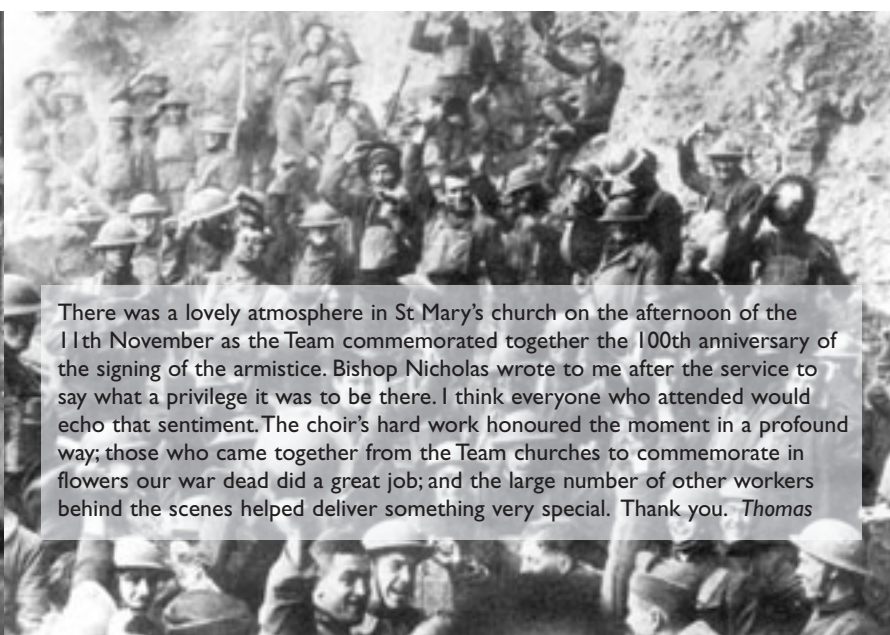
Sunday 16 Dec	10pm	Parish Communion (Said)
	6.30pm	Candlelit Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday 23 Dec	10am	Come and Worship Advent 4
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Crib & Christingle Service
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion with Carols
Christmas Day	10am	Christmas Communion for all the family with carols
Sunday 30 Dec	10am	Christmas Communion for all the family with carols

### St Simon & St Jude, Winterbourne Monkton

Saturday 8 Dec	11am	Crib Service
Sunday 9 Dec	3pm	Carol Service with the Monkton Singers
Christmas Day	11.15am	Holy Communion for Christmas

### The Winterbournes and Compton Valence

Sunday 2 Dec	6pm	St Martins, Martinstown Darkness to Light
Sunday 9 Dec	4pm	Brewers Arms, Martinstown Carols
Monday 17 Dec	6.30pm	Compton Valence, Carol Service
Tuesday 18 Dec	6pm	Winterborne Steepleton Carol Service
Wednesday 19 Dec	6pm	Martinstown – Quieter Christmas
Thursday 20 Dec	7pm	Winterborne Abbas Carol Service
Sunday 23 Dec	6pm	Martinstown Carol Service
Christmas Eve	3pm	Winterborne Abbas Crib Service
	4pm	Martinstown Christmas Tree Crib Service
	11pm	Steepleton Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am	Compton Valence Holy Communion
	11am	Martinstown Holy Communion
Sunday 30 Dec	11am	Martinstown Favourite Carols



There was a lovely atmosphere in St Mary's church on the afternoon of the 11th November as the Team commemorated together the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice. Bishop Nicholas wrote to me after the service to say what a privilege it was to be there. I think everyone who attended would echo that sentiment. The choir's hard work honoured the moment in a profound way; those who came together from the Team churches to commemorate in flowers our war dead did a great job; and the large number of other workers behind the scenes helped deliver something very special. Thank you. *Thomas*

# St George's Church

Fordington, Dorchester



## Weekday Services

Every Thurs 10am Holy Communion and coffee.

Sunday services see inside cover

First Saturday of each month Coffee and Company

10am–12noon followed by Lunch Club at 1pm.

## Kintsugi – Hope

When things get damaged or broken in our society they lose their value and more often than not we throw them away.

Sometimes, such as with an antique, we might try to invisibly mend the object, but however well this is done, we are always aware that the experts will be able to find the mended cracks, so the antique is still worth less than an unbroken one.

In Japan however, there is an ancient form of art called kintsugi. This takes broken pottery and makes it even more beautiful, valuable and unique than it was before it was damaged.



Instead of throwing away the broken object, or trying to hide the

damage, the artists make a feature of the scars by repairing the pottery with seams of gold.

The Japanese word Kintsugi means “golden joinery”, and reminds me of how Jesus, the joiner, carpenter, came to be the light of the world, the hope, that no darkness can ever overcome.

However battered and flawed we may feel, the good news of Christmas is that God's love can and will transform us.

Christmas reminds us to be confident, that He who began a good work in us will complete it.

[www.kintsugihope.com](http://www.kintsugihope.com)

## Children's Trail at St George's

The Arts Society Dorset County has prepared a Children's Trail for St. George's, Fordington. It was presented during the 10.15am Morning Service on Sunday, 18th November 2018, and is now available in the church. The Trail is an Activity Sheet aimed at 8 to 12 year olds, to encourage them to have fun in observing the history and fabric of the church. There is an Answer Sheet with information for accompanying adults. All welcome to try it out.

## Future Events

**Christingle Service** Sunday 2nd December 4.30pm in aid of The Children's Society.

**Nativity** Sun 9th December 10.15am Come and see our Dragons nativity play.

**Christmas tree festival** opens Friday 30th November – Monday 3rd December. Come and see our beautiful display of trees decorated with our theme 'Magic of the musicals'. Refreshments available in our Christmas cafe.

**Christmas Day Lunch** St George's will be holding their usual lunch in the Hall 12.30 for 1pm. Cost £8. This, of course, is open to everyone. Please contact Val Scriven, 265177 to book your place.

## Dates for your Diary

### December

Friday 1st	Carols on the Green	6pm
	Christmas Tree Festival opens	7pm
Sunday 2nd	Advent 1	
	Holy Communion BCP	8am
	Advent Carols	10.15am
	Christingle Service	4:30
Sunday 9th	Advent 2	
	Holy Communion BCP	8am
	Holy Communion	10.15am
Sunday 16th	Advent 3	
	Holy Communion BCP	8am
	Dragons' Nativity Play	10:15
Sunday 23rd	Advent 4	
	Holy Communion BCP	8am
	Said Holy Communion	10.15am
	Carol Service	4:30
Monday 24th	Christmas Eve	
	Crib Service	4:30
	Midnight Communion	11pm
Tuesday 25th	Christmas Day	
	Holy Communion BCP	8am
	Holy Communion	10.15am
Sunday 30th		
	Holy Communion BCP	8am
	Morning Praise	
Sunday January 6th	Epiphany	
	Holy Communion BCP	8am
	Holy Communion	10.15am

Humility is that grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it. – Andrew Murray

# The Conversion of Ebenezer Scrooge

Canon David Winter.

We think of the traditional British Christmas as a few days off work, a family get-together and a big meal. In fact that only goes back to Victorian times. Before that it was a religious event, with church services and carols, but not a great community event. Among important influences on the change was a single story by Charles Dickens, 'A Christmas Carol', first published 175 years ago this December. It is in effect a morality fable, with a memorable anti-hero, Scrooge, and a splendid happy ending.

Ebenezer Scrooge ran his business with single-minded dedication to profit. His former partner, Marley, had died, and now in sole charge he decided to impose a more rigorous regime. There would be no Christmas Day off for his assistant Bob Cratchit, which ruled out the family's hopes of a celebration meal together. Bob's wife Martha was shocked but Bob valued his job and said nothing. Scrooge, who regarded all such fanciful stuff as 'humbug' remained immovable, despite pleas to the contrary.

That was, until Christmas Eve. That night he had a series of dream-like visions. The first was of his late partner, Marley, begging him to reconsider his attitude. There then followed three ghosts. The 'Ghost of Christmas Past' was a vision of his own unhappy childhood. Then came the 'Ghost of Christmas Present' about the disappointment and tears his decision had brought to the Cratchit family. The third was the most powerful - the 'Ghost of Christmas Future', in which he saw his own grave. Was this how he wanted to be remembered?

When he awoke on Christmas morning, Ebenezer



Scrooge was a changed man. Bob need not work on Christmas day and Scrooge himself would furnish a sumptuous meal for them all. The whole day was transformed - tears of joy (Dickens knew all about tears) and finally the junior of the family, Tiny Tim, rounded off the whole experience with a cry of 'Merry Christmas, everybody'.


The story captured not only the public mood but also the public's heart. This was the sort of Christmas they wanted and gradually it began to take shape - holidays for workers, charity for the poor, warmth and love in the family. Eventually the law and the work of trade unions gave the new tradition a feeling of permanence, but there's no doubt Dickens' 'Christmas Carol' story started it all.

## Expensive Christmas cracker

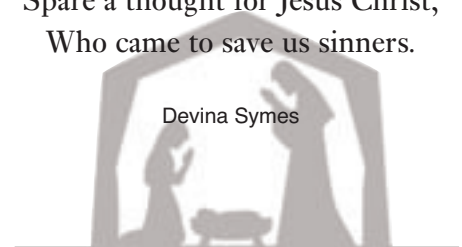
Are you looking to splash around a vast amount of money this Christmas? Then why not contact The Royal Mint? It has just launched Britain's most expensive ever Christmas crackers - which include a solid gold bar and gold diamond necklace.

A pack of six of the crackers will set you back £5,000 but at least they also include a traditional hat and joke. Fortnum and Mason has previously sold sets for about £500.

There is a large demand for the £5,000 crackers, which form the Mint's first gift range in its 1,100 year history, but if for any reason you don't want to spend £5,000 on six Christmas crackers, the other gifts on offer range from a sixpence spoon set to a gold teddy bear. Go to: <https://www.royalmint.com/gifts/>



Spare a Thought  
When opening your Christmas presents,  
And eating your Christmas dinners,  
Spare a thought for Jesus Christ,  
Who came to save us sinners.



Devina Symes

# What did the end of November mean to you?



Kaye Kerridge

In the Church calendar the end of November marks the end of the year, the start of Advent and the forthcoming preparation for Christmas.

For many towns and cities the end of November sees the arrival of the wooden huts signifying the start of the Christmas Markets. These stalls offer a wide range of Christmas decorations, crafts and gifts, together with festive food and drink that fill the area with an aroma of spices. Travel agents are offering us short breaks to enjoy the seasonal celebrations in this country and on the continent and in kitchens around the land the making of Christmas puddings is beginning!

At the head office of Wyvern Savings and Loans, your local Credit Union here in Dorchester, the end of November is always a particularly busy time. In

addition to an increased number of loan applications, this is when the members who have been saving throughout the year in their Christmas accounts withdraw their money. This year there are 162 members who, at the end of October, had already saved £67,000 in their Christmas accounts. These savers will have money to spend for a Happy Christmas and, unlike many people in this country, will not begin 2019 with debts that may take months to repay.

And so, if you have ended this November not yet a member of Wyvern, you can find out all about us by calling in at 40, High East Street, Dorchester between 10 and 12 noon Monday to Saturday or by visiting our website [www.wyvernсандl.co.uk](http://www.wyvernсандl.co.uk) and look forward to healthy savings for November 2019.

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## Let the bells ring out for Terry Clarke



Who could fail to notice one of Dorchester's most iconic gentlemen? His smile and humour lit up our lives even on the dreariest of days.

Terry spent most of his life working in Dorchester as a professional Upholsterer in his own business. His beautiful work was

always in great demand.

A Fordington man born and bred Terry's love of St. George's Church was well known. He committed over 50 years to being a sidesman alongside his brother Brian.

He put his talents to good use in the church, upholstering the kneelers, laying carpets, helping to replace the very old front porch door with a new one and was always available to do anything that was needed. A true stalwart of the community.

Terry was also a dedicated Freemason and for many years was Almoner of his Durnovarian Lodge. He was always there to offer comfort and support to the widows

and their families who had lost loved ones and to visit those who were sick and lonely.

I was privileged to share his last 5 years and he brought much joy and sunshine into my life. We both had a love of dancing and could often be seen ("tripping the light fantastic") in the local Trinity Club.

A very special man, Terry will be loved and remembered for his kind heart and generous nature. He leaves us all with many happy memories. *Ann Harris*

*The Fellowship of Meditation*

We practise and teach contemplative meditation in the Christian tradition at residential and day courses here in Dorchester. We welcome visitors to experience the benefits of meditation in a group.

**For further information on group meetings  
and/or to book our rooms  
for private use please contact:**

**8 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester, DT1 1PW.**  
Tel 01305 251396  
e-mail: [fellowship.meditation@gmail.com](mailto:fellowship.meditation@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.fellowshipofmeditation.org](http://www.fellowshipofmeditation.org)

Christians may not see eye to eye, but they should walk arm in arm – Anon

# St Mary the Virgin

Church Correspondent Robert Potter



## Advent and Christmas Services 2018

### Advent Sunday 2nd December 2018

8am Holy Eucharist  
9.45am All Age Eucharist  
Presentation of Gifts and Toys to UTrust  
6pm Taize Service

### Sunday 9th December 2018

8am Holy Eucharist  
9.45am Sung Eucharist  
4pm Children's Society Christingle Service

### Sunday 16th December 2018

8am Holy Eucharist  
9.45am Sung Eucharist

### Sunday 23rd December 2018

8am Holy Eucharist  
9.45am Sung Eucharist  
6pm Community Carol Service

### Monday 24th December 2017

4pm Crib Service  
11.15pm Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day 2017

8am Holy Eucharist  
9.45am All Age Eucharist of Christmas Day  
and the Blessing of the Crib.

### Sunday 30th December 2017

8am Holy Eucharist  
9.45am Sung Eucharist with Christmas Carols

## Epiphany

Sunday 6th January 2019

Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year that has seen some revival over recent years. Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land. It is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany, the Sunday between 7 January and 13 January. Accordingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday: Plough Monday. Although the nature of farming has changed over the centuries, Plough Sunday is seen as a way of generally celebrating farming and the work of farmers.

At St Mary's we will be celebrating Plough Sunday and blessing seeds to remind ourselves that we can be seeds of hope in our community through how we care for the earth. So how about making a "green resolution" this New Year? Here are some small changes you could make that will have a big impact!

1: Turn it off: Energy conservation is one of the most important things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Leaving your electricals on standby needlessly uses up energy – hit the off switch and you could see huge improvements, most noticeably in your energy bills!

2: Eat less meat: Being careful with what you're consuming is at the heart of being more eco-friendly, and cutting down on the amount of meat you eat can have a huge impact. Not having red meat - even if it's just for two or three days a week - can have quite a significant impact on reducing your carbon footprint.

3: Don't waste food: Waste not, want not. Did you know that 7.3 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK every year? This isn't just a huge waste of food and money, it adds to the amount of CO2 being created in landfills.

4: Try to cut out plastic: Plastic seems to have found its way into every single aspect of our lives. However, giving it up isn't as difficult as you might think – bring a canvas bag with you when you go shopping, buy your fruit and veg loose and stop buying bottled water.

5: Use eco-friendly cleaning products: A lot of cleaning products have a lot of harmful chemicals in them that aren't environmentally friendly to create or dispose of. In fact, repeated exposure to these cleaning products can affect your health as well as the environment. Green cleaning products use more natural and organic methods of cleaning which are far less harmful.

## Sanctuary Lamp Candles

### December

- 9th Given by Audrey and Peter Buckingham in thanksgiving for their family and friends  
23rd Given by Janet Comley in memory of her parents whose Wedding anniversary was on 28th Dec.

### January

- 6th Given by Kath Joslin in memory of her father William Cashman  
13th Given by Ellie Stephens in memory of her nephew Karl Branston whose years mind falls at this time.  
20th Given by Mary Boulter in memory of her husband David whose years mind falls on 17th January.  
27th Given by Diane Keir in loving memory of her parents and dear Aunt Lizbeth whose anniversaries fall at this time.



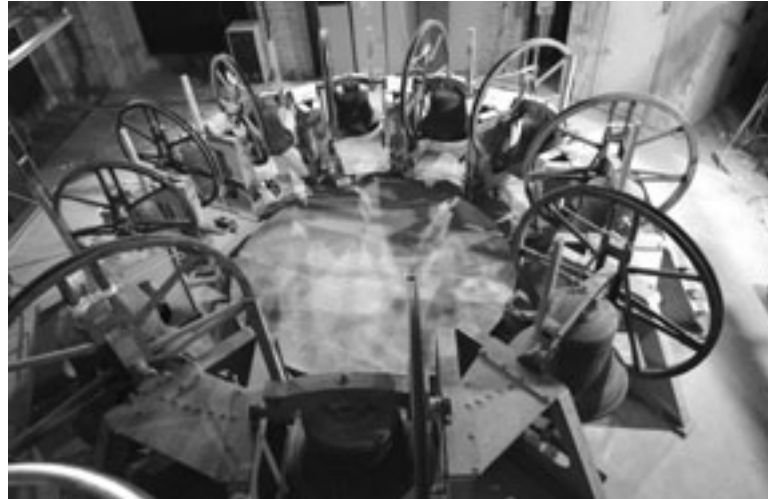
# Third Time Lucky – Ringing in the USA

*Janet Ranger, Chairman, Dorchester Branch, Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers*

On a recent trip to the USA it was third time lucky for me to ring at Washington DC National Cathedral. I missed the Tuesday night practice, due to my flight being delayed by seven hours, and was unable to ring the following Thursday night at the Old Post Office Tower (which also houses 10 bells) because of a prearranged commitment. However, I readily accepted an invitation to join the band for Sunday Service ringing three days later. WOW - what an experience! Two elevators to reach the ringing chamber with panoramic views from all four compass points. My fiancé, future brother-in-law and I were also taken up to the belfry to see the ten bells. I had thought I might only ring something simple like rounds & call changes but the band put me so much at ease and with their kindness and encouragement I managed a touch of Grandsire Doubles.

Many thanks to Rob Bannister, Rick DuPuy, Beth Sinclair and all the ringers for such a warm welcome

and for making my holiday so special and memorable; I was thrilled and very pleased to be able to fly the flag for English bell ringing!



## DID YOU KNOW?

### “Write for Rights” Event

*Are you writing your Christmas cards and Christmas letters?*

Would you like to send a message of hope to someone who is in prison for what they believe and hope for? It only takes a few minutes to write a letter or postcard but for someone enduring prison and torture just for protesting peacefully; or someone fighting forced eviction, or for refugees left in limbo, it can provide the strength to carry on. A message of solidarity tells them they're not alone. So come along, drink tea and eat cake and make a difference to someone this Christmas.

*When:* Sunday 16th December  
2pm-4pm. *Where:* 1 Mithras Close,  
Castle Park, Dorchester DT1 2RF  
*Contact:* Teresa 07765930285.  
teresa.sykes@live.co.uk

### Archbishop of Canterbury speech to TUC conference

Angela Pain receives the magazine for Redhorn in Wiltshire. She came across an article about Justin Webley's Speech to the TUC conference which had attracted a lot of attention and is well worth a read.

One of the Arch Bishops comments is “By the way I warn you there's quite a bit of God in this. It is sort of my job”. It would not be possible to print it all so here is the link for those who can follow it .

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-and-writing/speeches/archbishop-canterburys-speech-tuc>

### Hot and cold

A member of a certain church, who had previously attended services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks the minister decided to visit him. He found the man at home all alone, sitting by a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him awkwardly and led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes he took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting, but now the minister chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead bit of coal and placed it back in the middle of the

fire. Immediately it began to glow once more, with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. With that, the minister smiled at his host, and quietly let himself out.

### Christmas customs

Christmas has its own customs, perhaps the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year which is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season and many people, traditionally, fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening and then go on to the Midnight Service. The English are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents. In Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. However, the English are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve. Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve before bringing it into the house.



## Christingle Services

**St George's Church** Sunday 2nd December at 4.30pm

**St Mary's Church** Sunday 9th December at 4pm

**St Peter's Church** Saturday 22nd at 11am

**St Andrew's Church** Monday 24th at 4.30pm

*These services celebrate the work of the Children's Society*



# Church of England Christingle Services are 50 this year

This is a very special year for Christingle, as it marks 50 years since we held the first Christingle service in this country at Lincoln Cathedral on 7 December 1968. Christingles themselves actually date back even earlier, and began in the Moravian Church in Germany.

At a children's service in Marienborn in 1947 Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus. He decided to give the children a symbol to do this. It was a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon. At the end of the service, whilst the children held their candles, the bishop said the prayer, 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts that theirs like thine become.'

## How Christingle grew

In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society, known as 'Mr Christingle', brought Christingle to this country and introduced it to the Church of England. This involved children decorating an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle to create a new visual representation of Christ, the light of the world, celebrated by the lighting of the Christingle candles.

The event is now celebrated in hundreds of churches, cathedrals, schools and communities up and down the country.

1968 – First Christingle service in the UK, Lincoln Cathedral

1970 – 20 churches hold Christingle services

1974 – The Children's Society works with 4,500 children

2010 – The Children's Society works with 48,500 children

2018 – Celebrate 50 years of Christingle

## Christingle helps children who feel unsafe

For 50 years now, Christingle has played a vital role in supporting vulnerable young people and since Christingle first began, the money raised from donations at services has helped over one million children get the one-to-one care and support that they so urgently need.

The money you raise through your church's Christingle service will help our project workers be there for the next 50 years, and help thousands more children.

## December Crossword



### Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Shiny sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

### Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

# Tui Lau – A Unique Rescue, Part I

Anthony Holt

Fifty years ago, on Saturday 26th October 1968, a dramatic and extensive rescue took place in the South Pacific, performed by one Royal Navy helicopter. This is the story.

Early on Saturday morning, I was asleep in my bunk aboard the Destroyer HMS Fife, traveling North from New Zealand, where I had been relaxing on a farm, hunting wild turkeys and riding a spirited stallion! It was to be a quiet Saturday at sea, minimal work, some aircraft cleaning, deck hockey and a Trafalgar Night Dinner. It was not to be.

I was shocked into wakefulness by my cabin door sliding noisily open to bang against the stops.

'Mornin' sir. Rise 'n shine. Nice cuppa char in the Ops Room. Briefin' in fifteen minutes...' A tousle-headed boatswain's mate was peering at me through the open doorway.

'What?' was all I could manage.

He cut me off with 'Emergency sir. Big flap on. Twelve minutes to briefing.' The door slammed and he was gone.

I threw back the sheet, hoisted myself down from my bunk and clambered into my flying kit. I splashed water on my face, noticing that the movement of the ship had changed; we were now bounding along at high speed, charging through the Pacific swells.

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*Surprisingly, everything seemed to be working as it should.*

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The briefing was short. A "Mayday" distress call from a ship to the North had been intercepted. We were to launch immediately and fly "down the bearing", locate the vessel, then climb to establish radio contact. The ship would follow at thirty-six knots.

Fifteen minutes later I signalled the chocks away and we climbed vertically from HMS Fife's flight deck under a sky brilliantly illuminated by a million stars, but no moon.

I concentrated on the instruments, increasing speed and setting the Wessex into a gentle climb while Graham sorted out his night vision. Surprisingly, everything seemed to be working as it should. In the back Neville was plotting a course and calculating the wind effect. 'Billy' Walker was checking the gear and the winch.

We climbed to two-thousand feet and flew on through the early dawn, eventually becoming aware of tiny island dots appearing on the sea below. After about an hour we saw the ship. Turning to starboard, we began to descend to the stricken vessel, a small white passenger ship with a single funnel set between tall



masts, each with loose rigging and cargo loading derricks. They had run straight onto the centre of a long coral reef surrounding a small uninhabited Totoya island. The rising westerly wind was driving the ship further onto the reef, causing it to swing alarmingly back and forth like an angry trapped animal. The water surrounding the ship was boiling with foam. People were crowding the deck, staring up at the helicopter. We needed fuel, so we climbed to a thousand feet and reported what we had seen, before turning back towards Fife.

When we reached Fife, still at maximum speed but closer now, I stayed strapped in, keeping the engine running while we refuelled. Graham and Neville went to brief the Captain. They explained our collective view; Tui Lau could not be pulled off the reef, but if she did come off she would sink, because the coral had torn open the hull. Nevertheless, our Captain decided to tow the wreck off the reef. We got airborne again and we helped pass a tow line, but the attempt failed, as we knew it would. Our Captain had never listened to the aircrew, so why should he change now?

We collected a repair crew, and winched them into the bouncing, flicking, heaving ship. We should be trying to get people out, we thought, not putting more in. Nevertheless, in they went, shortly reappearing on the deck, ready to be lifted off. Tui Lau, they reported, had a huge gash in the hull and would never float again.

We returned the repair crew to Fife and began the long and dramatic attempt to lift off the remaining passengers and crew. With both pilots on the controls, we moved cautiously into the maelstrom of flying debris, swinging derricks, ropes and spars, watching for the ship to twist underneath us, which happened frequently, always without warning and always producing a charge of adrenalin. Once in position between the after mast and the funnel, Neville was lowered to the deck. He took the nearest passenger, reassuring her by sign language, and secured her in

the strop. Then up they came one at a time, to be dragged into the cabin while the winch was lowered for the next one. Children too small for the rescue strop were winched up with Neville holding each one in his arms.

On and on it went, grindingly slow, while the ship pitched, rolled and jumped underneath us. It was hot and sweaty in the cockpit, becoming more so as the South Pacific temperature climbed. Time and again we had to whisk the aircraft away as yet another piece of the doomed ship reached out to kill the annoying mechanical insect above it.

As the day wore on, the westerly gale increased, knocking both ship and aircraft about with unexpected and powerful gusts. Once full, with about twelve survivors, we would rear away from the moving



cauldron, leaving Neville behind on the lurching deck, trying to reassure people that we would return. We reached the destroyer quite quickly, taking on fuel while the survivors were helped out. Lifting the huge Fijian men meant that the aircraft could carry only eight of them. By now, waves were breaking over the ship,

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*. . . . helicopter, the very presence of which blotted out all sound. . .*

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drenching the aircraft in salt water, no matter where we positioned ourselves. The Rolls Royce gas turbine did not like swallowing salt water, so we began to lose power. This was bad news, so back we went to Fife, shutting down the engine and washing it out with fresh water. We dried it and started up again, to recommence the danse-macabre above the battered wreck.

It took five hours to complete the recovery of one hundred and three men women and children from the stricken ship. There was no panic or misbehaviour from any of the passengers and crew waiting patiently for their turn to be lifted through the roaring down-draft from the helicopter, the very presence of which blotted out all sound other than the noise of the engine and the whirling rotor blades. Every time we pulled away above the masts with a full load of people, we could see upturned faces of those remaining. Most simply stared stoically upward, although some showed signs of worry – would the hard tested aircraft be able to return?

See Part 2 in next months magazine

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## Kindness

*Minna St Aubyn*

Perhaps my recent experience is not unusual.

Some of you will understand, others will shake their heads in disbelief.

I left London early on the morning after a school reunion – clear exit from London – Radio 4 – chocolate bar at my side.

BUT: signs began to appear saying two exits were closed.

Not savvy enough to re-programme the Satnav – and my mobile needed charging. Now the signs said: ‘Plan your journey’ – it wasn’t as though I hadn’t been warned. Then the junctions were named – the ones I wanted – and I had to leave at the next exit.

Nervously I followed what appeared to be the right route, and as I approached the outskirts of ‘home country’ I grew more confident, finished the Smartie bar, enjoyed the radio – but then – did that say Buckinghamshire? Oxford? I was going in the wrong direction! *Help!* Somehow and certainly not due to my navigational skills, I found myself near Bournemouth

– following a ring road -- round and round and round we went .

Panic. Well, near panic – but I held on. I drove into the almost empty car park of a building material superstore – there was someone loading up metal bars into his open-backed truck.

I approached him hesitantly and asked if he knew the way to Dorchester.

“Yes” he said. “Could you please speak slowly so I can write down the directions?” “Yes” he said. And could I phone my husband and two friends, “Yes” he said.

I offered to pay for the calls. “No”, he said. I asked again. “No” he said. Finally he agreed I could give something to his son and he pointed to the car. I opened the back door. Teenage son, little dachshund on a velvet cushion, and wife in front passenger seat. All serene and patient.

I handed over the coins, son smiled.

And then this dear man offered to lead the way for the first couple of manoeuvres.

The next day he phoned to say he was concerned, as I had been ‘in quite a state’ – had I arrived home safely?”

Don’t believe the dire media headlines. There is kindness – and the best is the kindness of strangers.

# St Peter's Church

High West Street, Dorchester

Church Correspondent: Jill Bryant



## Weekday Services

Mon & Thurs 9.15am Morning Prayer Hardy Chapel (15 min)

Thurs 10am Said Eucharist with coffee afterwards  
in the hall until 11.30am (NOT 27th December)

## December Dates for your Diary:

Sat 1st	10 am - 1 pm Christmas Market
Sun 2nd	6pm Darkness to Light Advent Service
Thurs 20th	7.30pm Thomas Hardy School Carol Service
Sat 22nd	11 am. Christingle - A Christmas Celebration for Children
Sun 23rd	6pm Nine Lessons & Carols
Mon 24th	11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Tues 24th	10 am Christmas Day Sung Eucharist (N.B. No 9am service on Christmas Day)
Thurs 27th	Please note NO Eucharist this Thurs.
Sun 30th	Usual Sunday services

## January Dates for your Diary:

Sun 20th	6 pm Evensong
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## An evening with Terry Waite

This was an illuminating and excellent evening attended by 250 people. Thanks go to Paul Vittle whose idea it was and to Val Potter, David Elliott, Helen Lange and Brian Hellin who made it happen.



Terry Waite at St Peter's

## Theology Group

The first Theology Group meeting in 2019 will be held on 15th January at 7.30 pm at The Vicarage, Herrington Road. Topic to be decided. If you are interested in receiving more details of the Group please email Eileen McLean (Eileen.mclean6@btinternet.com).

## Christmas Market

**St Peter's Church, Saturday 1st December from 10am to 1pm.**

There will be a wide range of lovely homemade gifts to purchase for Christmas presents including delicious cakes, biscuits, preserves and other goodies to buy, along with homemade crafts too.

Refreshments will be available with entertainment from Skylarks - the DASP Children's Choir.

Father Christmas will be there and there will be a present for all his visitors. Come and enjoy all the fun of the Christmas Market.

For more information or any queries contact Rosalind Thorpe 01305 259659

Email dorset.dweller@btinternet.com or Claire on clairemcclelland@icloud.com

## Come and Sing Hymns at St Peter's

A big thank you to all who supported this event, whether you helped to organise it, baked delicious cakes or came along to sing enthusiastically, especially as the weather was not too kind to us! It was so good to meet visitors from the wider community who are warmly welcomed.

Special thanks to Richard Franklin, our able compere, who made it all run so smoothly and to Philip Lange, our flexible organist, who both made the occasion a friendly and joyful one. We sang a wide variety of hymns, both old and new, and heard some thought-provoking comments from those who had made choices for us to sing. Hymns often have special meanings for many of us and it was good to share these with each other.

We are pleased to say that we raised over £200 for St Peter's funds. *Gill Michell*

## Confirmation Course

We shall be running a Confirmation Course in February/March. Please contact Claire if you are interested.

\* \* \* \*

If you have any ideas or topics you would like to see on our page please let Jill know [jill.bryant@hotmail.com](mailto:jill.bryant@hotmail.com)

# How Father Christmas got where he is today

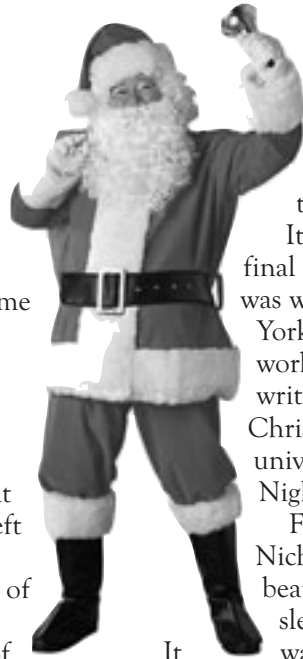
One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres, if he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German



settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

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## Prayer Ministry at St Mary's

*Geoff Turnock*

For well over a 100 years there has been a rediscovery of the importance of the healing ministry in many Christian traditions. This has paralleled the changes in medical practice to a much stronger foundation in science. The Hebrew principle of the unity of the human personality is critical for healing in the fullest sense. The Holy Spirit has been nudging the church to develop a renewed understanding of its call to heal in the name of Christ to complement the explosive growth in medical knowledge.

On a 5th Sunday at St Mary's, the healing ministry is

now affirmed in a special Eucharist. However, it is important to remember that every Sunday, after the 9.45am service, one or two members of the healing ministry group are available in the Blessed Sacrament chapel for members of the congregation. We are there to listen quietly, and in strict confidence, to what anyone wishes to say and then to offer prayer in response to the spoken need. The need can be personal or that of a family member or friend. Either way, this ministry of prayer is a vital part of our common life within the body of Christ.

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful

# St Andrew's Church

West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



For Sunday Services see inside front cover

## Advent

On Advent **Sunday 2nd December** the first candle on the Advent ring will be lit to mark this season of preparation and expectation for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas and the coming of Christ in glory at the end of all time.

## St John Carol Service

Once again this year St John Ambulance will be holding their County Carol Service at St Andrew's Church on **Sunday 9th December** at 2.30pm The Order of St John is founded on Christian principles with the motto '*Pro fide Pro Utilitate Hominum*' For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity. There will be tea afterwards in the Village Hall.

## Christmas Cards

There will be a board at the back of the church from mid-December for anyone to pin one card from them to all in the church community. It is suggested that the cost and postage saved is donated to the church for its upkeep using the box near the door

## Christmas Gifts

During the year store cupboard groceries are collected for families and those in need, mainly from Crossways. Please continue with these donations but please also consider contributing towards vouchers to be used at their local Co-op so the families may choose their own treats for Christmas. There will be a special envelope in church for cash donations at services during Advent

## Coffee and Chat

The Coffee and chat for December will be held in church on Saturday 29th December from 10-12noon Everyone welcome to pop in or stay all morning and perhaps share leftover Christmas treats (no turkey or sprouts!) Coffee and Chat for January will be on Saturday 26th January

## Christmas Services

### Sunday 16th December

10am Parish Communion (said) Advent 3  
6.30pm Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols

### Sunday 23rd December

10am Come and Worship Advent 4

### Monday 24th December

10am Making Christingles in Church  
4.30pm Crib and Christingle with Nativity Play

Everyone adults or children is invited to come to this service dressed as a character from the Nativity Story. There will be costumes for children available at the church from 4pm. The Christingle part of the service will include a collection for the Children's Society and gathering the collecting 'candles'.

11.15pm Midnight Communion with Carols

### Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

10am Christmas Communion for all the Family with Carols



The collections from Christmas services apart from the Christingle will be given to *Young Minds* a Mental Health charity working with children and adolescents

### Sunday 30th December

10am Christmas Communion with Carols

## Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated on **Sunday 6th January**. On the 4th Sunday of January (Sunday 27th) the 10am service will be a said Holy Communion

## December Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Hide; 3, Disgrace; 9, Sonship; 10, Oaths; 11, Tutti; 12, Ignore; 14, Foreknowledge; 17, Ashram; 19, Men or; 22, Aroma; 23, Nineveh; 24, Amethyst; 25, Trod.  
DOWN: 1, His staff; 2, Do not; 4, Imprisonments; 5, Groan; 6, Altered; 7, Easy; 8, Shrink; 13, Searched; 15, Restore; 16, Lament; 18, Reach; 20, Never; 21, Jada.



# An interview with Alistair Chisholm

Jill Bryant



Alistair Chisholm is Dorchester's Town Crier. He has lived in Dorchester for 25 years and is a Town Councillor and a Blue Badge Guide with great enthusiasm and knowledge for the County Town.

**When are you at your happiest?**

When I am in busy, vibrant, cosmopolitan London and realise that people can all live together and share a common life. Part of that happiness lies in knowing I can return to the splendour and beauty of Dorset and Dorchester.

**What is your greatest fear?**

As a species we react too slowly to climate change and will lose so much that is wonderful in the natural world.

**What is your earliest memory?**

Falling out of my pram aged two!

**Who has been your greatest influence?**

Nelson Mandela. I visited South Africa and witnessed apartheid. Nelson Mandela had the foresight and determination to work for peaceful transition, to find common ground and to heal wounds. He was a great statesman.

**Which living person do you most admire? And why?**

Angela Merkel for taking in 1.5 refugees, truly humanitarian act. I wish this country would have done more.

**What is the trait you most deplore in others?**

A lack of humour, and discrimination – everyone has something to contribute to society and should be valued.

**What did you want to be when you were growing up?**

Mostly I did not want to be a bank clerk like my father! I knew I wanted to travel and that I

preferred the excitement of the unknown to the predictability of the known. I toyed with the thought of being a train driver, but it would have to have been a steam train!

**Do you have any pets?**

Two cats called Tipoo and Riley. I would love to have a shaggy dog again with whom to enjoy the wonderful countryside round Dorchester.

**Favourite book?**

Brewers' Dictionary of Phrase and Fable. It is a wonderful tome to dip into.

**Favourite film?**

The Night of the Iguanas starring Richard Burton.

**Favourite piece of music?**

Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue which was my father's favourite, also Roy Orbison singing You're Not Alone Anymore by the Travelling Wilburys.

**Favourite meal?**

Nasi Goreng (fried rice) and fried prawns from the open market in Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo, East Malaysia.

**How do you relax?**

With difficulty! I try to sit still and ignore the thoughts of things I ought to be doing. I am not often successful.

**What single thing would improve the quality of your life?**

For my son to emerge from his tunnel of confusion and put his wonderful knowledge, wit, musical skills and life experience to achieve the full potential I know he has.

**Tell us something about yourself that might surprise people?**

I hesitate and question myself about what I am doing. I have many doubts and don't convince myself all the time that I am doing the right thing. I know something has to be done or things will never change.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

Discovering that established councillors can be unseated with little more than honesty, transparency and a sincere respect for people. This gives me hope for the future.

**How would you like to be remembered?**

I would like to be a ghostly town crier who puts the fear of God into those not doing the best for the town – I would keep those people awake! I would like to be remembered as someone who played a small part in renewing respect for and knowledge of Dorchester, a small town with a big story, and for helping STAND (Save The Area North of Dorchester) to victory.

# St Simon & St Jude

Church Correspondent: Celia Robertson



## Funny what one remembers!

This year's Armistice day on November 11th was the 100th anniversary of the end of the first world war to the day – very few families were left intact when hostilities were over. My Father was in the trenches, but when both his elder brothers were killed – one on the Somme, the other at Gallipoli – he returned home to run the family business. I think this happened because initially it was a factory making farm machinery, but converted to manufacturing munitions in support of the war effort, and this must have saved his life.

I was five when the second war broke out and I well remember my Mother sticking up all the black-out curtains which had to be drawn at dusk every day. So important was the blackout to one of my tender years, that I was quite traumatised if inadvertently I turned on the light in an un-blacked out room. I also remember how freezing it was going to school in the pony trap (no petrol) and at the end of the day, waiting the best part of three quarters of an hour at Dorchester West station for the rail motor to take me home – always of course with my gas mask slung over the opposite shoulder to my school bag. Two of my cousins lived with us for most of the war – Nicholas (my age) and I were quite a handful and we, by today's reckoning, had a great deal of freedom. I remember we had gone up to Maiden Castle to make a 'den' in one of the deserted shepherd's huts. I up-ended an old stove pipe and out fell 3 live hand grenades – I guess left behind by the home guard after an exercise. My Mother was quite shocked – we were quite unmoved! The war years were a life of bikes, rations and, after the Americans arrived in 1944, of chewing gum – great gobs of it stuck under every seat and table. We were asked to make the American soldiers welcome, inviting them into our homes: I well remember a friend of my parents laughing because one of their guests had spread a whole week's butter ration on one slice of bread!

The convoys of tanks, trucks, and files of marching men passing just by our house seemed endless: Nicholas and I sometimes stood at the edge of the road passing up flowers and good luck messages – I think my parents would have had a fit if they had seen us doing it as the tanks rumbled by close to our toes! but it was worth it for the sweets and the odd orange that got thrown to us! My Mother and her sister drove the YMCA van to the various camp sites dotted around the countryside with comforts for the guys manning the search-lights

and anti-aircraft guns. Shortly before D-day they went up to the Verne on top of Portland, then a camp site, and came home convinced in their parlance, that "the balloon was about to go up". The harbour was full of landing craft loading up vehicles from the new rubble quays built out into the harbour, and the bay full of the ones ready to leave. Then we saw waves of allied bombers passing over head on the way out to bomb the enemy. Around here we also had a unit of "free French" soldiers, camping under the trees that lined the Dorchester-Weymouth road. The sense of anticipation was tense and thrilling – and then suddenly, they all went.....and news came in from the landings in France. My father had a map over the wireless (a great big wooden affair with a canvas front) and he put flags to mark the positions of the forces as they advanced. My father was exempt from active service as he was a farmer, but a very dedicated member of the Home Guard. He drove the entire agricultural work-force over to Martinstown for their weekly drill in a huge old Humber car with an engine one could recognise a mile away. Funny what one remembers! Celia Robertson



# Dorchester Churches Together

Compiled by Val Potter 264416



## Carols at Christmas

Get your last minute Christmas shopping off to a good start by joining in with a few carols in South Street on 24th December, 9.30 – 10.30am. It is good to pause in all that busyness to sing out the message of Christ's birth, and to raise much needed funds for Christian Aid.

## Christmas Shopping

Many people say that what they like about Dorchester is the wide range of small individual shops that are a bit different from the national chains. The Town Chaplains visit them on a regular basis and know that they would appreciate more of your custom this Christmas to keep them going after quite a hard year for many of them.

## Tackling Poverty

### Universal Credit:

At a recent open meeting of Dorchester Poverty Action Daniel Cadisch from the Citizens Advice Bureau gave an excellent talk on Universal Credit and issues arising from its introduction. The principle of simplifying the benefit system is applauded but its introduction has had many problems, meaning that many people have no income for several weeks. The Credit Union is attempting to find ways to help and prevent crises.

### Winter Fuel Allowance:

Maybe you receive the Winter Fuel Allowance but think that others might need the money more than you do, please consider joining people across the country who donate their allowance to charity to help those who will find it difficult to heat their homes this winter. Dorchester Poverty Action would be very grateful for donations.

### The Dorford Food Bank:

The report of the year showed that in 2018 the following people used the food bank: 105 couples, 196 single people and 81 families. The total number of food bags issued was 854 bags which is a 14.5% increase on the previous year. The following items are regularly needed: sugar, long life milk, coffee, jams, shampoo and toilet rolls.

### How to Help:

At this time of year many of us want to help those less fortunate than ourselves - in this country and

across the world. For this country, see the website of Church Action on Poverty: [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk) For the wider world see Christian Aid's website, [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) Their Christmas campaign is to promote local peacemaking initiatives in countries of conflict, including South Sudan.

## Quiet Space

The delightful large scale nativity model will be in place in the Quiet Space garden again this year over the Christmas period, so do find time to go and see it. It needed some repairs since last year after it was damaged by storms when it was sited outside in the car park.

## Ecology Matters

Single use plastics will continue to be the theme for activity in the New Year and it is good to hear that the Town Council is exploring the possibility of the idea of becoming a Plastic Free Town, particularly by encouraging businesses and individuals to reject single use plastics in packaging and drinks.

## Only Justice...

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019

The theme and material for 2019 originates from the churches of Indonesia, where there is a strong emphasis upon the need for unity alongside the nation's ethnic and religious diversity. The resources also highlight issues of economic injustice and how religious pluralism can face challenges in the face of radicalisation. The theme is based around Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...'

The week will start with a united service on Sunday January 20th at 4.30pm at St Mary's Church, Charminster – led by Rev. Brenda Stephenson, vice-chair of Churches Together in Dorchester.

There will then be 5 daily services at 12 mid-day in 5 different venues and each half hour service will be followed by a very simple soup lunch.

Monday Jan 21st	St Mary's Church, (led by David Bowen, Chair of Churches Together in Dorchester)
Tuesday, January 22nd	Holy Trinity Church,
Wednesday, January 23rd	Quaker Meeting House, (Holloway Rd, Fordington)
Thursday January 24th	The Quiet Space
Friday January 25th	United Church

# Thoughts, Smiles and Christmas wishes from the Editor

Now we are heading fast to Christmas the children are all very excited and getting old enough to worry about buying Christmas presents. So as usual we will set off to town with their saved money to shop and guess what, Grandma will buy the lot!!

Rocco in high dudgeon at half term with the task to revise for "Mock Exams". He could see no logic is doing mock exams and flatly refused, saying, "I am not doing exams twice, it's either an exam or not so which do you want me to do, mock or the real thing. If I do a mock it means the teacher will never know how much I have learnt or how much I have looked up because I had not listened". It has been difficult to argue with him, as usual.



Rocco on left with money and Stanley on right with gifts at the end of crib service in St Mary's Dorchester Christmas Eve 2017 hoping for a big retiring collection, no one got past them to hang up their stocking if they could help it, bless them .

## A few little smiles to take us into 2019

### A loud whistle

During the minister's sermon one Sunday, there was suddenly a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Jamie's mother was horrified. She glared him into silence and, after church, asked, 'Jamie, whatever made you do such a thing?'

Jamie explained: 'I've been asking God to teach me to whistle for ages, and suddenly, He did!'

### No, not any

The manager of the garden centre came out of his office to hear Jenkins, one of his most trusted assistants,

saying to a lady customer: 'No madam, we certainly haven't had any for some time, and who knows when we will get any.' When the customer had gone, the manager tackled him: 'I heard that, Jenkins,' he remonstrated, 'and I must say that I am surprised at you. Never, never admit to a customer that we can't get them something. That's what we're here for. If it's out of stock, tell her you'll get it for her soon. Now, what was it the lady wanted?'

'Rain,' said Jenkins simply.

### The Party

Welcome to this last edition of the Parish Magazine 2018 and first of 2019. There is a story I heard of a mayor of a small town who had brought in so many improvements to local life over several year's he has transformed the town. So the community decided it was high time to pay him a tribute. The Party was held in the town hall the decorations were superb, the music was loud, the room crowded and the wine flowed. It was only next day people asked who had seen the Mayor and discovered he had been waiting at home for a lift and everyone was so busy they forgot him, he missed the party. We will, I am sure, this Christmas remember all who need company as we sing carols and watch nativity plays, remembering this is God's party his birthday and he is and will always be with us.

## A loving community

Over the years I have been editor I have got to know well many people from the town and villages and our churches and whenever, as I did for Remembrance, I ask for help it has appeared, my prayers have been answered. I consider myself very blessed being part of such a loving community and want to thank each and every one, without all your help, stories, jokes, pictures, patience and prayers I could not do this job. May Christmas be all you wish for, may the magic of Midnight Mass stay with us all year and may I share my favourite Christmas Eve prayer with you .

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

# Bookworm

Jean Lang



If God did not forgive, Paradise would be empty (*Arab Proverb*)

In October 2008 I went on holiday to Syria. I travelled with my husband in a small group of 14 with a lecturer who was an Arabic speaker and had been Her Majesty's Ambassador. We also had the benefit of a local guide, a fluent English speaker who had written a paper on Lady Jane Digby's travels to Syria with her third husband Sheikh Medjuel el Mezrab in the 1840s! The tour started in Damascus where we



visited the Great Mosque previously a Byzantine Cathedral and before that a Temple to Jupiter. We walked down "The street called Straight" and saw the chapel of Ananias. From Damascus we went south to Bosra, to Homs and across to the great Crusader Castle of Crac de Chevalier where in the ruins of the Christian chapel our guide made our hair stand on end with his

unearthly call to prayer. We stayed at Palmyra and Aleppo, visited a Druse village and St Simeon's monastery with the stone stump of the pillar on which sat St Simon Stylites. We were conscious of a shared heritage between the Alawite minority, Sunni Muslims, the Syrian Christians, the Druse and the small Jewish community. Although we were aware of the dictatorial power of the ruling Assad dynasty the country felt at ease with itself.

In March 2011 Syrian Security forces shot dead protestors in the southern town of Deraa, the unrest continued and turned into a full-scale civil war leading to widespread devastation and the destruction of the

historic centres of Aleppo and Palmyra with well supported allegations of the use of chemical weapons. Conservatively some 465,000 Syrians have been killed, with over 1 million injured and 12 million (more than half the population) displaced.

"My house in Damascus" by Diana Darke tells the story of the breakdown of Syria from a very personal perspective. Diana Darke first visited Syria in 1978. In 2005 she was on a research trip to Damascus writing an English guidebook. She came upon an open door and going through it found herself in a courtyard house in the old part of the city. A young man explained that he was an architect and was engaged on restoration projects and this "Bait Siba'i" dating from the 17th and 18th century was one of the earliest. She became fascinated and even more by the information that such houses were available for purchase and on 4th July 2005 she became the owner of Bait Baroudi - the house of the Gunpowder Seller.

This book tells the story of the renovation of the house, the neighbours around it and the people who helped in the work to it. However, her story goes much further because it follows her local friends and neighbours as their lives crumble in the civil war. Diana Darke's last visit to her house was in 2013 it had gradually (and with her permission) been taken over by displaced families, the numbers ranging from 5 to over 30. She explains the course of the civil war, the reasons for it and outlines the atrocities perpetrated by both sides. She has great faith in the Syrian people only 20% of whom are involved in the fighting and most of whom want a return to the old certainties with the long tradition of religious tolerance, but she is not optimistic. Revenge runs deep in Arab culture and, tellingly, looking for Arab proverbs on forgiveness she found only one.

This is a sobering book, beautifully written and worth reading. It is a reminder of just how thin the veneer of civilisation is and how difficult to redeem that which is lost.

**"My House in Damascus"** By Diana Darke

Haus Publishing (PB) £14.99



Please submit copy for the February issue by 12th January at the latest to the Editor at [morrisseyobe@gmail.com](mailto:morrisseyobe@gmail.com)

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