BRO FAMAU GROUP OF CHURCHES MAGAZINE



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November 2016

IN THIS EDITION

- Adrían's last Paríshes Letter
- Baptísm as entry to communion
- Prayer Díary
- Around the parishes
- Plus all the usual features

The magazine committee want to express their appreciation of the experience, time and care Adrian has put into this magazine over the last two years. We believe it has been established as a valuable channel of ministry, mainly due to his oversight and diligence.

Thank you Adrian, and we hope to carry on the good work!

LETTERS:

If you wish to submit a letter for publication please use the contact details above. All letters must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. Letters may be edited and shortened.

The magazine panel welcomes the submission of relevant articles for consideration for publication.

email to brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com

THE PARISHES LETTER...Canon Adrian Copping

This seems strange! Fingers on PC keyboard for my last Parishes Magazine Letter. Before doing this I thought I would steer clear of either a sentimental look backwards or certainly steer well clear of a forward look into a life of unadulterated laziness or maybe perhaps a life of just gin unadulterated by too much tonic! In the end I remembered something somebody asked me a few months ago - what do I think will be 'the things I will miss'.

Of course sometimes we don't know what we will miss. As the great singersongwriter Joni Mitchell wrote in the nineteen sixties

"They paved paradise And put up a parking lot With a pink hotel, a boutique And a swinging hot spot Don't it always seem to go That you don't know what you've got 'Till it's gone They paved paradise And put up a parking lot."

There are of course several ways to 'miss things'. One is to 'really, really miss' them. The other is, as they say to 'miss it like a hole in the head'. I imagine that in any situation of work or similar retirement brings a mixture of the two. Here are three of each – and none is intended to offend in any way.

IN THE 'MISS LIKE A HOLE IN THE HEAD' CATEGORY.....

PCC Meetings – at least with this one I know that I am not alone! Of course I may feel this particularly intensely because in my seven years here I have attended around 170 PCC or Annual Vestry meetings, which if I had been a one-parish priest would have been the equivalent of about 35 years worth!

Getting up for 8.00 am services in the deep winter – please note the 'getting up for'. It has not been the worship itself, just the putting on of the multiple layers required if you suspect that 'the 8 o'clock' is just going to be the first of three services where you can see your own breath!

Discussing the sermon 'illustration' and not the point of the sermon! OK I realise some of you may be thinking 'does he mean me?' but many people do this and I have not been unknown to do it myself in the past. It's nice to be asked about some local or personal anecdote but the sermon is not a great success if people want to talk about the illustration rather than what it is trying to illustrate.

AND, IN THE 'REALLY, REALLY, MISS' CATEGORY.....

Baptisms, weddings and funerals – I suppose only somebody who officiates at funerals could say that but all three of those things each are the main contact between clergy and people outside the group of regular worshippers and, of course that means most people. It is often said that the church does not touch many people today but, at least through that part of a parish priest's work it does and it is a real privilege to be close to people at such important times of their life. Standing direct-

ly in front of an often nervous couple to lead them through a wedding service and inviting them to turn to each other and make their lifelong commitment to each other is a stunning privilege.

Being a Parish Priest – of course when you retire from this role you don't cease to be a priest (unless of course you do something, very, very naughty!). There is much work in being a parish priest but we Jesus tells us that his yoke is easy to bear and that the burden he gives us is light (Matthew 11.30) and it is both a privilege and a joy. Most of all I have enjoyed trying to preach God's Word, celebrating the sacraments, being a visible sign of the presence of Christ's Church, playing a part in the life of the parishes, and, I hope, encouraging, equipping and enabling you to join in. As a retired priest I will, I pray, be able to do some of these things free from all the paraphernalia of parish organisation. At the same time to be in a position of leadership in the Church of God is something I have been blessed to experience.

You – Having talked about the community as a whole, it the people who are involved on a regular basis in the life of the church that play such a vital part in making each church what it is – and which impact directly with the day to day working life of each parish priest. Of course each one of us is loved and treasured by God and at the same we are, as St Paul writes,' fragile vessels', 'jars of clay' (2 Corinthians 4.7). As someone else puts it we are all 'cracked pots or maybe some of us crackpots!' Our differences mean we don't always get on well together but the differences are the joy because if we were all exactly the same it would clearly be deadly boring. Of course after seven years in these parishes and twelve in North Wales it is going to be a big thing to leave so many people and so many memories behind. As I think most will now by now we are to return to East Anglia where our two sons, their wives/partners, and five (soon to be six) grandchildren are. It may well be that we (to adapt Joni Mitchell's words) 'won't know exactly what we will miss 'till its gone but North Wales has been a special place and surely, along with other friends in the Church in Wales, you the people of these parishes will be the biggest 'miss' of all.

With really every blessing

Adrian

WORSHIP in NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday 6th N0vember 3rd Sunday before Advent

Cilcain 11.00 Morning Worship
Gwernaffield 11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Holy Communion (Healing Service)

Llanferres 9.30 Morning Worship
Nannerch 9.30 Holy Communion
Rhydymwyn 9.30 Morning Worship

Wednesday 9th November Mission Area Holy Communion

19.30 Nannerch

Sunday 13th November 20th Sunday before Advent

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Cilcain 10.55 for 11.00 Remembrance Service

Gwernaffield 11.00 Remembrance Service

18.00 Evening Prayer

Llanferres 10.15 Remembrance Service

Nannerch 10.55 for 11.00 Remembrance Service

Rhydymwyn 9.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 20th November CHRIST THE KING

BRO FAMAU GROUP CHURCHES HOLY COMMUNION On the occasion of the retirement of Adrian & Diane Copping St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain 10.30

Followed by Buffet Lunch in the Village Hall

Gwernaffield 16.00 MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall

Please note there are no other services on this Sunday

Sunday 27th November ADVENT SUNDAY

Cilcain 11.00 Holy Communion

Gwernaffield 9.30 Family Praise (in Church Hall)

18.00 Advent Sunday Group Service of

Hymns and Readings

Llanferres 9.30 Morning Worship

Nannerch 9.30 Morning Worship

Rhydymwyn 9.30 Morning Worship

Mid week Holy Communion Tuesdays at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield

9 30 a m

Wednesdays at St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain

10 30 a m



FOLLOWED BY A PRESENTATION AND BUFFET **LUNCH IN CILCAIN VILLAGE HALL** NO TICKETS NEEDED —ALL WELCOME

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

18 September - at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield,

Woody George Belton

2 October - at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield,

Freddie Thomas Williams

2 October - at St John the Evangelist, Rhydymwyn,

Gwyn Evans

16 October - at St Berres, Llanferres,

Jack Scott Quinn

16 October - at St John the Evangelist, Rhydymwyn,

Daniel Isaac Warburton

16 October - at St John the Evangelist, Rhydymwyn,

Emily Jane Warburton

Funerals

4 October - at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield,

the late Joan Bye

18 October- at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield,

the late Charles George Derek Roberts.

19 October - at St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain, and Pentre Bychan Crema-

torium, the late Vivian Williams

'Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and let light perpetual shine upon them'

Thank You

Kath Mason has asked that her thanks be conveyed to all those kind people for sending the Cards, Gifts and Good Wishes after her recent Hip Replacement

Baptism as entry to Communion

Adrian's obvious joy at the decision of the Bench of Bishops to remove confirmation as the prelude to receiving communion was shared by me. It means, as Adrian wrote in the last magazine, that children and others who are baptised but not confirmed will be able to receive the elements during communion, with appropriate arrangements for under - fives and older children who will need permission from parents/ guardians to take wine.

The decision does raise some questions and bring long - standing debates into focus. One is about whether infant baptism is right - many people think it should wait until children are old enough to make a decision about whether they want to belong to Christ themselves. Another is, does it change what happens at confirmation - does that rite become irrelevant?

Firstly infant baptism, about which for many years I was undecided. I was baptised in St. Michael's Church, Shotwick. There is a photograph taken outside the church, in which most of the men were in uniform, because it was still wartime.

I had the invisible cross of Christ placed on my head and from that time belonged to his Church. I went to Sunday-School with some reluctance, but liked it when I got there because there were other boys to play with. I went to church, especially with my school (St. Thomas of Canterbury in Chester.) Later on when I had the choice I went spasmodically, except during my early teens when there was a girl in the choir I liked who drew me there three times one Sunday and I was commended by my godfather - if only he knew the truth I thought as I smiled angelically. I must have repeated the baptismal vows many times before they began to have much meaning. After confirmation, it seemed grown-up to take communion with the adults, but the true meaning grew slowly. Like everyone else. I have had difficult times, and have experienced the love of God through other Christians. I started studying to be a Reader almost by accident when our vicar appealed generally for candidates - or was it the working of God's will? As a result of all this, I think I understand what my baptism meant as I could not when I was much younger. I hope this understanding will continue to grow until the end of my life.

My mind was made up that infant baptism is correct by reading Martin Luther on the subject. He acknowledges that babies have no interest in baptism, which is not of their choosing. As they grow and if they attend services, there are frequent opportunities to repeat the baptismal vows. Baptism, though a one-off ritual, is a lifetime preparation to meet the risen Lord.

In daily life we are often submerged in dangerous waters and every time we come back to God it is a resurrection, in which we repeat our baptism if we will receive it. The receptive soul grows in meekness, tolerance and love for others daily, so that by the end of our lives we are ready to meet Jesus. Those who are snatched away early, perhaps unformed as Christians, are gathered into his loving arms.

Children who receive during Communion will come close to Jesus and will learn that whatever problems they have in their lives his is a constant presence that can be trusted. They will learn about their baptism from adults who were there, from their baptismal certificate and perhaps photos. But they will learn about a constant and repeated baptism whenever they encounter Jesus at the communion rail and in the promises they make. They become aware of the risen Christ in their lives.

Speaking of learning brings us to our other topic, that of preparation for confirmation. A few years ago, I went to a talk by Bishop Colin Bazeley. He retired as the Anglican Bishop of Chile; when he went there years before they were chronically short of priests and all other ministers. There were also families from the United States whose children had been used to receiving during communion. The solution found was to allow children to receive, and because there was no urgency for confirmation, delay it until mid to late teenage years. When they started to prepare, the candidates were told they were being trained for ministry, which could stop at confirmation if they wished, but they could go on to be worship leaders, pastoral assistants, readers or to be ordained. By this means they eventually had a good supply of all sorts of ministers, lay and ordained.

I think we could do something similar by re-considering the training we give confirmation candidates. It needs to cover the present ground, but have extra content, that persuades the willing soul to go on and learn more. We have entered a new era in which discernment for many new types of ministry will be available and need to find the people to fill these places from within our local churches. We should feed the enthusiasm of young people by offering them all the training they want. We will thereby enable a new generation of Christians to support the body of Christ, his Church. That is, God working through us will renew the Church as he does from age to age.

John Foxlee

INFORMAL PRAYER GROUP

The informal prayer group that has been meeting in the resources room at Holy Trinity Church, Gwernaffield on every other Tuesday will continue to meet on Tuesdays 1st and 15th November at 8pm

PLEASE NOTE

The magazine contact email address is now brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com

This magazine can be viewed online at http://stmaryscilcain.btck.co.uk/ParishesMagazine

ANSWERS ACROSS: 1, Charloteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysoprase. Down: 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Olils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.



St MARTIN DE PORRES

Martin was born in 1579 in Lima, Peru, the son of a former slave. He grew up in poverty and was taken in by a religious order as a servant boy. The monks looked down on Martin because he was mixed-race but in time his behaviour led to the Dominican Order stopping their racial limits on admission and he was made a full brother. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor, starting an orphanage and a children's hospital.

During his lifetime he was seen in other places. An African slave said Martin came to comfort him and many others. When the same man later saw him in Peru, he was very happy to meet him again and asked Martin if he had had a good voyage; but Martin had never left Lima.

In pictures, Martin de Porres is shown as a young man with a broom, since he thought all work sacred, no matter how lowly. He is also shown with a dog, cat and mouse, all eating in peace from the one dish.

DOG, CAT & MOUSE

St Martin de Porres is often with shown mice because. according to one story, monastery had problems with rodents and decided to put traps out. Martin was so upset that he spoke to the mice and agreed that if they would leave the monastery, he would feed them at the back door of the kitchen. From that day forward, mouse was seen in the monastery.

Which of these animals do you think are actually mentioned by name in the Bible?

- 1. Cat
- 2. Horse
- 3. Dog
- Mouse
- Lamb
- 6. Frog
- 7. Monkey
- 8. Lion
- 9. Donkey
- 10. Ox



Answers at the bottom of the page.

How does a group of dolphins make a decision?

Flipper coin.

How do sheep sign their letters?

'Ewes sincerely.'

Answer: all are in the Bible except numbers 1 and 7, the cat and the monkey.

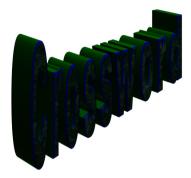
PRAYER DIARY OCTOBER 2016

ON THESE DAYS OF THIS MONTH LET US GIVE THANKS AND PRAY FOR.....

- 1. All Saints Day. For the informal prayer group meeting at 7pm in Gwernaffield Resources Room,
- All Souls Day, remembering those who have departed in the love of Christ
- 3. Feast day of St Winifred and St Martin of Porres, whose story is told on our children's page
- 4. For pub and catering workers in our Bro Famau
- 5. That everyone will be safe and enjoy bonfires today
- For Wendy Shillito, our Reader-in-training, as she preaches for the first time at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield
- 7. For quarry workers in our Bro Famau
- 8. A day on which we remember all the Saints of Wales
- 9. The Mission Area Holy Communion at Nannerch at 7.30pm
- 10. Feast day of St Leo, Bishop and Doctor.
- 11. Armistice Day, when we give thanks for peace.
- 12. For all who work on the land in our Bro Famau
- 13. For those who are remembered in Remembrance services today and those whom only God knows.
- 14. For pupils, teachers, other workers and parents in our Bro Famau schools
- 15. For the informal prayer group meeting at 7pm in Gwernaffield Resources Room

- 16. Feast day of St Margaret of Scotland
- 17. The Mission Area Conference at 7pm in St. James' Church Hall
- 18. Feast day of St Hilda, Abbess
- 19. For an exploratory spirituality half-day at St Margaret's Wrexham
- 20. For Adrian & Diane at the celebration of their ministry at the joint service in St Mary's Cilcain.
- 21. For the magazine committee meeting at 6.30pm in the Resources Room, Gwernaffield
- 22. For the midweek Holy Communion celebrated at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield
- 23. For the midweek Holy Communion at St. Mary's Cilcain today
- 24. For all who are ill in our Bro Famau, and for health workers.
- 25. Feast day of John Donne, priest and poet.
- 26. For shop workers in our Bro Famau
- 27. On Advent Sunday, for the next Church year, and looking to the coming of Christ our Lord at the end of time.
- 28. For Rae, Bro Famau administrator and Emily, Mold Mission Area Development Officer
- 29. For the Gwernaffield Mother's Union meeting at 7pm in the Resources Room
- 30. Feast day of St Andrew





The Bible version used in our crossword is the NIV.

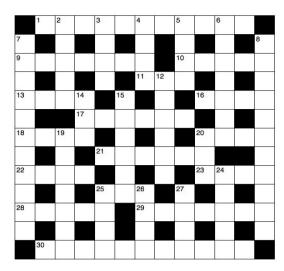
Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in 'Three Down, Nine Across.' by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)

Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4) 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

2 'We have a building from God, an eternal



house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)

- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

AROUND THE PARISHES

CILCAIN

Harvest Festival

The Harvest service this year was held on a Sunday ,the 2nd of October. As it was the first Sunday in the month the service was held in the North Aisle and had 26 in the congregation including two under 5s. Amanda led the service and Adrian was the preacher . It was a lovely informal service with the Harvest gifts being taken to the Food Bank ,as was the collection of £61 . Following the service half the congregation remained for a delicious Bring and Share lunch ,many thanks to all who brought gifts and food for the lunch and made it a lovely day of friendship and fellowship.

Ysgol v Foel

The Children from Ysgol y Foel came to church on 20th October to celebrate their School Harvest. It was a delight to welcome them all into church

Cilcain Young Farmers.

This year it was the turn of the church to host the Cilcain Young Farmers' celebration of Harvest. This took place during the evening of Tuesday 25th October and John Foxlee worked with the young farmers to present the service.

GWERNAFFIELD

Mold Food Bank

Donations are very welcome and can be brought to the back of the church.

Mothers' Union

New members are always welcome – we meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Church Hall. Please telephone Mrs Gaynor Morgan (secretary) on 01352 741515 for more information.

Claire House Children's Hospice

We are pleased to report that we have recently raised £196.00 for the Claire House Children's Hospice from our weekly post-Communion refreshments, which are held in the Church Hall every Tuesday following the 9.30am Holy Communion service.

New Church Warden

Canon Adrian is delighted to announce the appointment of a second Warden, a post which has been vacant since the Vestry Meeting in the spring. Kath Stanton has been appointed for a period of one year to help the situation after Adrian's retirement and during the vacancy. Kath will join Peter Davies as the other Warden and Madge Newton, sub-Warden.

Congratulations

Best wishes to our Warden, Peter Davies and his wife Tracy on their recent marriage. We wish them many years of happiness.

Harvest Supper

A big thank you to everyone who both helped at and attended our recent Harvest Supper. We all had an enjoyable evening eating, chatting and listening to the beautiful Harp playing by Caitlin Lovell. We raised over £100 towards Church funds.

Flintshire Foodbank

Send their thanks to everyone at Gwernaffield Church for their very generous contributions. They were delighted with the four very large crates we filled. At present they are short of tinned vegetables and rice pudding. Thank you.

Quiz Night with Fish and Chips

This will be held on Saturday 22nd October at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. Tickets are £8.00 including a glass of wine or fruit juice. To book a place ring 01352 740431 or 01352 740330.

Christmas Fair

Holy Trinity will be manning a white elephant stall at the Playing Fields Christmas Fair being held on Saturday 26th November next in the Church Hall. If you have any items suitable for sale, please contact Carole on 01352 740550, thank you.

RHYDYMWYN

Craft Group

This craft group meets every 2 weeks on Thursday from 2-4pm. At present we are knitting baby items for local hospitals. If you are interested in any craftwork then join us. Phone Sue 741921

Carol Service

This year our Carol Service will be held on December 11th at 3pm. We are being joined by Greg Morris, our organist and his quintet. Light refreshments after the service.

Bonfire Night

On the morning of November 5th the village folk will be building the bonfire in readiness for the evening. It is customary for us to serve refreshments in the church porch to the 'Bonfire Builders'. If you are able to help in the morning to serve drinks etc please come along.

LLANFERRES

Harvest Supper

It was nice to see the village hall full of local people enjoying sharing a meal together for the Harvest Supper. The tables looked pretty with fresh flowers and there was an amazing selection of food to enjoy. Well done and thank you to all who organised, prepared food and helped on the night. £166 was also raised through a raffle and donations.

Harvest Services

Gay Headley would like to thank her fabulous flower arranging team and all those who donated flowers or cash to help decorate the church for the Harvest service. The church looked beautiful with lots of lovely yellows. The food donations will be taken to the Flintshire foodbank. The children at Ysgol Bro Famau also enjoyed a harvest service at school with Adrian on 3rd October.

Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Sunday service is on Sunday 13th November starting in church at 10.15am before everyone makes their way up to the war memorial for 11am.

NANNERCH

Croeso Pawb

On Thursday 6th October, Nannerch Mothers' Union were in Ysgol Nannerch for Croeso Pawb. Our theme this time was 'Harvest/Autumn'. The craft activities resulted in colourful autumn trees and leaves, various designs of apples, wheat sheaves and large posters celebrating the Garden of Eden, the Garden of Gethsemane and the true vine. We finished our afternoon in Church with a service led by the children and refreshments.

Family Service and Harvest Breakfast

Many of the children involved on Thursday, were present on the Sunday with their families at our monthly Family Service, where the children played a significant role in exploring the themes of our school service. At the end nearly forty of us sat down to enjoy a Harvest Breakfast.

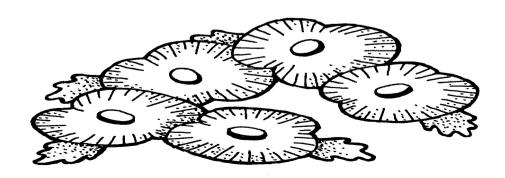
All donations received at the Harvest services have been delivered to Mold Food Bank.

Harvest Supper

There was a warm welcome for all at the Harvest Supper. The aroma from baking potatoes whetted everyone's appetite to be enjoyed after. The evening was rounded off by musical items from the group Blaise. The event raised £135 towards the Mothers' Union World Wide President's 140 Anniversary Challenge target of £140,000, for projects around the world. The next meeting of Rhydymwyn and Nannerch Mothers' Union is on 15th November in Nannerch at 2.00 until 4.00. The speaker will be Rev'd Hugh Burgess - topic - "My Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela".

Advent Celebration

Our Advent Celebration is to be held on Saturday 3rd December in Church. Further details to follow.



SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS PREVIEWED

Please use these introductions to prepare for worship. If you are a reader at home who is unable to come to church, you might like to use these pages, with your Bible, to join the congregation on a Sunday in the reading of the same passages.

Sunday 6th November - 3rd before Advent

- **Job 19: 23-27a.** Job asks that his words be written down as evidence, because he is confident that when he comes before God he will prove innocent of any great offence.
- **2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17.** Paul says that Christ's return will be preceded by evil in human form. His readers are to remain calm pursuing their own good deeds, because God has called and consecrated them.

Luke 20: 27-38. Jesus reveals one aspect of how things will be for us hereafter, in answer to what seems a mocking question about husbands and wives in heaven. The promise of Jesus is of a new kind of existence in the presence of God.

Sunday 13th November - 2nd before Advent

- **Malachi 4: 1-2a.** In a time when religious and moral values seemed to have been lost, this writer encourages the hope of a day when the Lord will come to destroy evil and heal the righteous.
- 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13. This reading concludes the three Sundays' excerpts from Paul's letter to those who expected the Lord's return at any moment. He urges them not to wait for it in idleness.
- Luke 21: 5-19 Luke, like Matthew and Mark, merges various sayings of Jesus about the destruction of Jerusalem with those about the end of time. The theme is of warning, and of God's judgement. We may well take this passage as a call for trust in God when the world seems to be collapsing into chaos.

Sunday 20th November - CHRIST THE KING

Jeremiah 23: 1-6. In Jeremiah's prophetic imagination, all those who have suffered from misguided or evil leadership will be gathered into a renewed kingdom. The new and perfect king, to come from the line of David, will carry the title, 'Lord of Righteousness.'

Colossians 1: 11-20. Paul wrote this letter to recall the church from divisive ideas to the centrality of Christ in their lives. He breaks into a great song of praise to Jesus, who was before all creation, the image of God on earth, our redeemer, and for ever supreme over all things everywhere.

Luke 23: 33-43. On the cross of Jesus, the written sign, 'The King of the Jews,' may have been intended as sarcasm, or mockery or insult. But Luke knew, as we know, that Christ is indeed a king, and we are citizens of his kingdom.

Sunday 27th November - ADVENT SUNDAY

Isaiah 2: 1-5. The Bible tells us much about God's dealings with his people. All our readings in the Advent season speak of the future in God's ultimate will. Even for Isaiah, in turbulent times, there is expectancy and the hope of peace, when all people will come together to worship the one who comes o us in holiness.

Romans 13: 11-14. Isaiah and all Israel expected a new age of the Messiah. For Paul's readers as for us, the new time has come - not yet in its fullness, but begun in the coming of Jesus Christ. Our behaviour must therefore be suitable to these decisive times, nearer every day to the Christ who will come again.

Matthew 24: 36-44. In this new church year, the gospel on most Sundays will be from that of Matthew. Here, Jesus has some warnings for his disciples about the final coming of the Son of Man. His kingdom will mean a separation between those who are expectant and those left unprepared. God may refuse those who eternally refuse him.

We would like this magazine to be a channel through which readers can express their opinions, and so would welcome letters on any subject. What about infant baptism, referred to in John Foxlee's article, since there is much divided opinion on this? But any topic related to the faith we have in common is suitable for debate. Please try to keep the letter short, and send them through your parish representative or direct to the email address given elsewhere in this issue. The editorial group may need to shorten contributions for reason of space or otherwise edit, but will always respond to the sender.

The Bro Famau Parishes Magazine is produced by the Editorial Team: Tracy Davies, Adrian Copping, John Foxlee, Charlotte Jaggard, Kathleen Mason, Liz Thomas, Lindsay Wilding. Please contact team members individually in parishes.

Articles printed in this publication may not represent the views of the church or all of its members. Final date for receiving material is 15th of each month at 12 noon. The right is reserved to edit submissions and the editorial team's decision about the content of the magazine is final.

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