

# Triangle



Winter 2009

## Message from the Manse

It's Advent again! That means that Christmas will soon be rushing up on us. And we all love Christmas, don't we! It involves a lot of hard work for a lot of people, and for some it brings painful memories of the past, but I suspect none of us would want to miss it out. We need something more than the New Year to look forward to during the dark days of December.

We can probably all agree that the commercial aspect of Christmas has got out of hand, and that it all starts far too early, but let's remember the true meaning of Christmas. "Christmas is for the children" we say, and so it is, but we can say more than that: "Christmas is for Christians!" Of course we want children to enjoy the wonder and excitement of it all, but have you ever tried to explain the real meaning of Christmas to a child? I'm not thinking of reindeer, robins and Father Christmas, or even of angels, shepherds and wise men. I'm thinking of the God of all creation, born as a human being in great poverty and vulnerability, coming to this earth for you and for me and for all of us, so that we might be forgiven and know for ourselves something of His love and His care. Aren't we selling the whole season short if we don't celebrate that? Otherwise it just becomes an excuse for a few days off, indulging ourselves with all the goodies on offer.

But there really is something to celebrate. It's the message of God Himself getting involved in our lives. The message of Christmas is that He truly does care about every one of us. He cares enough to be born for us as the baby of Bethlehem. May you have a wonderful Christmas!

With Christian greetings,

*Robert*

(Rev. Robert Ely)



# Springdale Vestry News

As we approach winter, I am sure that we can look back to September, through to November with a wonderful feeling that we used every moment to come together as a Church family.

Two concerts were arranged to raise money for the Church Development Fund. Helen & Eleanor Cooper, with help from friends, put together a superb programme of different types of music. The second concert was by Penn Singers and guests. Once again, an excellent programme to satisfy all tastes. Thanks to everyone who organised or took part in the concerts.

Many thanks must go to our Scout group for providing our Harvest Supper. The guests thoroughly enjoyed their meal as they listened to Helen play the piano. Our very own ecumenical poetry group entertained everyone with a good selection from their repertoire. A wonderful night leading into the Sunday morning Harvest Festival service. Once again, all the groups who use Springdale helped to decorate the church. All of the produce was collected by the little brothers from the Good Shepherd centre.

Family Hot Pot began with 50 people attending, which was a wonderful beginning to such an amazing concept. The enthusiasm of the organisers, the helpers and the children bodes well for the future. This is a real opportunity to reach out to local families and schools. Thanks to everyone.

The Traidcraft stall run by Teresa is such a positive part of our church life. Teresa and Robert were very generous to open their house for 2 days for the sale of Traidcraft goods. They were very pleased with the support of members of the Wombourne, Gospel Ash and Springdale churches.

An ecumenical event to mark One World Week was hosted by Springdale. Robert led the service, Helen & Julian produced an alternative type of quiz and we all shared a World Faith tea. It is so inspiring to sit with, talk to and share tea with other members of the Penn Churches.

Trick & Treat, a free family fun evening with puppets, games, snakes, magic and escapology was held on 31 October. Mark and Amy organised the event to encourage local families into our church to come and experience the fun atmosphere of this new venture. Great event,

looking forward to the next one!

So many members of the congregation are involved with fund raising for our church and Action for Children, and I must mention the ladies on the back row who knit squares to make blankets for the International Aid Trust. God bless you all.

As we look forward to Advent and watch the story of Jesus' birth unfold, we ask God for his blessings on us all.



Barbara Mead, Senior Steward

## **Wombourne Vestry News**

November, how time flies, it doesn't seem five minutes since I last sat down to write for the Autumn Triangle.

Here at Wombourne new sessions of the various meetings restarted in September, after the holidays had all finished and children went back to school. Hope you all had a peaceful and refreshing holiday and are now ready to carry on the Lords work.

September started with a Coffee Morning by the 'Oily's' and the magnificent sum of £250 was raised, to pay for a replacement carpet at the top of the stairs in the school room. Congratulations and well done the 'Oily's'.

A coffee morning in aid of 'Friends of Kenya's Children' raised a goodly sum. With donations and a Harvest auction £421.80 was raised. Our thanks to all who supported and supplied items for these events, without your support we couldn't do what we have. May God bless you all.

20 September dawned on our 'Ladies Day' with Margaret Gennard taking the service, with items by the 'Ladies Choir. Unfortunately I was away on holiday but understood it was a lovely service. Many thanks for all the hard work put in to ensure it was a successful service.

Our Harvest Festival took place on the 11 October and was taken

by our minister Robert, again with items by the choir. Our grateful thanks to all who contributed to the harvest, we had a wonderful display. During the service Robert dedicated a number of Bibles given in memory of one of our members - the late Mrs Veron Rogers. We are grateful for this donation and continue to hold the family in our prayers.

We celebrated "One World Week" on 18 October with a joint ecumenical Service at St Bernadette's Church, Wombourne. Our grateful thanks to all who made this such a memorable occasion.

Instead of having the usual Tree of Remembrance, we decided this year to do something different, so on 1 November, 'All Saints Day', we held our "Cross of Remembrance". Letters were sent to all who suffered a bereavement during the last few years inviting them to attend and write a remembrance card and hang it on the 'Remembrance Cross'. This was a very moving service and the Cross and cards will remain in the Church until the New Year. Our grateful thanks go to Charles who made the Cross. What it is to have such talent and use it to the Glory of God.

Our 'Remembrance Day Service' took place on 8 November led by Robert, and it was lovely to see the Scouts and Cubs paying their respects. This was a especially moving service, particularly as we remembered our troops in Afghanistan. May God bless and be with them and all troops everywhere engaged in wars. May a peaceful ending to all conflicts soon be found.

It is with sadness we have lost a good and faithful member of our Church in the death, on 5 November, of Bill Moorhouse. Bill was heavily involved with the Scout movement and, as was said at the 'Remembrance Day Service', he will be sorely missed by both Scouts and Church members. We hold in our prayers his family and friends and pray God will be close to them and give them comfort and peace.

We continue to hold in our prayers, Bill Stubbs, Betty Wood, John Pike and Gwen Herapath (now at 'Mountfield House' Penn road). May God bless them and lay his healing hands upon them that they may once again enjoy good health.

On 7 November we held our Annual Bazaar with many of the usual

stalls. The sum raised was £1,400 for which we thank God. Our grateful thanks go to Gill Worrall, who despite her husband Graham being ill, did a magnificent job in the organization of the Bazaar. Again Gill, many thanks and may God bless you and Graham.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the 'Back Stage' members of the Church who do so much quietly behind the scenes, without them, this Church would not be able to function properly. God bless you all and keep up the good work.

As we approach Christmas, we look forward to "An Oilys Christmas Box" on 11 December - tickets are available from Church members. On 10 December our Wives Group is holding a Celebration Birthday Party with a "Christmas Ukelele Show With Gabriel". This sounds a wonderful way to celebrate 45 years of Wives Group.

December is always a busy month with no time to spare, but stop now and then and remember the real reason for Christmas, and may God bless you all and open your hearts to receive the Christ Child into all our lives.



Pat Beddall, Senior Steward

## **Springdale Pastoral News**

Since my last report several of our members have been in hospital, some as day cases, but nevertheless they needed our prayers. Joan Croyden, Penny Baldwin, and Geoff Martin were all in-patients. Kay Roberts and Gillian Fynn were in as day patients. It is good to know that they are all feeling better and pray they will be given strength each day.

We offer belated congratulations to Liz and Chris Dooley as they celebrated 40 years of marriage in July. Sorry for the omission in the Autumn Triangle - the grape-vine wasn't working!

Congratulations also go to Richard and Sally Cook on their marriage at St Bart's on 10 October. We pray for God's blessing on them.

On 20 September the family and friends of Maddison Fereday brought her for baptism; and on 16 October we welcomed the family and friends of William Pardoe as he requested baptism. May God bless these two families.

On 20 September Hilda Willcox passed peacefully away, after a long illness, to be with her Lord. We give thanks for her life, remembering over many years the work she was involved in at Springdale and outside the church. We remember all her family at this time.

There are many in our Fellowship who are far from well, either waiting for or receiving hospital treatment. Also, we remember our elderly and housebound friends, praying the Lord will give you all strength and assure you that you are all remembered in prayer.

To any who have had a special celebration or “Big 0” birthday - God bless you.

So, as we approach Christmas, may our prayer be “Peace to all”, both here, and, in particular, the war-torn countries, remembering the service men and women and their families, particularly those mourning the loss of a loved one.

May God bless each and every one.

Gwyneth M Wade, Pastoral Secretary



## **Wombourne Pastoral News**

As I write this report the sun is shining and the sky is a beautiful shade of blue. It is hard to realise that in just five weeks time we will once again be celebrating another Christmas. Thinking now of the baby born to save mankind and to bring us closer to God, the Father, reminds me of the four babies born this year to mums of “Prayers and Bears”, and of the many joys that they will bring into our lives. We ask God to bless Harvey, Thomas, Sophia and Daniel, and their families. I have only just this minute heard that Denis and Diana Beaumont have become grandparents again this afternoon; and our love and best wishes we send to Rhiannon and

Ian on the safe arrival of Megan Poppy, a little sister for Ben. Our prayers are with all new babies and families.

Many of our members have been in hospital recently - we ask for God's blessings on Sue Sennitt, Gill Williams, Pat Stoker, Gill and Graham Worrall, and pray for their continued improvement.

At this time of writing Betty Wood and John Pike are recovering in hospital, and we pray for them to feel God's presence with them. We pray, too, for Doreen and Tom and families at this difficult time.

We pray that God will bless Bill Stubbs in New Swinford Home, Gwen Heraporth in Mountfield Home, Penn, and for Colin Price in Brunel Court. For all our housebound members we pray that they will know the peace of God, and know that they are loved by us all. Be with those who care each day for them.

For any others awaiting hospital treatment, we ask for God's blessings on you all; especially for Sophie (June Horton's granddaughter).

On Monday 23 November we at Wombourne will be saying thank you to God for the life and witness of Bill Moorhouse, who passed away recently. We ask God to be near to all his family and to give them his peace.

We also remember with grateful thanks all the ministry given to so many by Roland Bamford, and we pray for Glenys and the family. For Helen and Keith Vinters as they mourn the passing of Keith's brother; for Nell Piper losing her sister; and for John and Edna Fellowes as they mourn the passing of John's sister; we ask God to give them strength and peace.

To any who celebrated a birthday or anniversary since my last report, we send our love and very best wishes; especially to Annie Rackstraw on her 90th birthday. To all who, like Annie, are housebound we ask God to bless and enrich your lives.

Now, what is our Christmas message to you all? It is the same as every year! God is with you and me all the time, even when we don't realise

it. The light of Christ shines in the darkness of our world; but the world's darkness will never be able to overcome or put it out.

May God's peace and joy be with you all this coming Christmas.

Carol Walker *Pastoral Secretary*



**A**dvent is here, a time of anticipation  
**N**ow is the propitious time to prepare.  
**T**he coming of Jesus fills us with hope;  
**I**saiah prophesied the birth of Immanuel.  
**C**ensus time: and arduous journey for pregnant Mary -  
**I**n the inn there was no room for two weary wanderers.  
**P**ease on earth is what we long for.  
**A**ngels sang, "Glory to God in the highest."  
**T**errified shepherds cherished the good news; so may we.  
**I**n the mean manger lay a newly born baby -  
**O**come! O come Immanuel and rescue us from worldliness.  
**N**ow is the propitious time to prepare.

Bernard Davis

# Messy Church

I missed the first Messy Church - Springdale's Family Hotpot - because I injured my back the day it was due. However, I was fit to attend the second one which took place on Tuesday 10 November.

I was accompanied by James, my grandson, and his friend Jack. The three of us enjoyed it immensely. It took place in a very warm and friendly atmosphere and was very well organised.

As soon as we signed in we went to the Fellowship Room and the boys played games and had toast and squash whilst I had a cup of tea. When everybody had arrived we left the Fellowship Room and walked to the Main Hall in which several interesting creative activities had been prepared - decorating and planting up bulb flower pots; electrical circuits; making lanterns; decorating cakes; making 'see-through' words such as Jesus, Light and Hope; making star shapes with pastry cutters; and pinning the tail on the donkey while blindfolded.

Since God is the original creator we please him greatly when we are being creative too.

After these activities we went into church and had a short service relevant to our theme on light, which the children enjoyed.

From there we returned to the Main Hall and had jacket potatoes with beans or cheese, followed by chocolate filled pancakes. James and Jack thoroughly enjoyed everything!

Here are some of my thoughts on the experience. The activities and the atmosphere engendered by so many caring adults are a sign that God's kingdom is present and is working on earth here at Springdale. It is clear that we have dedicated church members that are working today to make his kingdom real here and now. I have to ask myself this question - what am I doing to help bring God's kingdom closer? When I pray "Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven" - do I mean it?

Bernard Davis

# Cain

Robert, as usual, delivered us a good sermon and message on 'Am I my brother's keeper?'. Whilst agreeing with everything he said following on from the Bible passage about Cain and Abel, I paradoxically found myself feeling desperately sorry for Cain!

Jealousy is a terribly powerful emotion and we are not told very clearly what lay behind it - in this case; apparently, Cain's offering to God was not as acceptable as Abel's. Did that mean God loved Cain less, that he was somehow intrinsically inferior to his brother? We cannot believe this was the case, but it was surely Cain's perception that it was so.

Blatantly the lot of all people in this world isn't equal, which leads some to ask the question: because I am disabled, handicapped, a member of a minority colour, race or group, or poor; because I am a woman, or old or young, am I, and are my qualities and gifts, of less intrinsic value than others? There are several possible answers and reactions: firstly we might withdraw, concluding that we aren't much good, and bury our talent in the sand: secondly, if we have Christian faith, we might hold on to a belief that God loves us and that he understands and forgives our sometimes negative feelings: thirdly we might amass resentment and nurture a sense of injustice to a point at which we seek to attack and destroy others as a means of righting our wrong and stilling our hurt and rage.

Neither this, nor Cain's reaction can be condoned, but understanding can breed compassion, and compassion might just enable the innocent, and perhaps privileged, to find a way to become instruments of God's all-embracing love, forgiveness and healing.

Cathy Anderson

## Thought running through the book of Daniel

There is no sin that the Lord will not forgive; there is no wound that he cannot heal; there is no darkness that he cannot light; there is no ignorance that he cannot enlighten; there is no infirmity that he cannot take away; we are children of the day, not prisoners of the night.

Bill Stubbs

## Choices

There were three people standing at a crossroads, deliberating which path to take. The first was quick to make up his mind: 'This road looks straight and firm' he said, and set out. The second pondered a while, her gaze drawn to a second track, less clear and viable, but bordered by trees and wild flowers. That became her choice and she set out. After each had progressed a little, 'A', as we shall call the first, called up 'B' on his mobile and said: 'This road is brilliant – it's got to be the right one. Come and join me'. Immediately 'B' answered: My way is absolutely delightful and I'm learning a lot. Come and join me'. The third person remaining at the crossroads received text messages from both A and B extolling the respective virtues of their ways. 'C' thought long and hard: 'How do I know which, if either of them, is right? Until I have proof I must remain where I am. So he sat down on the hard tarmac undecided, somewhat bored, wondering a little what he might be missing.

Cathy Anderson

## Christmas Carol Quiz

Can you decipher the REAL titles of these exaggerated titles of very familiar Christmas tunes? Answers on page 27.

- 1 From dark 'til dawn, soundless and sanctimonious
- 2 Celestial messengers from splendid empires
- 3 In a distant bovine diner
- 4 Universal elation
- 5 Ornament the enclosure with large sprigs of berry-bearing evergreen
- 6 O miniature Nazarene village
- 7 May Jehovah grant unto you hilarious males retirement
- 8 Those of you who are true, come here!
- 9 Are you detecting the same aural sensation as I am?
- 10 The diminutive male of less than adult age who plays a percussion instrument
- 11 Primary Yuletide
- 12 Heavenly cherubs announcing in song—listen!

## Who wants to be...

New York resident Kathy Evans brought humiliation to her friends and family when she set a new standard for stupidity with her appearance on the popular TV show, 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire'. Evans, a 32-year-old wife and mother of two, got stuck on the first question and proceeded to make what fans of the show are dubbing 'the absolute worst use of lifelines ever.' After being introduced to the show's host Meredith Vieira, Evans was posed with a typically easy initial \$100 question. The question was:

'Which of the following is the largest? A - a peanut; B - an elephant; C - the moon; D - Hey, who you calling large?

Immediately Mrs. Evans was struck with an all-consuming panic as she did not readily know the answer. 'Hmm, oh boy, that's a toughie,' said Evans, as Vieira did her level best to hide her disbelief. 'I mean, I'm sure I've heard of some of these things before, but I have no idea how large they would be. Evans made the decision to use the first of her three lifelines, the 50/50. Answers A and D were removed, leaving her to decide which was bigger, an elephant or the moon. However, Evans still remained unsure. 'Oh! It removed the two I was leaning towards!' exclaimed Evans. 'Darn. I think I better phone a friend.' Mrs. Evans asked to be connected with her friend Betsy, who is an office assistant. 'Hi Betsy! How are you? This is Kathy! I'm on TV!' said Evans, wasting the first seven seconds of her call. Ok, I got an important question. Which of the following is the largest? B, an elephant, or C, the moon. 15 seconds hun.' Betsy quickly replied that the answer was C, the moon. Evans proceeded to argue with her friend for the remaining ten seconds. Betsy, are you sure?' said Evans. 'How sure are you? Duh, that can't be it.' To everyone's astonishment Evans declined to take her friend's advice. 'I just don't know if I can trust Betsy. She's not all that bright. So I think I'd like to ask the audience,' said Evans. Asked to vote on the correct answer, the audience returned 98% in favour of answer C, 'The Moon.' Having used up all her lifelines, Evans then made the daftest choice of her life. 'Wow, seems like everybody is against what I'm thinking,' said Evans. 'But you know, sometimes you just got to go with your gut. So, let's see... I'm going to have to go with B, an elephant. Final answer.' Evans sat before the dumbfounded audience, the only one waiting with bated breath - and was told that she was wrong, and that the answer was in fact, C, 'The Moon.'

## A Trip to Wales

After a disappointing summer, Autumn has been extremely pleasant, with sunshine, mild temperatures and very little rain. We visited the Cardigan area (in West Wales) early October and had a very enjoyable break. The Teifi river estuary is a birds paradise. Lots of gulls of various sizes (my knowledge on these is sadly lacking), but we saw many Canada geese, grey herons, little egrets and mute swans. Sadly, we didn't spot a king-fisher, any seals, otters or salmon. We had one night of heavy rain. The next morning being dry we ventured to Cenarth Falls. This is on the Teifi a few miles out of Cardigan. The falls were in full spate, a raging torrent of brown, swirling water with few boulders to be seen. The water had not burst it's banks, but was extremely noisy, quite amazing to watch, and a little frightening too. The trees were clothed in wonderful autumn colours along the banks. A surprising number of anglers, with all their equipment, lined along the banks, the salmon run and under the bridge where the river widens. No coracles to be seen due to the fast, floodwater. If only we had gone the day before we would have the before and after picture. Worthy of another visit, plenty of parking ,with views of the falls, a lovely circular walk, and village over the bridge.

A visit to St. David's was uplifting, seeing the magnificent cathedral. A wonderful blue sky, the beautiful grey-stone cathedral surrounded by green grass in a protected hollow, is a photographers dream. A perfect picture. A ruined Bishops Palace and a tinkling brook complete the scene. Inside the cathedral a picture of Elijah (with a golden halo) being fed by ravens is a wonderful piece of religious art, quite a dazzling sight.

Nevern is a lovely well-kept village (it's won awards). A scattered village of houses and cottages, and the river running adjacent to the church. Dappled sunshine filtered through a row of yew trees on the path to the church. Pleasant on this sunny day, but eerily atmospheric on a dull, winters day. One yew is known as "The Bleeding Yew" because at a certain time of year pink resin exudes from it giving the effect.

On the afternoon we travelled to Newport we passed through Gesthemane, a hamlet with a farm and chapel (looking drab and grey in' hanging drizzle). A house adjoining it, with a graveyard, not garden, just surrounded by fields and trees. Arriving at Newport (inland) the beach is

about a mile away but a good location for seeing birds. This time of year both resident and migrant birds can be seen on the estuary and marshland. We saw herons, egrets, mallards, mute swans, grey wagtails and plenty of gulls.

We had a lovely week here, only a couple of wet days, but mild. We certainly will go back to explore some more.

Jackie Neilson

## **St. Dogmael's**

During October we visited Ceredigion staying at St. Dogmael's on the River Teifi. It's quite a large scattered village (not far from Cardigan) on the estuary. The ruined abbey is situated in a small field above the river surrounded by houses and cottages, and adjacent to St. Thomas' Church. Early Celtic Christian influence is evident from the Ogam script on The SAGRANUS Stone in St. Thomas' Church. Ancient stones with crosses show how important the village was as a centre for the early Christian Church. The working water mill (across the road from the ruins) dates from the 1600's with mediaeval foundations. You can visit the mill and buy bread and flour.

Poppit Sands is a mile or two down the road, which is the start of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path.



Jackie Neilson

Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears, I will remember my promise to you.

Genesis 9 v14-15



## Saint Days

*(continued from Autumn 2009 issue; Jackie Neilson)*

18 October - St Luke

A physician and author of the third Gospel and Acts. He travelled with Paul on his second and third missionary journey.

28 October - S.S. Simon and Jude

The apocryphal Passion of Simon and Jude describes the preaching and martyrdom of the two apostles in Persia. (in the western church they are commemorated together). Note - Jude wrote Epistle of Jude.

1 November - All Saints Day

This feast (kept in the west on 1 November) celebrating all Christian Saints known and unknown. Originally it was first Sunday after Pentecost (like in the east). Moved to November date in time of Gregory III, who dedicated a chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter's to "All Saints" on 1 November.

2 November - All Souls Day

Is commemoration of the souls of the faithfully departed on this day after All Saints. The observance became universal through the influence of Odilo of Cluny (died 1049)

11 November - St Martin	Patron of France, Bishop of Tours. He served in Roman army; after helping a beggar he had a vision of Christ, was baptized and followed a religious life.
17 November - St Hugh	Bishop of Lincoln. A Carthusian. (they take vow of silence and prayer). He served King Henry II and became Primate of Witham, opening first Carthusian house in England.
22 November - St Cecilia.	Patron of Church music; Roman martyr.
23 November - St Clements	Bishop of Rome, 2 Epistles to the Corinthians have been ascribed to him.
25 November - St Catherine	(of Alexandria). According to tradition she was a virgin, martyred in 4 <sup>th</sup> century Her symbol is a spiked wheel. Patroness of wheelwrights, scholars, and attorneys.
30 November - St Andrew	An Apostle, brother of Peter. Also Patron saint of Scotland, Greece and Russia.
6 December - St Nicholas	Bishop of Myra. Regarded as patron saint of sailors and Russia; also of children, bringing gifts on 6 December (Santa Claus - a corruption of St. Nicholas).
21 December - St Thomas	An Apostle, known as "Doubting Thomas" until Jesus showed him the marks of his crucifixion.
25 December - Christmas Day	Commemoration of Christ's Nativity, although the time of year he was born is unknown.
26 December - St Stephen	Protomartyr. He was stoned, without a formal trial. He died confessing Christ, and asking forgiveness of his persecutors. N.B. Protomartyr, commonly given to Stephen as the first martyr. Other countries may use it too. England's protomartyr is St. Alban.

## A Bidding Prayer

Be silent,  
Still,  
Aware  
For there  
In your own heart  
The Spirit  
Is at prayer;  
Listen and learn,  
Open and find, heart-wisdom,  
Christ.

Also -

From the church register, Parish of Nevern:

The Parish collected for the relief of the poor, destroyed by Great Fire of London £1 -9s-6d. John Tucker, Vicar. 20 December, 1668. Churchwardens

George Lloyd, George Jones, James Richard, James David.



Collected from the Parish for the Redemption of Poor Christian Slaves at Algier . £1.11s.10d. John Tucker, Vicar. 20 August, 1680.

I was amazed at the amount of money collected then for such a small community - obviously a very caring vicar, with connections far and wide.

Jackie Neilson

## Remembrance

At Gospel Ash Coffee Morning on Thursday 5 November one of the hymns chosen was "Abide with me" to reflect on Remembrance Day. A lady attending had listened to a programme about The Cenotaph. She informed us that if all the fallen from the war marched past The Cenotaph it would take three and a half days and nights to complete the ceremony. Makes you think and realise how many military lost their lives for our liberty today. We must never forget their sacrifice.

Jackie Neilson

## Bible Quiz

*(answers at the back)*

- 1 Name the well known Christmas carol written by Charles Wesley.
- 2 In the Bleak Midwinter, another carol, was written by whom?
- 3 In which town was Jesus born?
- 4 In which town was Jesus brought up in?
- 5 What was the name of the angel who appeared to Zacharias?

Jackie Neilson

## Daft as a box of Rocks

A noted psychiatrist was a guest speaker at an academic function where Nancy Pelosi happened to appear. Ms Pelosi took the opportunity to schmooze the good doctor a bit and asked him a question with which he was most at ease. 'Would you mind telling me, Doctor,' she asked, 'how you detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?' 'Nothing is easier,' he replied. 'You ask a simple question which anyone should answer with no trouble. If the person hesitates, that puts you on the track.' 'What sort of question?' asked Pelosi. 'Well, you might ask, 'Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?' Pelosi thought a moment, and then said with a nervous laugh, 'You wouldn't happen to have another example would you? I must confess I don't know much about history.'

## Ancient Habits

Penny Worth reflects on the sense of being called by God to step out in new ways. (Reproduced by kind permission of the author and Expressions magazine).

“Lord, I cannot go on any longer, these garments you gave us to wear are so heavy and wearying. They weigh me down, they restrict my movements.”

“Then take them off, my child, they are not for you. I gave them, in my love, to others, long ago who needed different things.”

“But Lord, we cannot travel naked, the world will look and mock. It will not listen to a naked traveller.”

“My child, do you think they are impressed by your ancient habits? Take the risk, let them see your vulnerable flesh, that they may know you have a heart like theirs.”

“But Lord, the world is cold....”

“My child, you can have fine new clothes fit for the journey. But first you must let go of these – you cannot wear the new on top, a liberating lightening is what you need.”

“But Lord,....”

“Do you trust me enough to shiver in your nakedness, while together we weave some new clothes, from the joys and longings of all my children?”

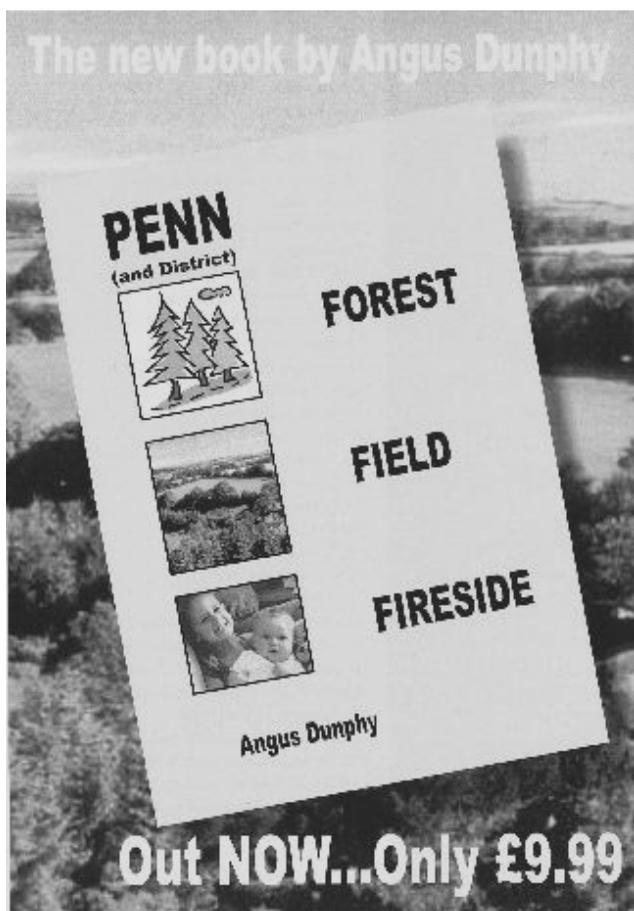
I found this reflection challenging and exciting, but also strangely reassuring and comforting.

Lesley Cook, Springdale

## **Penn Forest, Field and Fireside - Angus Dunphy**

A new book on Penn and district entitled- Penn Forest Field and Fireside, shortly to be featured in the Express and Star in the John Ogden column. Attractively produced it is A5 size- 166 pages of text, maps and photos. It covers a wide range of Penn and district history, topography, nature, walks. Chapters include Penn Common in wartime, the Penn Brook, Woodfield Avenue School, A Lower Penn Childhood, Penn Hall, Partridges, The walk from Gospel End through Baggeridge Woods to Wombourne, Railway accident at Orton, and so much more.

Cost £9.99 with a proportion going to the Springdale Church Development Fund. Copies available from Richard and Wendy Gould. Hurry limited print run!



## More Church Notices!

The following have all appeared in church magazines:

Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'

Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00pm - prayer and medication to follow.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

The school drama group will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church hall on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'

## The Daftest Things...

Some guy bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he put it in his front yard and hung a sign on it saying: 'Free to good home. You want it, you take it.' For three days the fridge sat there without anyone looking twice... He eventually decided that people were too mistrustful of this deal. So he changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale \$50.' The next day someone stole it!

I stopped at Mc Donald's and ordered some fries. The girl behind the counter said "would you like some fries with that?"

\*One day I was walking down the beach with some friends when someone shouted, 'Look at that dead bird!' Someone looked up at the sky and said, 'where?'

While looking at a house, my brother asked the estate agent which direction was north because he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning. She asked, 'Does the sun rise in the north?' My brother explained that the sun rises in the east and has for some time. She shook her head and said, 'Oh, I don't keep up with all that stuff...'

My colleague and I were eating our lunch in our cafeteria, when we overheard an admin girl talking about the sunburn she got on her weekend drive to the beach. She drove down in a convertible, but said she 'didn't think she'd get sunburned because the car was moving'.

My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the car trunk.

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area and went to the lost luggage office and reported the loss. The woman there smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and said I was in good hands. 'Now,' she asked me, 'Has your plane arrived yet?'

While working at a pizza parlour I observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6. He thought about it for some time then said 'Just cut it into 4 pieces; I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces.'

# What I Want In A Man!

## Original List:

- 1 Handsome
- 2 Charming
- 3 Financially successful
- 4 A caring listener
- 5 Witty
- 6 In good shape
- 7 Dresses with style
- 8 Appreciates finer thing
- 9 Full of thoughtful surprises
- 10 An imaginative, romantic lover

## What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 32)

- 1 Nice looking
- 2 Opens car doors, holds chairs
- 3 Has enough money for a nice dinner
- 4 Listens more than talks
- 5 Laughs at my jokes
- 6 Carries bags of groceries with ease
- 7 Owns at least one tie
- 8 Appreciates a good home-cooked meal
- 9 Remembers birthdays and anniversaries
- 10 Seeks romance at least once a week

## What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 42)

- 1 Not too ugly
- 2 Doesn't drive off until I'm in the car
- 3 Works steady - splurges on dinner out occasionally
- 4 Nods head when I'm talking
- 5 Usually remembers punch lines of jokes
- 6 Is in good enough shape to rearrange the furniture
- 7 Wears a shirt that covers his stomach
- 8 Knows not to buy champagne with screw-top lids
- 9 Remembers to put the toilet seat down
- 10 Shaves most weekends

### **What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 52)**

- 1 Keeps hair in nose and ears trimmed
- 2 Doesn't belch or scratch in public
- 3 Doesn't borrow money too often
- 4 Doesn't nod off to sleep when I'm venting
- 5 Doesn't re-tell the same joke too many times
- 6 Is in good enough shape to get off the couch on weekends
- 7 Usually wears matching socks and fresh underwear
- 8 Appreciates a good TV dinner
- 9 Remembers your name on occasion
- 10 Shaves some weekends

### **What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 62)**

- 1 Doesn't scare small children
- 2 Remembers where the bathroom is
- 3 Doesn't require much money for upkeep
- 4 Only snores lightly when asleep
- 5 Remembers why he's laughing
- 6 Is in good enough shape to stand up by himself
- 7 Usually wears some clothes
- 8 Likes soft foods
- 9 Remembers where he left his teeth
- 10 Remembers that it's the weekend

### **What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 72)**

- 1 Breathing
- 2 Doesn't miss the toilet

## **The Rainbow Tree**

As we grow up, we learn that even the one person that wasn't supposed to ever let us down probably will. We will have our hearts broken probably more than once and it's harder every time. We'll break hearts too, so remember how it feels. We'll fight with our best friend. We'll blame a new love for things an old one did. We'll cry because time is passing too fast, and we'll eventually lose someone we love. So take too many pictures, laugh too much, and love like you've never been hurt because every sixty seconds you spend upset is a minute of happiness you'll never get back. Don't be afraid that your life will end, be afraid that it will never begin.

## Exam Howlers

Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

How is dew formed?

The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

What causes the tides in the oceans?

The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight.

What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed.

In a democratic society, how important are elections?

Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

What are steroids?

Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

What happens to your body as you age?

When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

Premature death.

What is artificial insemination?

When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

How can you delay milk turning sour?

Keep it in the cow.

How are the main 20 parts of the body categorized (e.g. The abdomen)?

The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O and U.

What is the fibula?

A small lie.

What does 'varicose' mean?

Nearby.

What is the most common form of birth control?

Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condom.

Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'.

The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

What is a terminal illness?

When you are sick at the airport.

Give an example of a fungus. What is a characteristic feature?

Mushrooms. They always grow in damp places and they look like umbrellas.

What does the word 'benign' mean?

Benign is what you will be after you be eight

### **Christmas Carol Quiz Answers** (from A Bucketful of Surprises)

- 1 Silent Night
- 2 Angels we have heard on high
- 3 Away in a manger
- 4 Joy to the world
- 5 Deck the halls with boughs of holly
- 6 O little town of Bethlehem
- 7 God rest you merry, Gentlemen
- 8 O come, all ye faithful
- 9 Do you hear what I hear?
- 10 Little drummer boy
- 11 The first noel
- 12 Hark, the herald angels sing

### **Bible Quiz Answers**

- 1 Hark the herald angels sing.
- 2 Christina Rossetti.
- 3 Bethlehem.
- 4 Nazareth.
- 5 Gabriel

Deadline for the next edition of Triangle is  
**Sunday 21 February.**

Remember! No photocopies! Please check copyright and gain permission where necessary! Email if you can - it makes things so much easier for us! Thanks!

Please hand in your articles directly, or via your stewards, to **Helen Cooper** or **Sarah Philpott**.

Wishing you  
Peace at Christmas

