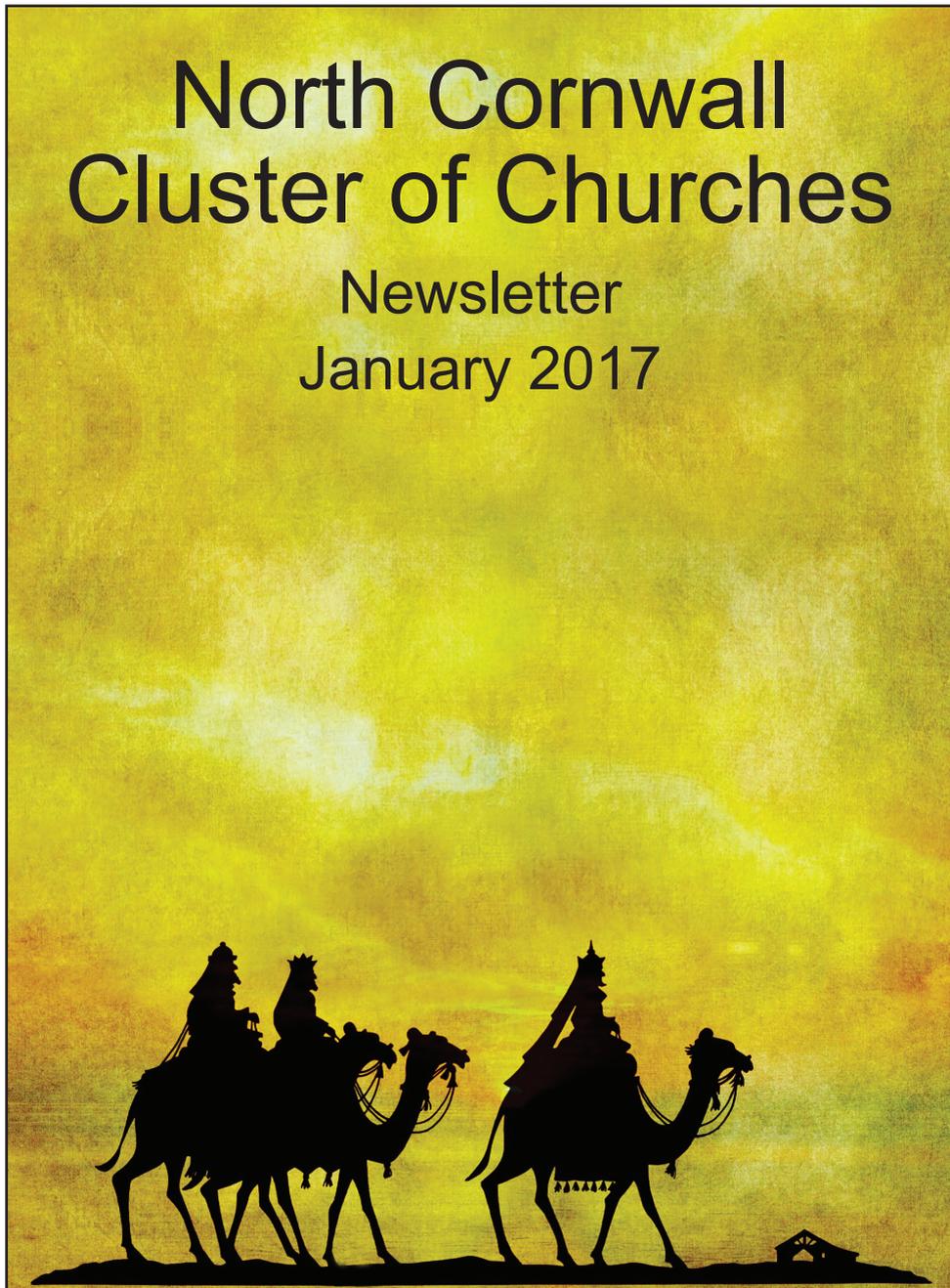


North Cornwall Cluster of Churches

Newsletter
January 2017



For the parishes of St Kew, St Peter (Port Isaac), St Endellion and
St Minver with St Enodoc (Trebetherick) and St Michael (Porthilly)

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk

Welcoming the stranger

After Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, when we remember the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. These visitors came from far away to the East of the Holy Land, perhaps somewhere like Iran, Iraq or the Yemen. They were strangers to Jesus's family, followers of a different religion to the local Jewish population, and foreigners who had travelled a long way to find the king they sought. I wonder what Mary and Joseph thought when they turned up asking to see Jesus. They must have been surprised, to say the least, yet they welcomed them into their home, nevertheless. And this welcome enabled the Magi to offer their gifts to Jesus.

When we think about welcoming people in our own churches, we may not often be thinking of people who have travelled from the Far East, or even people of different faiths, but this story reminds us that when we welcome people who come from far away – strangers and foreigners – we may find that they bring amazing gifts with them, which open our eyes to what God is doing.

Welcoming the stranger is a key theme in the bible, and an important part of our lives as Christians. Not only do strangers often bring gifts in the biblical stories, but they also often bring God's blessing as well. It is as if God's people are not really complete without the gifts of people from very different backgrounds and cultures and even religions. The stranger is not just someone for us to welcome, they may also be the one through whom God is coming to us.

I hope we can all look forward to meeting the strangers who God will send to us in 2017, and learning from them about what God is up to in our shared world!

Every blessing for the New Year, Revd Elizabeth

Congratulations to our new Reader, Children and Families Worker, Marcus Jones

It is a real pleasure to welcome Marcus as a Reader in our Cluster. We have been blessed by his ministry as our Children and Families Worker since September, so it is a great joy that the Bishop has now licensed him to the Cluster as a Reader as well. As you may well know, Lay Readers have completed several years of training and are authorised to take services and minister in the community in a variety of ways. Marcus joins our other valued Readers: David Elliott, Peter Coster and Sue Barlow; and we look forward to all that he brings to God's work here in North Cornwall.

The Port Isaac Angel



Something wonderful has happened in Port Isaac again this Christmas. The community with the help of a group of artists have created a huge angel as well as lots of their own angel lanterns to carry in the parade which took place on 2nd December. With the help of a musician, the school has even created an Angel Song for the community to sing. The Port Isaac angel has travelled to the Bodmin and Lostwithiel parades as well, but has now settled in St Peter's Church, as a sign of blessing to the whole community into the New Year.



Pilgrimage with Mark's Gospel

Mondays, 7-8.30pm, 9th January – 27th February, 2017

Most people think of a pilgrimage as a visit to a particular place but in truth we are on a Christian journey our whole lives. You are invited to join an eight week pilgrimage that is a journey together, in the Gospel of Mark in January and February. We plan to meet once a week on Mondays at Jill and Henry Gompertz' house. Henry will prepare some material but this will be a journey together. Hopefully (in every sense) we will arrive at a different place from where we started and with a deeper knowledge of the shortest, most direct, and probably oldest gospel. If you plan to come along it would be a great help to let Jill or Henry know in advance but you can come anyway. Contact: 01208 869421.

“Alternative” Carol Service

On Sunday 1st January St. Michael's is holding an “Alternative” Carol Service for Christmas and Epiphany at 6pm. Everyone from the Cluster will be welcome and the service will include poems, Bible Readings, and well-known carols and hymns.

Community Lunch @ Perceval Institute St Minver

Wednesday 22nd February 2017, 12.30pm. Tickets will be available from St Minver Post Office after 1st February.

The North Cornwall Cluster of Churches and Revd Elizabeth Wild
warmly invite your family to a special Celebration



Candlemas Service & Baptism Party

11am 29th January, 2017

at St Menefreda's Church, St Minver



An all-age service and party for those who have been baptised in one of our churches in the last year or so. We would love to see you and your family and your child's godparents!

PARTY



Please RSVP Liz Williams, email: lizwilliams@live.co.uk,
phone: 07976 552236 if you able to come.

Marcus' muse

Hagar, a slave woman to Sarah and Abraham, is the first person in the Bible to meet an angel, twice in the desert fearing for her life. Angels pop up from the beginning of the bible all the way through to the closing chapter of Revelation. Angels get let out big time during our nativity readings appearing to Mary in person, Joseph in a dream, Zacharias (John the Baptist's dad) was silenced by one in the temple and not forgetting the shepherds getting to witness a whole choir of angels! How wonderful it was to share in the procession at Port Isaac of angels and to be able to house the star of the show in St Peter's. If we were to meet one of the same size I think we would be more than a little scared and overawed!



*St Kew Nursery meeting
the Nativity characters*

In Matthew's gospel the parable of the lost sheep is preceded with a warning "Be careful. Don't despise these little ones, their angels are always in the presence of my Father" (Mat 18v10). Little ones is not only meant to mean children, but refers to everyone without power or influence and to everyone without means to support themselves. The disciples hadn't quite grasped what Jesus meant though and by the next chapter they were trying to shoo bothersome families from their important mission work. Jesus chastises the disciples and blesses the children. Two chapters later the priests are having a hard time with Jesus' "Triumphant" entry into Jerusalem and so they take it out on the kids and again Jesus defends them by talking about "out of the mouths of babes come perfect praise."

I find it difficult to fully understand the role of Angels in today's world, but as I muse on angels I can know two things.

Firstly that God wants to commune with us, that there are messages we need to know and that God will find a way to bring those messages to us.

Secondly is that in God's world, little ones take president over big ones. Their cares and woes are always noted and not forgotten by God.

It is a wonderful privilege to be your children and family worker as you undertake this dual ministry of angels in your church and community today.

Home: 01840 938648 mobile: 07923913727 marcus.ajones@gmx.co.uk

NCC Children and Family work dates for your diary

Sat 7th Jan 9.30 am Messy Church Percival Institute
Breakfast on the house. Celebration, games, arts and crafts for the whole family.

Sat 14th Jan 3pm Fountain Youth St Minver Vicarage
For secondary school students. for more details contact Marcus Jones

Sun 15th Jan 10.45-11.30am Junior Church Percival Institute
Bible story, games and craft and then join the adults at St Minver church for Communion. For Ages 5 to 11 years. Under 5 will need an adult to remain.

Sat 28th Jan 6pm Come and Sing St Minver Church
Gentle service suitable for all ages, singing praise and worship of today and yesterday.

Sun 29th Jan 11am Candlemas & Baptism Party St Minver Church
Celebration of when Baby Jesus was presented at the temple, with a party for all who have been baptised in the past year or two. Please contact Liz Williams on 07976 552 236 so we can prepare for numbers.

Lavolta Ensemble

21st Jan @ 7:30pm at St Endellion



Featuring vocalists Sarah Owen and Kate Westbrook together with an 11-piece band, Lavolta presents a concert of outlandish and extraordinary pieces of 20th century music. Italian composer Luciano Berio's Folk Songs pays tribute to the artistry of legendary American singer, Cathy Berberian. The songs, from the United States, Armenia, France, Sicily, Sardinia, etc., were chosen from old records, printed anthologies, or collected from folk musicians and friends. William Walton's irresistible Façade 2, also dedicated to Berberian, sets Edith Sitwell's jaunty poetry within colourful music. Judith Weir is Master of the Queen's Music, and her Really? is a set of three entertaining stories by J.P. Hebel and The Brothers Grimm for small ensemble and voice. The concert includes more irrepressible music by another Italian composer, Franco Donatoni, the evocative cabaret of Kurt Weill and, from closer to home, Vaughan Williams' settings of poetry by Houseman, Along the Field.

'Brilliant, tight, disciplined playing and dazzling vocals...'

Contact information

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EPIPHANY and THE WISE MEN

The Wise Men? Well, they are a gift to the humorists among us, with cartoons like the one showing a rather miffed trio returning past the Bethlehem Supermarket displaying adverts for “Myrrh – 50% off!” Or the feminist joke, that were they women they would have swept the stable, changed the baby and left a casserole.



But to be serious, who were they? Did they exist at all? It is the sort of story that one wants to believe. Giancarlo Menotti wrote an opera in 1951 called “Amahl and the Night Visitors”. The Greek word Magi might suggest that they were magicians, and certainly they must have been stargazers, perhaps astrologers, but nothing more.

Only Matthew’s Gospel contains the story in the reconstruction of Jesus’ early days. Matthew’s Discipleship started on listening to Jesus, probably some 20 years later, and so he must have heard it from a source unknown to the others. As it is less likely that Matthew himself wrote the Gospel in 75-85AD, maybe it was a recollection of his earlier reminiscences at Antioch, where he taught.

The “traditional” view is that they came from the east, probably Medes from Northern Iraq or Persia, who were the antecedents of today’s Kurds. Some Eastern churches hold that there were 12 or more Wise Men. American researches have suggested that they originally came from the south, from such as Ethiopia: America may be the land of Disney and the burger, but it has many fine Christian researchers and wealth, and we ignore her at our peril.

We celebrate the arrival of the Magi on January 6th, Epiphany. It was the first time Gentiles – non Jews – had encountered God made man in Jesus. Epiphany means an encounter with, or realisation of God. To those Christian churches following the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian, it is the Nativity – their Christmas, as a dear Armenian friend reminded me.

So? Well, we will never know now. If we reject the story then how does one explain the Herodian slaughter of the Innocents, which was the consequence of the visit by the Magi? It is significant that it embraced all boys of two and under, suggesting that the visit was very much later than a few days after Jesus’ birth. Newer translations refer to a house and not a stable, with Joseph absent.

As I said earlier, it is the sort of story that one wants to believe. Do you?

Peter Coster

Cluster services - January 2017

Date	St Kew	St Peter's	St Endellion	St Minver	St Enodoc	St Michael
Sunday 1 Naming & Circumcision of Jesus	9.30am Covenant Service at St Kew Highway Methodists	9.30am Morning Worship	11.00am Sung Eucharist	11.00am Holy Communion United Covenant Service at Rock Methodists	3pm Evensong	6pm Carol Service
Saturday 7				9.30am Messy Church		
Sunday 8 Epiphany	9.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Sung Eucharist	11.00am All Age Worship	3pm Evensong	9.15am Holy Communion 6pm Evensong
Sunday 15	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship 6pm Taize	11.00am Holy Communion	3pm Evensong	6pm Evensong
Sunday 22	9.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Sung Eucharist	11.00am All Age Worship	3pm Holy Communion	6pm Evensong
Saturday 28				6pm Come and Sing		
Sunday 29 Candlemas (except St Endellion)	9.30am All Age Worship & Baptism	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Sung Eucharist	11.00am Candlemas All Age Worship	3pm Evensong	6pm Evensong

Correct at time of printing. Please check weekly pew sheets for more information

Weekly Services

8am Tuesday Holy Communion (BCP) St Endellion
10am Wednesday Holy Communion St Minver

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