

December 2018

St John's and the Park Church



Jottings

Kevin the Carrot

I read today (mid November) that there have been huge queues, online frenzies and even shopping trolley scuffles over the launch of a new cuddly carrot – called Kevin. Kevin is the festive face of one of our supermarkets – and it seems that he is the ‘must have’ Christmas toy for 2018. As people around our nation have been queuing and scrambling to get their hands on Kevin, I’m sure his creators and the supermarket bosses are enjoying an early glass of something Christmassy to celebrate.

Christmas has always had the power to make normal people do bonkers things – and I bet very few of us are any different. We wear jumpers we would never normally wear, listen to music we would never normally listen to, we eat food we don’t normally eat

and spend money we don’t really have on stuff we wouldn’t usually spend it on!

And herein lies a great opportunity for the Church. Along with all the above – this is also a time when people will go to church. For all of the talk of our increasingly secular society and negative attitudes to religion – churches around the UK will be full over the next few weeks – and full of people who do not usually attend.

This presents us all with two opportunities.

1. Invite people to our Christmas services. This may well be the most open people will be all year to coming to church. Be brave – and invite them along. What’s the worst that could happen?

2. Ensure that people have a good experience. The

question of why people don’t usually come to church can wait. For now let’s make sure that, when they do come, they have a positive experience; a warm welcome, good hospitality, kind smiles and friendly conversations. We’ll do what we can to ensure that people hear the Good News of Jesus, are drawn into worship and get to the true heart of Christmas. There are two missionary roles for each of us in Church this Christmas – invitation and welcome.

Kevin the Carrot isn’t the only one who can draw a crowd. Jesus has been doing it ever since His birth in Bethlehem. We pray this Christmas that people will be once again be drawn to Him, come to know Him and find life in abundance.

Happy Christmas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".



Focus ... Missionary Giving

Sadly our income isn't sufficient to continue supporting our mission societies to the current level of £11,000 annually. We have been using the generous legacy of Doris Gallichan for the past 6 years to top up our commitment. Doris left a legacy of £11,000 with instructions that it should only be used for mission giving.

This legacy has now been spent and so the mission committee met with Tom

and Sian to work out the way forward. It was decided to honour our commitment to our mission partners i.e. Pat, David and Shelley, Kerry and Sonia, as closely as possible. It was also agreed to keep the number of societies we support the same. We sincerely pray that this is only a temporary difficulty and that in the not too distant future we will be able to increase our giving.

The amount that is given will still be 10% of our income but our income has

decreased over time therefore the projected 10% is now £1863 per quarter. If anyone would like to know the exact amount that will be given to each society and partners I have the information and will be happy to share it.

We pray that with God's guidance and help we will be able to honour our commitment and that we will continue to be "a cheerful giver"! 2 Cor 9 v 7

Jill Flux
Mission Co-ordinator

A New Archdeacon of Sherborne

Linda and I attended the Collation of the new Archdeacon of Sherborne. The evening service, held at Sherborne Abbey included wonderful singing from the choir.

Penny Sayer had been appointed to the post following the retirement of Paul Taylor earlier in the year. The 5 deaneries she will cover are Dorchester, Lyme Bay, Sherborne,

Weymouth and Portland and Blackmore Vale. Within those areas she will have many tasks. She will represent the parishes to Bishop Karen and the Bishop to the parishes; have responsibility for inducting ministers to their pastoral charges in local churches; have responsibility for admitting churchwardens each year at her visitation; present new Deacons and

priests at their ordination; and finally have a special responsibility of care for the fabric and property of each church.



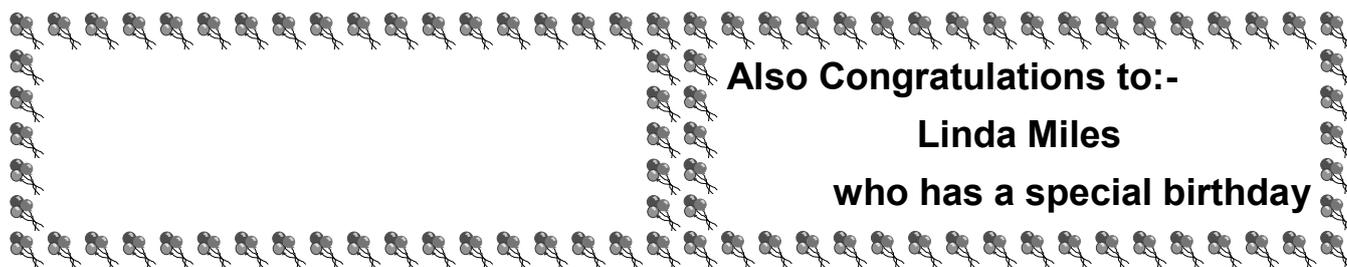
Hilary and Mike Lidstone have become first time grandparents.

Amelia Blanche was born on 24th October in Geelong, near Melbourne. They are able to Skype regularly to their daughter Rachel, son-in-law Steve and Amelia.

**We wish all our readers
a Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year**



Anne, Linda and Michael



Also Congratulations to:-

Linda Miles

who has a special birthday

Teddy Bears' Picnic

A while ago in our Home Group, the subject of the TV programme, The Repair Shop came up in discussion. We were thinking about emotions and memories. Folk who had a loved item repaired found memories and emotions were stirred.

This led to us talking about our treasures from the past such as a teddy bear. Someone suggested we

have a teddy bears' picnic.

Last night we held our teddy bears' picnic. We had a lovely evening of sharing our own stories from the past and introducing our treasure. The photo shows all our little treasures making friends with each other.

We also celebrated a birthday with nibbles and cake so it really was a picnic

for us as well as our little treasures.

Av's Home Group



An Evening with Terry Waite

In St Peter's Church, 250 people awaited eagerly to hear Terry Waite talk about his experience as a hostage in Beirut. Solitary confinement lasted nearly 5 years.

I think we were awe struck by the quiet and humble way he explained why he was seeking the release of hostages, how he became a hostage himself and how eventually he was released. Different parts of his hour long talk made a lasting impression.

For us, it was his commitment not to seek revenge, remembering Jesus words on the cross. "Father forgive them. They do not know what they are doing."

When he was at the extremities of suffering, he realised that God would not get him out of this hole in the way that he might have expected. He would provide all the resources he would need

to live in hope.

God's way was to develop skills that were lying dormant in him. He was not a writer and he was not provided with any paper or pens. However God enabled him to become both a writer and a poet by developing his language and his memory. His diaries, his poems and responses to solitude were all outcomes of that enabling. *Out of the Silence* bears witness to the lasting power of forgiveness, truth and reconciliation in the face of the adverse forces still at work in the world today.

He recalled the only occasion in all his captivity when he was able to look out of a window. He saw a lady walking along the street below carrying a basket which held flowers in full bloom. The contrast with the drab monochrome of his cell was startling in its

luminosity. His comment was to say don't take anything for granted. Look around you wherever you are. There is beauty to be seen and to be uplifting to the soul.

He felt he was fortunate because through life he had been an avid reader and had built up a store of books, poetry and prose in his memory. Also he had been brought up with the Book of Common Prayer which he had unconsciously as a choir boy memorised.

Towards the end of the evening, he was asked if he could suggest a verse of about 25 words that he would recommend to us.

He said, "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Michael and Linda Miles

December Diary

Sat 1st	SaturDads	PC
Sun 2nd	10.30am All-Age Worship	St.J
	6.30pm Witness Service	A.S
Mon 3rd	10-11.30am Little Fishes	P.C
	7.30pm Elders	
Tues 4th	7.45pm Parish at Prayer	St.J
Wed 5th	9-9.30am Weekly Morning Prayer	St.J
Thur 6th	7.30pm Create for Christmas	St.J
Fri 7th	10.30am Frugal Food	PC
Sat 8th	7pm Christmas Quiz Evening	PC
Sun 9th	9am Holy Communion	St.J
	10.30am Morning Worship	St.J
	4pm Cakes and Carols	PC
Mon 10th	10-11.30am Little Fishes	P.C
Tues 11th	2pm School Carol Service	St.J
Wed 12th	9-9.30am Weekly Morning Prayer	St.J
Thur 13th		
Fri 14th	10.30am Frugal Food	PC
Sat 15th		
Sun 16th	10.30am Holy Communion	St.J
	3-5pm Open House	
	4 Cranford Avenue	
	6.30pm Evening Worship	St.J
Mon 17th	10-11.30am Little Fishes	P.C
	College Carol Service	C
Tues 18th		
Wed 19th	9-9.30am Weekly Morning Prayer	St.J
	10am Ladies Coffee Morning	St.J
Thur 20th		
Fri 21st	10.30am Frugal Food	PC
Sat 22nd		
Sun 23rd	9am Holy Communion	St.J
	10.30am All-Age Worship	St.J
	4pm Children's Nativity	St.J
Mon 24th	6.30pm Carol Service	St.J
	11.30pm Midnight Communion	St.J
Tues 25th	All-Age with Holy Communion	St.J
Wed 26th		
Thur 27th		
Fri 28th		
Sat 29th		
Sun 30th	9am Holy Communion	St.J
	10.30am All-Age Worship	St.J
Mon 31st		

St.J—St John's PC—Park Church
A.S—All Saints, Wyke
C—Wey. College

Leaders during Sunday Services

Trailblazers

(Reception -> Year 4)

Val Collings
Hazel Patterson
Susie Coopey

Ignite

(Year 5 -> Year 9)

Elliott Bailey

Home Group Contacts

Monday Morning	Pat and Roy Worrall
Wednesday Evening	Av Stanton
	Shirley Evans-Jones
Thursday Evening	Michael Miles

Advanced dates for your diary

**10 Jan Lay Pastoral Assistants
Taster Evening**

Who's Who?

Vicar	Rev Tom Coopey (01305777708)
Wardens	Michael Miles (01305833878)
	Les Mould (01305785472)

Next month's issue

Many thanks to all our writers. Please submit articles (of less than 250 words), dates or information to Anne Bond or Linda and Michael Miles by 30th December. Articles may be edited. Next edition available 6th January.

The views and opinions expressed are those of the contributors.