

Sunday Snippets

Crib & Village lighting event

This is now the final reminder of the Crib and village lighting event next Wednesday evening, 2nd December. There is every expectation that the village will be colourfully lit up together with an illuminated yew tree in the churchyard. The event will get under way from 5.30pm when members of our church choir will be singing carols in the churchyard and they together with the Eggbuckland Community Choir will continue leading seasonal songs in the church later. Other entertainment on the little green opposite Kay's Hairdressing Salon is also being arranged and this can be enjoyed whilst supping a glass of mulled wine that will be available from outside The Prince Maurice. In addition to hot food from the chip shop, there will be refreshments available in the hall where a number of gift stalls will be set up. In church there will be crafts for the children, face painting and Father Christmas will be in his grotto, specially based in the vestry for the evening. Father Christmas obviously has some influential contacts. All that is needed to make it a really memorable evening is for the weather to be half decent so some prayers may be in order. Anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend the meeting of the organisers immediately after today's service (expected to start at 11.00am) when most of the details will be finalised.



Today is Advent Sunday

This is the first Sunday in the Church's year. The season of Advent is about being a people who are ready – ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus, not just ticking off the Sundays before



Christmas. Advent also reminds us of Jesus' promised return when God will complete the renewing and healing of humanity and the whole creation. Christians are called to be ready and waiting! It is a time for spiritual reflection, asking God to help and to deal with anything that hinders us from welcoming the reign of God in our lives. The Advent wreath has five candles – we light one each Sunday in Advent. The first represents the Old Testament patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, the forerunners of our faith. The second candle reminds us of the O T prophets who pointed toward the coming Messiah; the third, of John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus' ministry and the fourth – Mary, who said an amazing 'Yes' to God's request to bear the Son of God. The fifth candle representing Jesus, Light of the World, is lit on Christmas Day.

Blessed are you, God of all time. To you be praise and glory for ever. Throughout history you have called your people to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope that your promises will be fulfilled. May we, in our days on earth, obey your call and be ready and watchful to receive Christ. For he is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. He is your Son and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Christmas Fayre

At the time of writing there is no way of knowing just how successful (or otherwise) yesterday's Christmas Fayre turned out.

What is certain is that many people worked very hard to give it every chance of being a success and there was also a large number who contributed fund-raising items. To all, a very great big "Thank You" as well as to the patrons who supported the event, many of whom turn up time and time again. We will, of course, be announcing this morning the amount that was raised.

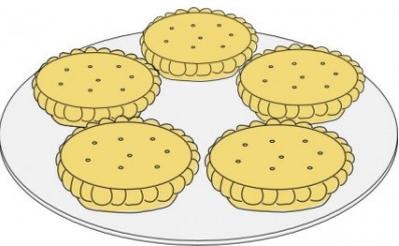
Christmas Fayre



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The Mince Pie Challenge

Our PCC Secretary, Helen Soole is well on her way to collecting the 50 packets of mince pies she has been challenged to obtain for the Lighting Event, our Messy Community Christingle Service in St Edward's on 13th December and the Christmas Eve Crib Service. The Plymouth Co-operative Society has kindly donated 30 pies (as well as 240 tea bags, a large jar of coffee and sugar). Please let Helen know today if you can donate a packet or telephone 783412.



St Edward's School Fair

The St Edward's CE Primary School Christmas Fair is to be held on next Friday, 4th December between 3.30 & 6.30pm at the School. A number of our church members are helping and if anyone else wishes to do so please contact Helen Routledge.



Edward Noble - RIP

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Edward Noble at St Luke's Hospice on Wednesday of this week. Edward, who worshiped with us on Sunday evenings and sometimes at Morning Service had been taken ill only fairly recently. Our condolences and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.



Only Joking!

A young Curate, trying to gain the attention of his congregation, suddenly interrupted his sermon saying: "I remember the time when I was in the arms of another man's wife." Everyone immediately began listening. "She was the wife of my father," he added much to the amusement of the congregation. Hearing of this, the Bishop decided that he would use the joke to introduce his next sermon in the cathedral. His large congregation included the Lord Mayor and civic dignitaries. He began enthusiastically, "I remember the time when I was in the arms of another man's wife." There followed a lengthy pause before the stammering Bishop admitted, "Just for the moment, I cannot remember whose wife she was."



Advent Quiet Day

On Saturday, 19th December from 10am-4pm at the Church of the Ascension, Crownhill there will be a Quiet Day to which everybody is welcome. Refreshments will be available all day but participants should bring their own lunch. This is a day to prepare for Christ's coming with worship, reflections, meditation and silence. If interested for all or part of the day, email eaburke@btinternet.com There is no charge.



Magazines

The December/January Parish Magazines are available at the back of the church.

