

Sunday Snippets

Second Sunday of Advent

The second candle to be lit today in the Advent Ring reminds us of the Old Testament Prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

God our Father: you told the prophets of old that you would send a Saviour to bring peace to the world. You helped them to spread the joyful message of the Saviour's coming kingdom. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, help us to share the good news of your love and your power with those around us.

Lord Jesus, light of the world: The prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give us peace in our hearts this Christmas time, and may all the world know your love. Amen.



The Alternative Communal Christmas Card

This has been kindly set up by Val Francksen at the back of the church and is designed for us to pin a Christmas card to all our friends in St Edward's. This saves buying and writing individual cards (always with the unfortunate risk of leaving someone out) and it is a means of raising money for the charity Embrace the Middle East. Some or all of the cost saved from buying individual cards can be donated to Embrace and envelopes for this purpose are provided. The donations can be gift aided to make it even more valuable. The carol sheets we use each Christmas are supplied free of charge by Embrace, an additional 100 having been received this year. Please take advantage of this form of greeting and benefit a most worthy charity.



Nativity Scene & Village lighting event



A lifetime resident of the village exclaimed that she had never seen so many people gathered together in Eggbuckland at one time as happened last Wednesday evening;

and this despite the worst possible timing for a dry day to turn to incessant rain. Our Choir set the festive mood by singing in the churchyard, grateful for some cover and the large crowd who had not already taken shelter in the church and hall applauded when the contemporary ceramic nativity scene, inspired by the work of Sculptor Henry Moore, and fashioned by Year 9 students of Eggbuckland Community College was unveiled and illuminated. The Eggbuckland Community Choir entertained under canvas on the 'little green' until at 6.30pm the count down by the tolling bell was the signal switching on of the lights on houses, the Prince Maurice and church hall and, the pièce de résistance was the illuminating of the yew tree. Father Christmas was very busy in the vestry and face painting and 'messy' activities were popular in church. The chippie did a roaring trade, mulled wine from the P Maurice was appreciated and there were many patrons grateful to sit down for refreshments in the hall where craft stalls were so attractively bedecked. Members of the Junior and Senior sections of Sound House Brass provided some stirring Christmas music but the weather was just too bad for the Morris Dancers to perform outside so they gave an impromptu set in the hall. Many people worked very hard on this inaugural event, none more so than Helen Soole whose co-ordinating skills were an essential ingredient and Julian Payne who arranged for the completion of the outdoor electrics in the churchyard. Rev Chris was tying up loose ends all week and our Ward Councillors turned up trumps with provision of marquee and generator. A massive 'Well Done' to all involved.



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Christmas Fair

We are delighted that last Saturday's Christmas Fair proved to be the success we had hoped but dared not anticipate. The magnificent sum of £1,105 was raised for church funds. It is almost impossible to fully express our gratitude to every helper, donor and patron all of whom contributed to the achievement. It really was good to have a number of new participants and one particular male member of the Choir now realises the use to which a tea towel should be put. A certain Curate discovered his hidden talent as a salesman and the brilliant Father Christmas had to learn to water ski to return to Lapland, so wet was the weather at the afternoon's end.



Only Joking!

On a visit to his grandmother a teenage boy listened to her complaining about the high cost of living. "Do you know, when I was your age I could go out with a few shillings in my purse and come home with enough food to last a week." "Well, that's inflation for you," said the lad. "It's nothing to do with inflation," said the old lady. "It's all those security cameras that the shops have these days."



A businessman told his neighbour that his company was looking for a new accountant. "Didn't your company hire a new accountant a few weeks ago?" asked the neighbour. "Yes," said the businessman. "That's the accountant we're looking for."

Open Lecture – "Who is to Blame? Disasters, Nature and Acts of God."

You are invited to this lecture to be given by Professor Bob White, FRS (Professor of Geophysics at Cambridge University and Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion), on Friday, 11th December at 7.30pm in Lecture Theatre 2, the Roland Levinsky Building, Plymouth University. Admission is free. Sponsored by Plymouth University Chaplaincy and Christians in Science South West.



Community Christingle

Get in the Christmas spirit next Sunday, 13th December at 3.00pm by coming to the Community Messy Christingle. This will be a fun way to hear the Christmas story with candles, carols and Christmas oranges. A really enjoyable family event for all ages.



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.



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