

Sunday Snippets

Some Week!

Was it only a week ago that we were anticipating the Festive Season with our Candlelit Carol Service when the church was packed with well over 200 excited people of all ages? St Edward's looked at its best and everyone was in fine voice – our Choir, the Youth Group, the children and the Community Choir. The occasion should have been a wonderful distraction from the hassles of last minute shopping and preparations for the week ahead.



New Flag Flying for Christmas

Despite the wind and rain, Bob Hall braved the elements and, under the supervision of young Joe, climbed to the tower roof to lower the flag of St George that had managed to survive (only just) the many storms of recent months. Tattered, torn and discoloured, its replacement was well overdue. Once raised, the new flag was proudly flying in time for Christmas. Once again we are grateful for the regular anonymous donations that enable us to keep a flag flying.



Boomer's Return

Prayer mats were out, fingers crossed and weather forecasts scanned hourly in the days leading up to Christmas Eve. Just what were the chances for a brief spell of fine weather which would allow the presence of a donkey to join in the Wednesday afternoon Nativity Services? Contrary to the Met Office pronouncements, the day dawned clear and bright with just a shower or two in between the unexpected sunshine. And who should put in an appearance again but Boomer, the donkey who behaved so well last year. Yet again he was on his best behaviour, patient, gentle and tolerant to all the close attention he received from so many young and young at heart. The two



Services at 2.30pm and 3.30pm attracted a total attendance of between 400 and 500. As always, we thank the Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary for taking so much trouble to provide this major attraction and integral part of the Nativity.

Midnight Communion and Christmas Day

The fifth candle in the Advent Ring was lit just after midnight on Christmas Eve to celebrate the coming of Jesus the Christ, the Light of the World. Lord Jesus, light of light, you have come among us. Help us to live by your light of truth and love. Help us to truly shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the Highest!



Holy Communion



COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Every Second Wednesday of the Month (Tickets from the Vicar)





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A Happy New Year to all associated with St Edward's

May you enjoy health, happiness and find fulfilment in 2016.

Only Joking!

When Mother Teresa died and went to Heaven she was met by God at the Pearly Gates. He asked if she was hungry to which she replied that she would welcome some food. God opened a packet of cheese and broke off a hunk of bread and they began to share their meal. Mother Teresa happened to glance down to Hell and saw the residents there tucking into steaks, chicken, lobsters and cream cakes. She was curious but remained silent. The next day, God again invited her to join him for a meal and once more it was bread and cheese. Again, Mother Teresa looked down into Hell and observed everyone tucking into a feast of food. The same happened the following day and Mother Teresa could contain her curiosity no longer. Meekly she enquired, "God, I am very pleased to be in Heaven with you as a reward for the pious, selfless life I led, but all I get to eat is bread and cheese. Down in Hell they eat like royalty. I do not understand it. God sighed: "To be perfectly honest, Teresa," he said, "for just two people, it doesn't pay to cook."



Spare a Thought for the Staff!

With a total of seven services since last Sunday morning (including a Baptism), it is easy to imagine just how busy have been the Clergy, staff and their families, carrying out church duties whilst juggling with all their other commitments. In the main, things went surprisingly smoothly and many were the complimentary comments from those attending, perhaps for the first time, irregularly or some who were returning to renew acquaintance with St Edward's. There were those who were 'home' on holiday and some who came because of previous local connections. It was pleasing to see a few familiar faces from the past. On the other hand, it was disappointing that some of our regular worshippers were unable to attend because of sickness. Some virulent bugs abounded and disrupted the planned festive activities of more than a few in the community.



'Live Simply so others may Simply Live'

11th January, 10.30-3.00pm at the Old Deanery, Exeter, EX1 1HS - Celebrate the New Year with a chance to reflect and reconnect. A retreat day of prayer and thought provoking talks, including Ian and Gail Adams (Beloved Life Retreats www.belovedlife.org) and Eucharist at Exeter Cathedral. Lunch will be provided. To book a place contact

