



Sunday Snippets

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The fact that you are reading this at this morning's service suggests that you didn't over-indulge last night; or if you did, you have amazing powers of recovery. New Year is an occasion that unites people the world over irrespective of race, religion or political persuasion, in wishing future well-being to others and, generally, with

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



a sense of optimism, no matter how misplaced, or at least a hope for an upturn in fortune. All manner of predictions are made, as indeed are resolutions, most of which have no chance of being kept beyond a week or two. What does 2017 have in store for us? Here we shall officially become the Parish of Eggbuckland with Estover and there will be an additional member of clergy. The Rev Keith Murphy and his wife Annette are expected to join us within the next couple of months or so. The population of the parish will continue to grow with the residential



development of Seaton. Our church hall refurbishment project will gather momentum, but the progress will be governed by the success or otherwise of funding applications and other financial commitments. Essential expenditure will always have to take precedence and that is



often difficult to predict. Only recently has the need arisen for the church heating system to be overhauled/repaired/replaced. Whatever the outcome of the investigation and proposed action, the cost will be considerable and will delay other desirable but less urgent innovations. As far as the City is concerned, easily predictable is the fact that more and more student accommodation will be completed, more city centre shops will close, whilst the number of restaurants will eventually reach saturation point. Could this be the year that our major football club finally begins to climb away from the basement league? That has become a perennial question. We do know that Brexit negotiations are due to begin this spring and that particular season could have some



MR FOX PASSES BY



There may not have been a donkey at St Edward's on Christmas Eve but a week later a fox was seen walking along the northern boundary of the churchyard and entering the wooded area behind the bee hives. Within the churchyard there are some primroses in flower and all the signs are that there will be another abundance of celandines in the spring.

Disappointingly there were very few berries on the holly this year but plenty on the ivy. Within the next few weeks the many bulbs there should begin to show. For anyone looking closely, it is possible to find some violets alongside the path leading to the church hall.



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CHRISTMAS AT ST EDWARD'S

What a joyous occasion was the Candlelit Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas. There was a full to overflowing church, beautifully decorated and an air of excitement and anticipation. Singing of the carols was enthusiastic, both the Church



and the Community Choirs were in fine voice and there was a sense of reverence for the readings. A fun time was had by all at the Church Christmas Party in the hall on 20th December. The buffet contained a fine selection of savoury fare and the specially commissioned cake from Vasso's Patisserie was delicious, all washed down with Jon Lake's home made wines. Jon on keyboard and Carl on guitar got things going with a swing, providing renditions throughout the evening of the top ten Christmas songs. Other entertainment was provided by the Choir (a spoof panto'),



Derry, Bob, Stuey, Pat and Jon. The Christmas Eve Nativity (Crib) Services proved ever popular, with record numbers attending. The disappointment of the donkey's non-attendance was quickly overcome by the appearance of Derry Bowman in donkey costume (what an actor!) and Rev Chris donning donkey head sufficiently convincing for him to be offered carrots by the score! Craft activities in the hall before and after the services were very much appreciated and worth all the efforts of those who took such time and trouble to set them up and organise them. Likewise refreshments were in great demand which was well satisfied by the efficient team. There were almost 100 worshippers at Midnight Communion and the reason for being given a cracker with their carol sheets became apparent during the creative sermon of Rev Chris. The Christmas Morning wet weather did not deter the 40 or so worshippers from leaving the comfort of their homes and subsequent dinners were no doubt appreciated all the



Only Joking!

According to Rev Chris, Christmas cracker jokes are intentionally cringe-making so as to provide a common bond for those reading them - a unifying consensus. Let's hope the following prove the theory:

What did the dog say when it sat on sandpaper? "Ruff"

What did the snowman's wife give him when she was angry? The cold shoulder.

Why did the boy throw the toast out of the window? Because he wanted to see the butterfly.

Why didn't the skeleton go to the New Year's Eve party? He had no body to go with.

What did the Christmas stocking say when it had a hole in it? "Well, I'll be darned."

Why was the toilet paper rolling down the hill? To get to the bottom.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work? A stick.

