

Time to Reflect

We seem to react differently to bad news at this time of year. We somehow feel that someone has crashed the party by doing something so thoughtless as falling ill or losing a job or dying. Christmas, we tell ourselves, is meant to be time of undiminished happiness.

To hear today's gospel reading, of the sheer, uncontrollable panic of Mary and Joseph, is to bring down to earth any false feelings of sentimentality we might have about this time of year. Christmas Day itself is followed by St Stephan's Day, the day when we remember the first martyr for Christ and in the same vein, our gospel warns us off surrounding Christmas with emotional cotton wool.

Mary and Joseph take three days to find Jesus. We all have spent time looking for things; car keys, phone, shoes. And we recognise the surge of relief when, at last, we remember that we *did* put them somewhere odd and search there. We pick the same emotional idea up when Mary and Joseph, on the off-chance, look in on the Temple. "Duh," says Jesus, "where d'you think I would be?" Two days of panic and then a moment of blindingly obvious revelation—that their God-immersed lad would be in the one place where you could immerse yourself in the things of God. We've all been there.

Which raises a neat question; where do we look for the things of God? and do we do so naturally and instinctively, as Jesus did? And would anyone else know that about you? If not, why not?

Worship and Activities this week

Today	5.00pm	Office Hour
	6.30pm	Said Evening Prayer
Mon	7.30pm	Youth Central resumes 7th Jan
Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	Study Group on 9th Jan
Thurs	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	Tiddlers @ Church House
	10.30am	Funeral of Kenneth Hazel
	12.45pm	Holy Communion
Fri	8.00am	Dust Busters
	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	No Lunchtime Concert. Concert resumes on 11th January
	7.00pm	Full Choir Practice and social.
Sat	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Next Week: Epiphany 6th January 2019

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
5.00pm	Office Hour
6.30pm	Evensong

New Year's Prayer

Eternal Lord God,
we give you thanks for bringing us through the changes of time to the beginning of another year. Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past, and help us to spend the rest of our days to your honour and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by Wednesday.

Christmas 1

30th December 2018

www.buryparishchurch.com



We welcome you and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also welcome children in church. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church. There is a children's area at the back of Church.

8.00am Said Holy Communion
President: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching: Julian Heaton, Rector

10.00am Parade Eucharist and Sunday School
President: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching: Julian Heaton, Rector
Hymns: 56 (Omit*); 595; 63; 81
Motets: Harold Darke:
In the bleak mid-winter

6.30pm Evensong
Minister: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr
Psalm 132 (pg. 519—520)
Isaiah 61 (pg. 594—595)
Galatians 3. 27-4.7 (pg. 977)

*The church and coffee shop will be closed until Wednesday, 2nd January.
The church is open for services.*

Cornerstone

Serving Bury, deepening our faith, caring for the marginalised, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Today's Readings

The Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

(1 Samuel 2. 18-20, 26)

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (Luke (2. 41-end)

Glory to You, O Lord

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in

the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.



After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Parish Magazine

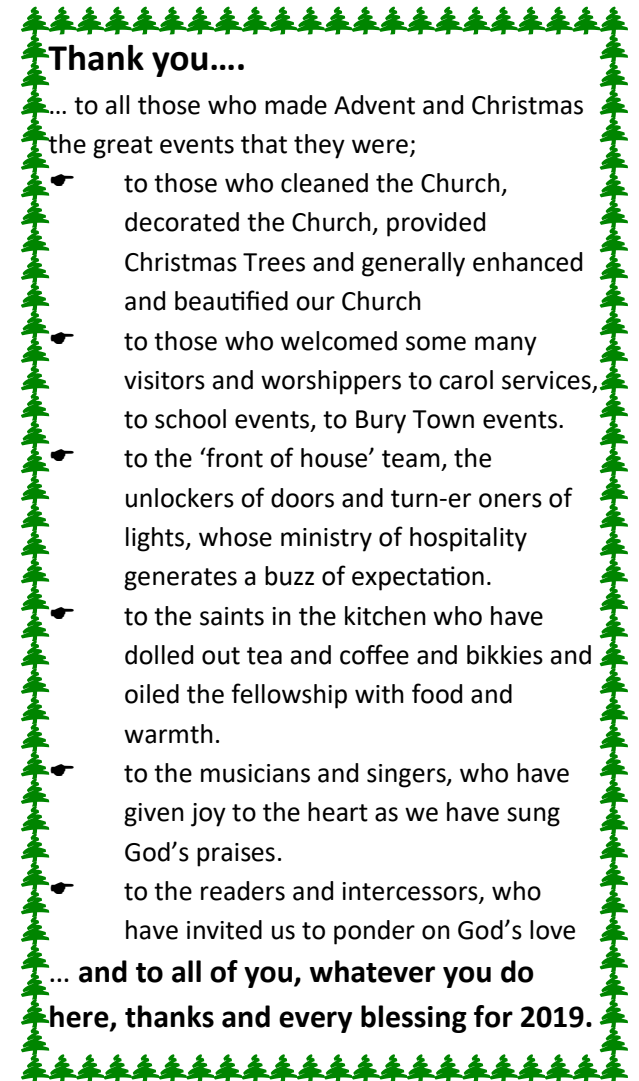


Marc is the new editor of our Parish Magazine. Please email your contributions to : marcm1969@gmail.com by Sunday, 13th January 2019

Please note that the Magazine material will need to be in by the **second Sunday** of each month. This is different! We will need to be organised!

Parish Breakfast

Sunday, 13th January at 8.40am. Tickets from the Church Wardens or Keith Sedman.



Thank you....

- ... to all those who made Advent and Christmas the great events that they were;
- to those who cleaned the Church, decorated the Church, provided Christmas Trees and generally enhanced and beautified our Church
- to those who welcomed some many visitors and worshippers to carol services, to school events, to Bury Town events.
- to the 'front of house' team, the unlockers of doors and turn-er oners of lights, whose ministry of hospitality generates a buzz of expectation.
- to the saints in the kitchen who have dolled out tea and coffee and bikkies and oiled the fellowship with food and warmth.
- to the musicians and singers, who have given joy to the heart as we have sung God's praises.
- to the readers and intercessors, who have invited us to ponder on God's love

... and to all of you, whatever you do here, thanks and every blessing for 2019.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England; Common Worship: Pastoral Services; The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects 2000

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