

S. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH,

CAMBRIDGE

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017

Canon Brian Watchorn, formerly Dean of Pembroke, has kindly contributed the Christmas and New Year letter below. Readers will know him as a member of the 8 o'clock congregation on Sundays, and as a much appreciated preacher from time to time at 11. K.H.

Christmas for many of us really begins with our tuning in to the King's College service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. The readings are the same each year and can easily just flow over us but they present an amazing story. They tell of the need we all share to be born again.

We hear in the story of Adam and Eve how by nature we are at odds with our true destiny, "afraid" of God's voice and presence, at odds also with others whom we blame rather than ourselves, so that even creation is deranged.

But the God of all creation is by nature endlessly reaching out to us, "the zeal of the Lord of Hosts" is irrevocably searching us out, no matter the darkness of our plight. But the light which the prophet Isaiah saw as breaking forth in an ideal ruler in succession to King David (Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace) is eventually announced not in a royal court but to a country girl. Human power and human nature have to be reworked through a defenceless baby born to a virgin, as both Luke and Matthew tell, a new creation no less in which God takes hold of the stuff of our

human existence — “God with us” (Hebrew: Emmanuel) — and makes it whole again.

Simple shepherds may have eyes to see this paradox — the helpless baby more powerful than a king. Alien astrologers too, wise in reading the signs, surrender their expertise to this insignificant Jewish child. Not so the educated and religious (scribes and Pharisees) nor the powerful (King Herod). “The world,” writes St John, “knew him not.”

Yet in this manger God has expressed himself as fully as can be. The very image of God, which Adam was meant to reflect, is now enfleshed in his Son Jesus, the first-born of a new creation where “the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb” and “all the nations of the earth be blessed”. God takes on our nature and by living through it, even through the last enemy death, raises it and redeems it to reunion with himself.

For this to be our story we need to be born again in Christ. *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”*

May all the blessings of Christmas be yours, this Christmas and into the New Year.

Canon Brian Watchorn

NOTES & NEWS

Some notes from the November meeting of the Parochial Church Council:

- plasterwork, repairs and limewash by wall-box and font and in the lavatory now completed
- Advent Fayre to be held on Saturday 3rd December, 10-3.30
- Advertisement for non-stipendiary priest-in-charge to appear in the Church Times later in November
- Evensong on Sundays during the winter months, beginning on Sunday 11th December, is to be at 4.15 p.m. (apart from 18th December, when it will be at 6.00 p.m. before Carol-singing)
- Carol Service this time to be an Epiphany Carol Service on Sunday 8th January at 11
- Farewell to Margaret Widdess on Sunday 4th December

Items for the February Newsletter by Monday 30 January, please. K.H.

CALENDAR

ADVENT II 4th December 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Farewell to Margaret Widdess
Epistle, Mrs. Baker; Refreshments, Josselyn

6.30 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 7th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

ADVENT III Sunday 11th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Mattins

1. Isaiah 25.1-9, Dr Lindsay; 2. St Matthew 25.1-30, Mr Barker

12 noon Holy Communion

4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 14th *Ember Day* 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

ADVENT IV Sunday 18th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Order 1)

Epistle, Mr Hodson; Intercession, Mrs. Baker

6.00 p.m. Evensong followed by carol singing in the parish

Wednesday 21st *S. Thomas, Apostle* 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Saturday 24th *Christmas Eve* Church Decoration from 9.30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday 25th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Horbury

4.30 p.m. Evensong (said)

S. Stephen's Day Monday 26th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Innocents' Day Wednesday 28th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS *Circumcision of Christ*

Sunday 1st January 2017 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Epistle, Mrs. Baker

Friday 6th *Epiphany* Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

EPIPHANY I Sunday 8th January 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Refreshments, Horbury

Evensong 4.15 p.m.

Wednesday 11th January Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

EPIPHANY II Sunday 15th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Order 1)
Epistle, Mrs. Barker; Intercession, Mrs. Coghill
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 18th 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

EPIPHANY III Sunday 22nd 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mattins
1. Isaiah 45.9-end, Dr Hunter; 2. Ephesians 2, Dr Lindsay
12 noon Holy Communion
4.00 p.m. Michaelhouse, service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Preacher: Dr Gemma Simmonds (Heythrop College)

Wednesday 25th *Conversion of S. Paul* 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

EPIPHANY IV Sunday 29th 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist; Epistle, Mrs. Irvine
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Tuesday 31st P.C.C. 8.00 p.m.

Wednesday 1st February *Candlemas* trfd 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

EPIPHANY V Sunday 5th February 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Epistle, Mr Hodson; Refreshments
4.15 p.m. Evensong

Churchwardens:

Mrs. K. M. Horbury 01223 363529, Mrs. V. Baker 01223 426911