

St David's Messenger

JANUARY 2012

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and prosperous new year from everyone at St. David's.

Good luck to all of you who have made New Year resolutions. I hope you are managing to keep them. When making resolutions we are usually trying to improve the quality of our lives. This is certainly an excellent motive but often we become so conscious of the small details that we don't see the bigger picture.

Actually most of us have a superb life style when compared with millions of people around the world. We have a tendency to take for granted the good things we have such as families and friends, our health and homes until we lose them. We ignore God's blessings and his gifts to us.

Last year we witnessed on our TV screens the devastation of whole communities by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods or drought. Thank God for the aid agencies in their attempts to provide help and hope in these difficult situations.

Another cause of the devastation in some communities was people fighting for the right to a democratic government in

their country. May they find peace.

I like most of you can criticise our weather, the Politicians, the NHS, the standard of education, the churches and especially the banks but the fact is that we are allowed the freedom to do so and hopefully someone will listen and take note of our concerns.

I think many of these concerns can be remedied by being part of a community that cares. This weekend I read an article about Todmorden in Yorkshire where people have grown fruit and vegetables in their gardens and even on the grass verges to share with each other. The report commented on the friendly atmosphere of the town and how vandalism was now virtually non-existent.

We at St David's want to be part of a community which cares for each other. We are here to support you if we can.

Hopefully 2012 will be remembered in years to come for the celebrations of the Queens diamond jubilee, a superb Olympics and the year we became concerned for the welfare of our community.

God bless
Sheila

WHAT'S ON IN THE GLADSTONE HALL

MONDAYS

AGE CONCERN LUNCH CLUB

12noon. To book please phone 228 6881 Everyone over 60 welcome!

HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY

4.00 pm. For age 5+. For further details phone 482 0443.

TUESDAYS

GLADSTONE BABE AND TODDLERS PLAYGROUP

1.30-3.00pm -School term time

VESTRY HOUR

6.00-7.00 pm in Parish Office, Gladstone Hall. A member of clergy will be available.

KEEP-FIT

6pm to 7pm. Come along for an hour of gentle exercise to music.

YOGA

7.30-8.30pm. Cost £5—Please bring a mat and bottle of water.

WEDNESDAYS

WOMENS' YOGA

9.30-10.45am suitable for mixed ability from beginner to experienced. Phone Wendy on 07706500879

JUMPING JACKS

1.30-2.15pm. Music and movement for pre-school age children. Tel. 487-5757

THURSDAYS

MUSICAL MINIS

9.45-10.30am. Please phone Cathie for details 486 4735 or see

www.musicalminis.co.uk

CHILDWALL WARD

COUNCILLORS SURGERY

11.30am-12.30pm—(1st Thursday every month).

FRIDAYS

ZUMBA

6.00-7.00pm. Cost £3.50.

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Hi kids! Welcome to your corner of the St David's Messenger, for our chat, prayer and puzzle.

If this month your birthday's due,

Then birthday happiness we wish for you.

If you're unwell and feeling sickly,

We hope and pray you'll get well quickly.

And if you're new to St. David's Messenger,

We hope you'll stay with us for ever.

A HAPPY AND TROUBLE FREE NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

(Little Jim—'Hello Brian, hello everybody. Happy New Year. Because it is January, can I tell everybody how it got its name?')

Of course you can Little Jim!

(Little Jim— 'In ancient times when the Romans ruled parts of Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, one of the gods they worshipped was called Janus.

Now Janus had two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward. So the Romans named January after this god because he could look forwards into the new year and backwards into the old year. My mum told me about Janus. Isn't she clever?')

Yes, and so are you for remembering all that she taught you. I will now tell you a story Little Jim told me after Christmas.

It was a clear frosty night at the end of the first week in January last year. Little Jim and his dad were in the back garden looking up at the stars. His dad told Little Jim that a long time ago at the time of the first Christmas, three very wise and clever men worked out that a special king would be born and to find him

they had to follow the newest and brightest star in the sky as it moved across the heavens. This they did, and on the way, passed through the city of Jerusalem. There they met a cruel and evil king called Herod. He said he wanted to visit and worship the new king, so when they found him he wished them to tell him where the new king was. What Herod really wanted to do was to find and kill the new king.

Eventually the wise men found the new king, Jesus, whom they worshipped and presented with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They then returned home, but they did not go back to Herod as they did not trust him. This story took place in the period after Christmas, called EPIPHANY. Little Jim's dad said that we don't have to follow a star to find Jesus as He is with us all of the time.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for coming to Earth and saving me from sin and forgiving me when I am truly sorry. Amen.

PUZZLE

Answers to last month's puzzles—ADVENT and when you works out the letters for the numbers shown and take them away from the alphabet you are left with SLEIGH. You got it? Well done!

Can you find words of 4 letters or more in the words NEW YEAR. If you find 8+ wonderful, 9+ Wow!, 11+ I don't believe it! Little Jim's joke—How long does it take to burn a candle down? About a wick!)

That's all for now!

See you all soon!

Take Care. Brian.

SERVICE TIMES AT ST DAVID'S

Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Sung Eucharist

Except

2nd Sunday

10.30 am Family/Parade Service

11.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday

7.30 pm Holy Communion

BAPTISMS

27th November

Maisie Anne McCormack

Maggie Ellen McColliog

GOD

HG Wells was never particularly religious, but after he had studied the history of the human race and had observed human life, he came to an interesting conclusion: "Religion Is the first thing and the last thing, and until a man has found God and been found by God, he begins at no beginning, he works to no end. He may have his friendships, his partial loyalties, his scraps of honour. But all these things fall into place and life falls into place only with God."

From A Bundle of Laughs

By J. John & Mark Stibbe