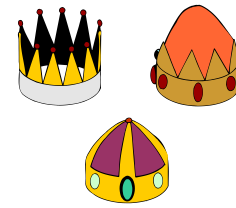


Services and events for January

- 2nd - The Eucharist 9.30am
- 5th - Parish Eucharist for Epiphany 10.30am
Evensong 6pm
- 12th - Morning Praise 10.30am
- 19th - The Parish Eucharist 10.30am
Evensong 6pm
- 23rd - the Eucharist 9.30am
- 26th - the Parish Eucharist 10.30am



All Saints with St. Anne's

Parish Pump

JANUARY 2025



Happy



New

Year

May it be a peaceful one

for all of us



Copy for February by 20th January please.

Editor: Pat Bryant. 01629 815225 or pmbryant83@gmail.com

A Word from St Anne's

The start of a New Year is traditionally a time when we reflect on the past and make resolutions about the future. Perhaps this time there is a greater significance as we are also beginning the second quarter of the 21st century. Compared with 25 years ago, at the start of this Millennium, we are certainly in a very different place; in our local churches, parish and benefice, in the wider society and in the world in general.

There is no doubt that our local churches - and indeed, the Church in general - has shrunk since January 2000, in terms both of attendance and of influence, as our society becomes increasingly secular in outlook, and each succeeding generation is less and less familiar with the habits and practices of the Christian Church. The practical outcome, for us, is that we are struggling simply to keep our churches going and are having to cope with fewer clergy, and services, in the regime of worship.

A dispassionate response to this dilemma from "outside the box" might be to say that society, and the world in general, have moved on, with new challenges and anxieties, at a growing pace, and the Church has tried to hold on to its traditional role and status, established centuries ago

This is not quite fair, of course, as many of us would be quick to point out. The Church has been adapting in response to changing problems and attitudes. To take just one example, twenty five years ago we were just getting used to the "novelty" of women priests. Now, they are not just commonplace, there are even some women bishops! An outsider retort to that, though, might be that the Church has been extraordinarily slow in acknowledging gender equality within its own institution, and...

Reflections on COP29

COP29 has delivered some steps forward, including the \$300 billion climate finance commitment by 2035, and the UK has shown positive leadership in signalling ambitious climate goals and fostering dialogue. Yet for those most vulnerable to climate disasters, this agreement will still feel insufficient.

This is a familiar story. Many individuals and nations work tirelessly for change, yet deeper forces of greed and apathy too often hold us back. To care for God's creation as we are called to, we must move beyond self-interest and reimagine our approach to finance and resources, with a constant focus on what is sustainable.

We need to embrace the wisdom shared by faith traditions about sufficiency, caring for our neighbours, and living in harmony with creation.

My prayer is that all nations take this forward with courage, prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable and stepping up our shared commitment to protect the earth and its people as we look towards COP30 in Brazil.

Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich and one of the leaders of the Anglican delegation at COP 29

Accordingly, at a meeting of the Bakewell with Over Haddon PCC during November there was a unanimous vote in favour of welcoming the Great Longstone with Wardlow parish into this Benefice.

It must be stressed that the main reason for the decision of the Bakewell and Over Haddon PCC is in response to positive arguments and carried out in a spirit of fellowship. However, as the Archdeacon, who also attended the meeting of churchwardens referred to above, made clear, the situation relating to clergy vacancies in the diocese as a whole, and particularly in the Peak deanery, is such that we have to accept some increase in the size of benefices and manage the operation of church services and other clerical duties more creatively and with more active involvement of the laity.

The year 2025, then, promises to be an "interesting" one in our benefice! It will, no doubt, bring challenges, but can also bring opportunities for greater cooperation and sharing between an enlarged, but logical, grouping of church communities in our area.

Roger Truscott

Thank you Roger for a clear and comprehensive account (Ed.)

* * *

still has some catching up to do on other aspects of inclusivity...

So much for the past. In terms of "resolutions for the future" surely the lesson is that we should be more proactive, more nimble and more open-minded, about adapting our practices and attitudes to the inexorable changes and challenges happening around us, without sacrificing any of the core truth and message on which we are based.

This is certainly the hope and intention at the little village church of St Anne's in Over Haddon. How well we succeed in doing so remains to be seen...

But whatever the future holds, here's to a Happy New Year for one and all!

Roger Truscott

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So, these three wise blokes were sitting in the pub in early January, 2,000 or so years ago. One suddenly says "Hey, you know what day it is? There's a holy infant being born soon, so we'd better go shopping."

So off they went, got some presents appropriate to the event, and set off across the desert.

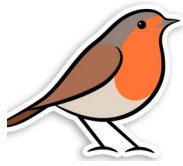
They found the babe in a stable and gave him their presents.

The first one said, "Here you are - I've brought you some gold."

The second one said, "Look, I've got this lovely frankincense for you."

The third one came forward with a big parcel and said "I was going to get some nice myrrh for you, but Aldi had sold out. So, I got you something much more useful really: a bumper pack of disposable nappies.

O M Witherby



Birds Eye View January 2025

New for 2025 - Roger Truscott and Zena Hawley, deputy wardens at Over Haddon, were co-opted onto the PCC at our November meeting.

This is because **we all across the benefice need to think about what the strengths and weaknesses of our churches are**; and how we attract dynamic, caring and spiritual (the archangel Gabriel?) priests to our lovely corner of Derbyshire.

Our Treasurer, Joyce Glencross, came to the beginning of the meeting, to field any questions we might have on her **budget for 2025**.

It's a bit concerning that there will be a likely deficit of £10,000 (as an old song almost goes: another year older and deeper in debt!).

While we do have some reserves, it's obviously not healthy. Almost half our expenditure goes to the diocese to pay for our clergy, among other things. We haven't had a **Stewardship Campaign** for many years, so we thought it would be good to have one to think about our giving, whether financial or of our talents.

Rev Brenda is gathering a group to help with **pastoral care** and potentially home communions. I am sure she would welcome a few more offers of help, and would give any support needed.

We said that we were happy to **accept Great Longstone's request** to join our benefice. In the past they were linked with Ashford and our choir used to join with them both in an occasional evensong. Roger Truscott agreed to write an article about it for Parish Pump (see below).

It was noted that we have no lay representatives on **the Deanery Synod**. Canon Tony has been our sole representative, so it would be very good if someone stepped up to have an input in future decisions.

So, onwards and upwards into a challenging 2025

Angela Bird

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Expansion of the Benefice

As you may have already heard, the parish of St Giles, Great Longstone, together with its daughter church of the Good Shepherd at Wardlow, have applied to join the Bakewell benefice. They have already been experiencing an "interregnum" for about a year, following the retirement of their vicar, and have no qualms about joining a benefice about to enter an interregnum itself during this year.

It may, on the surface, seem like a strange request at such a time, and indeed it would increase the number of churches in this benefice to seven, which the maximum number recommended. However, there are strong logical arguments for the proposal, not least that Great Longstone has strong geographical links with Bakewell and Ashford and have a clear view about the future mission of their churches which is compatible with the churches of this benefice.

This was explained by the Great Longstone churchwardens at a recent meeting of the Bakewell benefice churchwardens. They also made it clear that they would not add any financial burdens onto our benefice as they are in a financially sound position. Indeed, having two readers in place they would also be able to make a positive contribution to the conducting of services in our benefice. Furthermore, their recent experience of managing church services during a vacancy for the past year may well prove of value to us following the retirement of our vicar during this coming year.