



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin

No.420

January 2008

60p



Sharing the Love of Christ, the Light of the World, with the people of Ewell

A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO 2008

If God is Love, and God is excluded from the councils of our world, then Love is excluded also.

The evidence of the exclusion surrounds us in history and geography. South Sea Bubble, Northern Rock within Britain; Kosovo, Darfur, The Middle East without; our human selfishness abounds on every side.

If the media is to be believed, right across the world bankers, builders, businessmen, councillors, politicians, even sportsmen are not to be trusted but rather regarded as seekers of ill-gotten gains or celebrity status - and that in a media nobdy respects!

The complete absence of love in the way the media portrays people makes it almost impossible for them to change. We do well to remember that, in God's eyes, Robert Maxwell and Conrad Black were badly let down by the people around them. Many journalists now live ashamed of kowtowing.

We seem to be surrounded on all sides by greed, fear and suspicion. No love anywhere.

And because love is the prime power that can inspire people to change and be happy, our first Christian Approach to this New Year must be love. At all costs, to love.

Our Second Approach has to be to face the reality of what is going on in the hearts of those around us. This certainly means listening more than we talk. Giving people space.

Our Third Approach must be to remind ourselves of what love actually is.

Here it is revealed in poetry and spelled out in prose —

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth.

This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience- it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails.

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

The present writer can hardly bring himself to put these words on paper so far short of them does he fall. But we have to keep trying- even if that can be trying for our friends. Neither Jesus nor Paul were always comfortable companions.

And without Jesus, we haven't a hope. We would be attempting the impossible. With Jesus all things are possible. We discover that nobody is beyond being loved. Even ourselves.

In the December issue of Ewell Parish News we signalled an early thought for 2008 when we printed the verse which St Augustine kept on his refectory wall-

"If anyone likes to tell stories about people behind their backs, let him know that this table is no place for him."

When some of his fellow-bishops protested that surely this was not to be taken too seriously, Augustine replied that if they took that verse off the wall, he would go and eat his meal by himself.

Can we here at St Mary's, and in Ewell, take every "behind-back" story from our heart and replace it with love from 1st January onwards? It would be good for everybody to get rid of the spiky under-cover nastiness which is the opposite of love, replace it with the courage of openness, and live in clear-eyed goodwill.

If we can do this as a church we have something worthwhile for the world.

And this year St Mary's has a special extra dimension of challenge. Our vicar has been with us for a quarter of a century, and is leaving us at the end of the year. How do we ensure he

leaves us and goes on his way rejoicing in finer fettle, spiritually, mentally and physically than when he arrived?

And how do we ensure that we are likewise ready to welcome a worthy successor?

2008 is a big year.



THE VICAR writes

A CHURCHWARDEN ARRIVES...

We welcome Jonathan Gocher as our new churchwarden, and wish him well during his time of office. He was elected churchwarden on 16 December, and admitted to office the following Sunday, just in time for Christmas. The two churchwardens will certainly have a busy time ahead during the next two years, not least because of what is in the following paragraph.

...AND THE VICAR SAYS HE IS GOING!

No, there is most certainly no connection between these two things! I am very glad that Jonathan Gocher has consented to serve as churchwarden. He will bring a fresh mind and an objective eye to the official life of the parish. However, it is now generally known that this year will be my last at St Mary's. The Parochial Church Council has been told, and it has been mentioned on the Weekly Notes and also formally in church. I have been Vicar of Ewell for a very long time; indeed on the seventh of this month I shall have been in post for twenty-five years. The parish can certainly do with a change now, so somewhere around this time next year the parish will be facing the reality of an interregnum. That can be a challenging time for any parish, but the official mechanism ensures that a great deal of thought and discussion takes place before an appointment is finally made. It is too early for me to make any further comment on this matter, but those who hold office in the parish are already beginning to think seriously about the period between my own departure and the arrival of my successor. The patron of the living is the Bishop of the Diocese, something which in many respects makes things much easier than might have been the case if the patron were a private individual or a corporate body. (The patron of the adjacent parish of Nork is HM The Queen, and the patron of Chessington is Merton College, Oxford). When I was appointed here, it was in fact a Crown Appointment, but that was only because the then Bishop of the Diocese (Bishop David Brown) had died, and so his official patronage lapsed to the Crown. In fact there is a general clean-out of clergy in the immediate area; Dr Harvey has retired this month from the parish of Cuddington, and there is also a vacancy at St John Baptist, Stoneleigh. I am, of course, the Grand Old Man of the Epsom Deanery clergy, though the Vicar of St Barnabas Epsom is not all that far behind. Meanwhile, as they say, the show goes on, and the routine at St Mary's continues as normal.

DIVERTING TIMES WITH THE CALENDAR

Well, perhaps not quite as normal. The period between now and Easter is very strange this year, as far the Church Calendar is concerned. Easter is at its earliest possible date, less one day; in fact it is at its earliest date since 1913, and it will not be as early as this again during the present century. Indeed, if this were not a Leap Year then it would really be on the actual earliest possible date. This apparently innocent matter has caused all sorts of heart-searchings to those who devise lectionaries and calendars, not least because it also affects things at

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH

020 8393 2643

Website: www.stmarysewell.com

CLERGY

Canon W R Hanford MA BD LLM Vicar of Ewell
Ewell Vicarage, Church Street, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2AQ
The Reverend Patrick Miller MA PhD (Honorary)

READERS

Mr Reginald Saunders MA MEd 020 8393 5550
Mrs Wendy Varney 020 8393 5212

CHURCHWARDENS

Mr David Crick 07850 709461
Mr Jonathan Gocher 020 8224 5942

SUNDAY AT ST MARY'S

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

The Wayfarers and the Sunday School meet in conjunction with this service, and there is a Creche provided in church.

There is coffee in the church hall between the Eucharist and Mattins on Sunday mornings, and a chance for members of the congregation to meet or visitors to be welcomed to St Mary's.

1100 MATTINS

(Third Sunday in each month SUNG EUCHARIST to the Book of Common Prayer Rite)

1200 HOLY COMMUNION

(On Greater Festivals and on the last Sunday of the month except in December)

1830 EVENING WORSHIP

Either at St Mary's or at Ewell United Reformed Church. Details are on the Notice Board or on the Weekly Notes.

Occasionally there are variations from this pattern; details are given in this paper, on the Notice Board or on the Weekly Notes available on Sundays.

ON WEEKDAYS

The Eucharist is normally celebrated at present on Tuesdays at 1000, and at other times as printed on the Weekly Notes. Most of the Weekday services take place in the Parish Room (entry through the door on the Church Street side of the Church).

THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)
Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

This is in the Sacristy on the south side of the church and is open from 0930 to 1300 on Monday to Friday, (though at present it is not usually open on Thursdays). Also on Friday evening from 1830 to 2000, except in August, the office is open particularly for routine enquiries about Baptism, Banns of Marriage, Confirmation, or fixing up later appointments.

The Vicar is not usually available on Thursdays, and would be grateful not to be contacted on routine matters. Emergencies are different.

Ewell Parish News in 2008

The editorial staff of the EPN send all our readers our best wishes for the New Year. We hope you have enjoyed reading our magazine in 2007 and would like to subscribe again.

The cost remains at 60p per copy or £6 for 12 copies, delivery included. You can enrol either through your distributor or by sending your cash, name and address to the Parish Office.

the other end of the year. The *Common Worship* provisions do not allow for anything happening during the weekdays after Trinity 23, and so *ad hoc* arrangements have had to be provided, which have not had the usual cumbersome and agonizing path through the General Synod. Meanwhile *this* end of the year also has its problems, because *Common Worship* invented an Epiphany season, exactly modelled on Eastertide, and in which the Sundays are of Epiphany, rather than *after* Epiphany. There were those of us who thought this unwise for a number of reasons (some members of the congregation will know that I used to teach liturgy at a theological college), but it is there, and the *Common Worship* calendar is at this point out of step with the calendar and lectionary of *The Book of Common Prayer*, not to mention the Roman lectionary and the International Common Lectionary. Eventually, when this was noticed, the Church of England had to pass some complex amending legislation, and the diverting results are given below:

<i>Common Worship title and Collect</i>	<i>Common Worship readings</i>	<i>Roman title</i>	<i>BCP title</i>
6 January Epiphany and also numbered as the First Sunday of Epiphany	Epiphany	Epiphany	Epiphany*
13 January Baptism of the Lord, also called the Second Sunday of Epiphany	Baptism	Baptism	First Sunday after Epiphany
20 January The Third Sunday of Epiphany	As for the Second Sunday of Epiphany	Second Sunday 'of the year'	Septuagesima
27 January The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	As for the Third Sunday of Epiphany	Third Sunday 'of the year'	Sexagesima
3 February The Sunday before Lent, <i>unless</i> keeping Candlemas instead	Next before Lent	Fourth Sunday 'of the year'	Quinquagesima

* Perhaps in all fairness one ought to add that in the *Book of Common Prayer* the title 'The Epiphany', a Greek word in any case, was thought to be perhaps a little abstruse, so it gets followed by the disarming explanation: 'or the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.' These days simpler expressions are used, like 'Christ for the world.'

In order to make some sense out of all this nonsense, at St Mary's we shall be keeping Epiphany on the actual day, and the Baptism of Christ on the following Sunday. We shall then cut our losses, and follow the infinitely simpler BCP provision of observing the 'gesima' Sundays, with their traditional themes of Creation, the Fall and the Love of God, something which is arguably a better refresher course on Christian basics as we move away from thoughts of the Incarnation and direct our minds towards the Paschal mystery, for which the following six weeks of Lent are meant to prepare us. Candlemas will be kept - gently this year - with a simple Sung Eucharist on the eve of the feast, and with an all-age 'Candle Mass' at 1100 on the following Sunday (3 February). Next year Easter falls in mid-April, and life is much easier both for congregations and for those who like to make things difficult.

I wish you all a very happy New Year.

Your friend and Parish Priest

Richard Hanford

EST.1934

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THE SEASON IN POETRY

A School Nativity (the true story)

How should we start,
Learning our part?
Who'll do percussion,
That's up for discussion?
Angels in tights,
Who's doing the lights?
Children's frustration,
Then anticipation
Now shining faces
All in their places
Silver stars twinkle,
"Miss, I need a tinkle"
Sheep are grazing,
Angels amazing
Voices ascendant
Angels resplendent
Shepherds in frocks
Exposing their socks
Shepherds now wriggling
Mary is giggling
Somebody snickers
She's showing her knickers
Wise men come calling
Their make up's appalling
Baby in manger
Stared at by strangers
Tension is rising
It's hardly surprising
Staff find it stressful
Performance successful
Felicitations,
Congratulations
It's all over dear
Till we do it next year.

Mrs Pearman

From "In Memoriam"

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more:
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
The ancient forms of party strife:
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred Tennyson 1809 - 1902

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At the Start of Worship

O Lord our God! You know who we are; men with good consciences and with bad, persons who are content and those who are discontent, the certain and the uncertain, Christians by conviction and Christians by convention, those who believe, those who half-believe, those who disbelieve.

And you know where we have come from: from the circle of relatives, acquaintances and friends or from the greatest loneliness, from a life of quiet prosperity or from manifold confusion and distress, from family relationships that are well ordered or from those disordered or under stress, from the inner circle of the Christian community or from its outer edge.

But now we all stand before you, in all our differences, yet alike in that we are all in the wrong with you and with one another, that we must all one day die, that we would all be lost without your grace, but also in that your grace is promised and made available to us all in your dear Son Jesus Christ. We are here together in order to praise you through letting you speak to us. We beseech you to grant that this may take place in this hour, in the name of your Son our Lord.

Karl Barth 1886-1959

Father let me dedicate
All this year to thee,
In whatever worldly state
Thou wilt have me be;
Not from sorrow, pain or care
Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer,
'Glorify thy name.'

L Tuttiet

Lord, we believe, we accept, we adore,
Less than the least though we be;
Fire of love, burn in us, burn evermore
Till we burn out for thee.

O for the pure prayer that prevails,
That pours itself out for the lost,
Victorious prayer in the conqueror's name
The Lord of Pentecost.

Amy Carmichael

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FROM 10.30 am – 12 noon
IN THE CHURCH HALL

DO COME AND JOIN US

EWELL GIVING AND YULE RECEIVING

(THOUGHTS ON THE GIFT DAY AND THE “CHRISTMAS CRACKER” PARTY)

The fortnight spanning November and December showed something of what St Mary’s does outside the Sunday round of services – the Gift Day on 24 November and the “Christmas Cracker” Party on 8 December.

For many years, part of St Mary’s outward giving has been a Christmas (or in 2006 a Michaelmas) Market where proceeds go to four different charities each year. This year we have had instead a Gift Day where the prime object was for monetary gifts to be brought to the Vicar in the church on a Saturday. Those chiefly concerned with arranging this approached the task with some trepidation but in the event, the day was a success.

It took place entirely in the body of the church. The gift-bearers were greeted by a warm, well-lit building with balloons and secular “mood music”. Immediately inside were tempting stalls selling cakes, honey from hives in the churchyard and “bring and buy” gifts, as well as a raffle for a home-made Christmas cake. The centre aisle contained information boards about the four chosen charities – the YMCA, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, John Grooms (working with disabled people in the UK) and the Brooke (dealing with the welfare of working animals overseas). At the crossing, there was an attractive display of raffle prizes and a café, with orange tablecloths and balloons – serving light refreshments; this proved a popular meeting place.

All these were preliminaries to the central object – the Vicar sitting in the chancel receiving gift envelopes. The specific events concluded at 1 o’clock but the Vicar stayed in the church until 2.30 pm to catch latecomers. The result of the Day was that £1418 was raised, which means that each of the charities will receive £355. This is broadly the same as raised at recent Markets – a satisfactory result for a new venture. About two-thirds of the total came from the gifts themselves and about one third from the stalls and raffles. The gifts ranged widely in amount, and were presented at the 9.30 offertory on the Sunday. The External Affairs Committee, which deals with charitable events, would be glad to have any comments on the Gift Day; subject to these, it seems likely that the event will be repeated next year with the aim of increasing the number (and if possible, the amount) of gifts!

Two weeks later, it was the turn of the Church Hall to be decorated, this time in Christmas style, for the “Christmas Cracker” Party (organised by the Social Committee under their Chairman, Rosemarie Henson). It was striking how well the decorations complemented the new colour scheme in the Hall. The assembled company, in paper hats from the crackers, sat down to a French-style menu, with a smoked salmon and prawn



starter, and a main course of “Saucisses sauvages au vin rouge, servis avec les pommes duchesses et des légumes variés”, which was a delicious up-market version of sausage and mash! As is now customary at these events, the courses were interspersed with musical and other diversions – the first being communal carol singing vigorously conducted by Jonathan Holmes, our Director of Music. The second was a hilarious rendition of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” in which the hapless lady



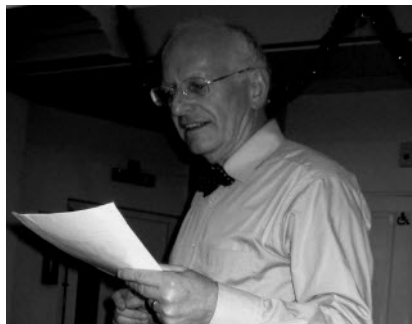
recipient of the increasingly onerous daily gifts moved gradually from pleasure at her admirer’s generosity to concern, exasperation, and eventually despair and fury at the effect which assorted animals and noisy groups of performers had on her domestic and family life. We were grateful to both the Churchwarden, David Crick and his wife, Mel, for the singing and to Gilda Everson for her “tour de force” as the increasingly put-upon lover.



As our laughter subsided, we settled down to a wide



choice of desserts where the French language failed to disguise a basically English selection of creamy delights and rich seasonal puddings. Coffee or tea were accompanied by “les chocolats après huit heures”, which assault on the French language readers can work out for themselves as a famous English sweetmeat. This part of the evening was enhanced by a quiz devised by our com-
père, David Dance. We had to unscramble hidden Ewell places and streets, realise that some famous people were



born or died on Christmas Day and answer complex questions. We also had to identify various bearded gentlemen of past and present (referred to as “Father Christmas impersonators”); the

catch here was that cheek by jowl (if the expression may be forgiven here) with such as Karl Marx, Brahms and Charles Darwin was our very own Ian Burgess!

It will be apparent that a good time was had by all. We were very grateful to the planners, cooks servers, washers-up and performers who made it possible. It was indeed, as the Irish would say a cracker of an evening.



N.M.H.

Lent Course 2008

The Lent Course 2008 will be on different denominations. It will include dialogue and debate with representatives from other approaches to Christianity.

Why are we separate? Distinct?

What can we learn from one another?

Meetings will take place on Tuesdays:

12, 19 and 26 February

4, 11 and 18 March

at 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Church Hall (coffee at 7.30)

The course will be led by Revd. Dr Patrick Miller

Book Review

A book with an arresting title such as "Two Legs Not Four" must surely attract attention even if the connection between Epsom and horse-racing is not immediately perceived. However, the author has thoughtfully provided a sub-title "The History of Epsom and Ewell F.C. and its predecessors in the Borough" so that the reader knows what to expect. It is a valuable book, attesting to six years of painstaking research by Richard Lambert, a member of the former Supporters' Sunday Team and is certainly a model for any football fan interested in the history of his or her local team.

The mass of material collected is well organized into reports of matches and biographies of players covering the period 1884-2007, culminating in a section with details of matches played. There are many illustrations including team photographs and those of individual players; and an interesting selection of newspaper extracts making possible the comparison of reporting in past years with present day sports pages.

The language in which the book is written is anything but dull, with clear, simple prose, and often with amusing, critical comments. The publication has been produced attractively, mainly in black-and-white, with a four page colour inset.

This is an excellent, readable, record and reference book which should be assured of a place on the bookshelves of fans of one of the most popular of world sports.

It can be bought from the Museum shop in Bourne Hall, Ewell, priced £19.95 or by calling the author on 07796 157077 or e-mailing richard.c.lambert@virgin.net.

E. M. Myatt-Price

November 2007

"Two Legs Not Four" by Richard Lambert. A limited edition of 250 copies.

ISBN 978-1-869833-58-59. Published by Tony Williams Publications Ltd., Helland, North Curry, Taunton, Somerset TA3 6DU. Paper back 360 pp., numerous illustrations, statistical tables.

Toddlers' Christmas



Father Christmas and his sacks of toys made a welcome appearance at this year's parties for the Toddler Groups.

Once again magical entertainment was proved by 'Uncle John'.

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

HOLY BAPTISM Born again in Christ

18 November Adam Jasper Leffler
16 December Alfie Reece Maker

FUNERALS In sure and certain hope (BCP Burial rite)

26 October Gordon James Howe, aged 75
22 November Leslie Warwick, aged 86
11 December Dorothy Emily Marrs, aged 89
12 December Doris Edna Fletcher, aged 85

Choir Matters



St Mary's congregation welcomed new chorister Michael Humphries when he was admitted to the choir by the the Vicar on 9 December. Michael joins his mother and sister in the choir.

Young Church Mag

30th December 2007: First Sunday of Christmas: Matthew 2:13 - 23

Escape!



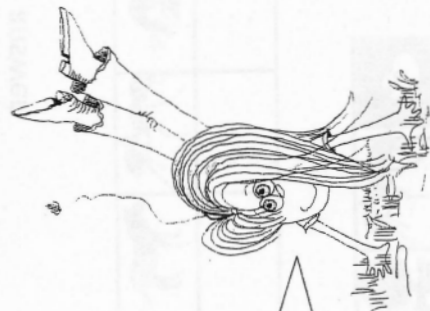
Produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Youth and Children's Parishes Team

So Christmas is over for another year, isn't it?

Oh no, it's not!!

Do you know this carol about the twelve days of Christmas? It starts on the first day of Christmas, and adds a day in each verse until it gets to:

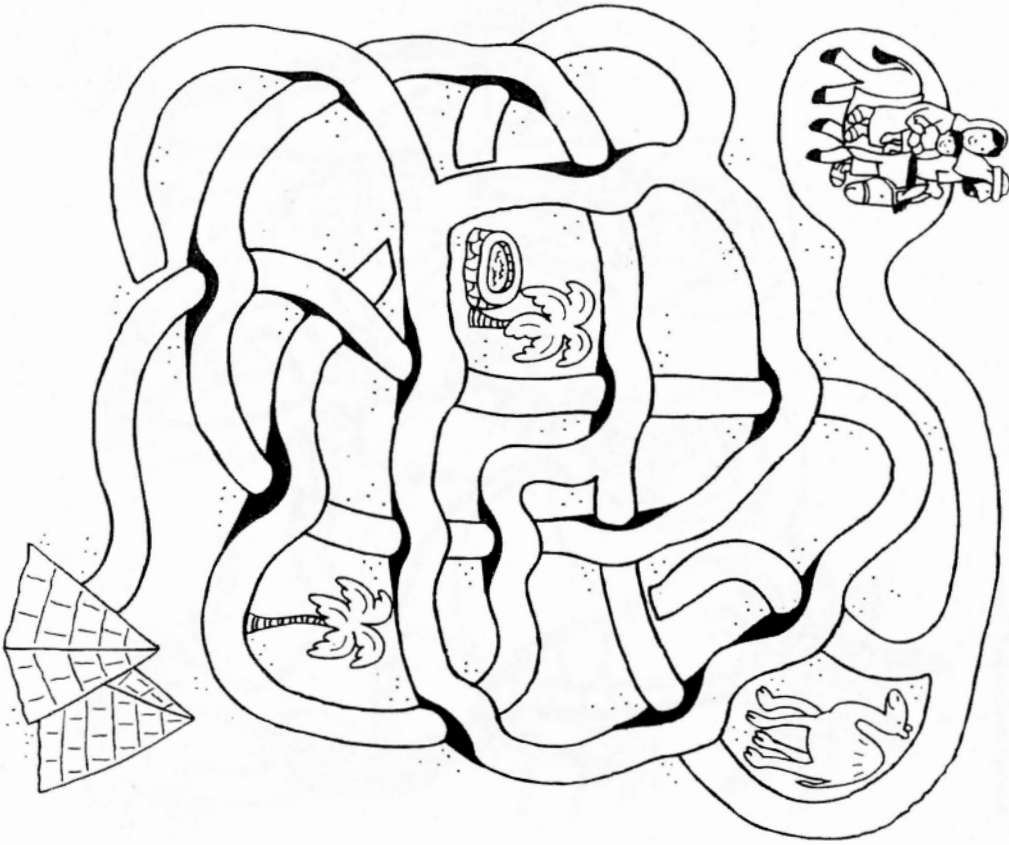
On the twelfth day of Christmas,
 my true love sent to me
 Twelve drummers drumming,
 Eleven pipers piping,
 Ten lords a-leaping,
 Nine ladies dancing,
 Eight maids a-milking,
 Seven swans a-swimming,
 Six geese a-laying,
 Five golden rings,
 Four calling birds,
 Three French hens,
 Two turtle doves,
 And a partridge in a pear tree!



Happy Christmas, God!
 Happy birthday, Jesus!
 Come to our parties,
 Come to our feasts,
 Come to our celebrations,
 And let us enjoy being
 together.
 Amen

Produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Youth and Children's Parishes Team

An angel appeared to Joseph and warned him to take his family and escape from Bethlehem. Help them find their way through the maze



Produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Youth and Children's Parishes Team

Where did they go?

Write the letter that is missing from the second word to find out

In **pen** but not in **pan**

In **game** but not in **mane**

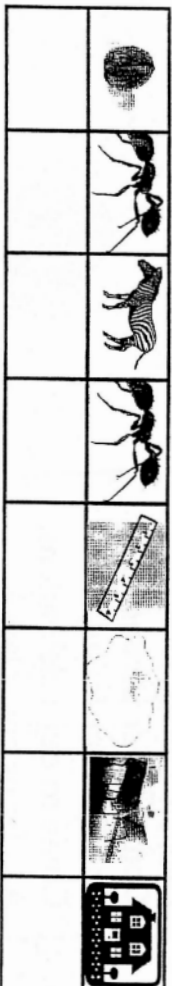
In **pony** but not in **pong**

In **piece** but not in **niece**

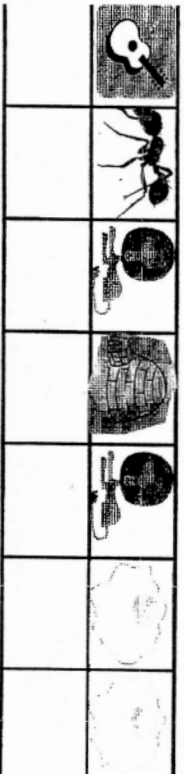
In **toad** but not in **road**

Where did Mary, Joseph and Jesus finally make their home?
Write the first letter of each picture to spell out the answer

In



in



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EPN COPY DATES FOR 2008

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Feb 12	Aug 19
Mar 18	Sept 16
Apr 15	Oct 14
May 13	Nov 18
June 17	Dec 16

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Calendar for January



- T 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
THE NAMING OF JESUS
 1000 Holy Communion
 1100-1400 A peal will be rung for New Year's Day
- S 6 **THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**
- S 13 **THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**
- M 14 2000 Children's Support Group
- T 15 1430 External Affairs Committee
- S 20 **SEPTUAGESIMA**
 1100 Book of Common Prayer Sung
 Eucharist
- M 21 Holy Communion to the housebound
- W 23 Meeting of the Vicar, churchwardens
 and Administrator
- Sat 26 Vicar at Annual County Conference of
 the Royal British Legion
- S 2 **SEXAGESIMA**

JEEL AL AMAL

We have raised the grand sum of £1025 for the children at the Jeel al Amal Home for Boys in Bethany. This money has been raised through our Wednesday Coffee Mornings in various ways, including donations, sales and raffles.

£1025 will mean a great deal to the home as it is often difficult to "make ends meet". The money was sent off on 17 December, so will be a nice Christmas present.

Thank you all for your support.

Joan Boulden

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ST. MARY'S

Please note that our email address is now:

parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

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