This month we have a letter from Bishop Bill Godfrey in Peru, an update on the Makeni Ecumenical Centre, reflections on Epiphany miracles and the usual Vicar’s Letter, prayers and intentions.
Highlights of January

Tuesday 6th January
Epiphany of the Lord
Low Mass 7:45am, High Mass 7pm.
Preacher at 7pm High Mass: The Rev’d Tanya Hockley,
Assistant Curate of Stone Cross & North Langley, Eastbourne (and former Pastoral Assistant)

Sunday 11th January
Baptism of the Lord
Preacher at 10:30am High Mass: The Rev’d Dr George Westhaver,
Principal of Pusey House, Oxford

6pm Epiphanytide Carol Service followed by refreshments
Come and experience something of the full meaning of this holy season.

Wednesday 14th January
Monthly Mass of Healing (with anointing and laying on of hands) 10am
Preceded in the Lady Chapel by prayers for the sick at 9:45am.

Sunday 18th January
Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Preacher at 10:30am High Mass: The Rev'd Professor Michael Quicke,
Baptist Minister and Emeritus Professor of Preaching at Northern Seminary, Lombard, IL, USA

Sunday 25th January
After 10:30am High Mass: Clive Brown (a member of our LSM Global Group) talks about the work of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (one of our overseas mission links).

Saturday 31st January
Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament District Festival
12noon Sung Mass followed by lunch, a talk and the AGM
3:30pm Vespers & Benediction.
Non-members are very welcome.
From the Vicar

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Happy New Year! I think I’ve wished people this with especial vigour for 2015 given that (for me) 2014 was a fairly horrid twelve months. It was not the only negative thing, but the death of Fr John Hughes (I still can’t quite believe it as I type those words) was the central event of my year and, as you might imagine, overshadowed it almost entirely. I wasn’t alone in that.

New Year school assemblies when I was little were dominated by the Head Master talking about Janus, the Roman god after whom this month is allegedly named. Janus, you will recall, is usually shown with two faces, able to look both back and forward, and so was a fitting name for the first month of the year when we tend to do this. I confess I can’t recall much of those assemblies beyond the general encouragement to do both of these things in our lives – both learn from the past but not dwell solely in it and to look to the future but without forgetting the present or where we came from. I’m sure this is an edifying sentiment and there are worse things to tell teenage boys than that – or indeed any of us!

From a Christian perspective, however, not only do we need to say more than this but we can never write off the past entirely. It would be tempting for me to dismiss 2014 as a disaster and hope for better things in 2015. Yet not only would that be to ignore lots of good things that took place over the last twelve months, but even more it would fail to look for God’s presence and action in what has occurred.

One of the greatest challenges for the Christian, though also one of the things that finally will bring greatest peace, is to seek to bless God amid loss and suffering. Nothing, we are told, takes place outside the will of God. This is not to say that God wills suffering or that He kills our friends with cancer or road traffic accidents. Rather it is to say that all things happen within God’s knowledge and care and ultimately will be turned by him to good. The Roman Catholic poet and critic Edith Sitwell said that ‘Love is not changed by death and nothing is lost. And all in the end is harvest.’ How tragedies are in the end turned to harvest it is not clear, although we do see hints and foreshadowings of it in the way that a death leads to donations for new medical research or pressure for a new law to prevent something or other.

To seek to bless God for John Hughes’ death may sound perverse and masochistic and it is not what I feel able to do presently. How the Lord will bring harvest out of it and turn it to even greater good than if John had lived I cannot see at the
moment, and may never do until I die. It is an act of faith and trust: not blind, because there are ways in which I can imagine it being so and some aspects of this life already point in that direction, but the vision is certainly far from clear.

While still an Anglican, on his way home from Italy and after serious illness, John Henry Newman wrote a poem which today we sing as the hymn *Lead kindly light*. He wrote:

> The night is dark and I am far from home,  
> Lead thou me on.  
> Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
> The distant scene; one step enough for me.  
> I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou  
> Shouldst lead me on;  
> I loved to choose and see my path; but now  
> Lead thou me on.

As we begin 2015 we certainly cannot see the distant scene and the nights are literally dark and long. As Newman found, not only are there times when we can do no more than take one step at a time and do not feel confident enough to step boldly forward or sketch out anything like a vision. Sometimes Christian faith is needed simply to hold things as they are and wait patiently for resurrection. Yet there *is* a distant scene and vision, a home which we are journeying towards, and it is assured. Many are there already and as the Letter to the Hebrews puts it, they are a great cloud of witnesses who encourage us by their example and prayers to join them and to trust that all in the end really is harvest.

My prayer is that this coming year will be one of joy and peace for all of us and a time of deepening faith in and encounter with Jesus Christ: a truly happy new year.

With my love and prayers, I am  
yours in the Lord,  

Fr Robert
A letter from our friends in Peru

from Bishop Bill Godfrey, Peru

Dear Friends,

This seemed like a good way to wish everyone a happy Christmas and very blessed 2015 since it was taken after Christmas last and is about the only photo we have of the two of us together in 2014. Not that we’ve been apart nearly as much this year as for the last few years, but we’ve been too busy to take photos, or when we have, one of us has been behind the camera.

It’s been a wonderful 12 months, starting with a family trip to the UK for Matt and Jo’s wedding. The family is all well, grandsons growing and a lovely new adopted granddaughter, Bethan (seven years old). Bill’s health has improved so much since having that surgery last year and we’ve had so much growth in the Diocese, new missions, new clergy; lots of teams visiting and visits to old haunts, including a recent one to Uruguay.

God is GOOD. We have been so blessed and want to share our Joy with all of you this Christmas.

May His Peace and Love surround you,

Judith and Bill

On Sale Now! £10, sold after every Sunday Mass and Choral Service.

Contact: Patricia Davies, pedavies@tesco.net 01223 234791, Director of Music, jackson.sj@gmail.com or any choir member.

OR BUY ONLINE!

www.lsm.org.uk/worship/music/cds.html
Makeni Ecumenical Centre, St Nicholas Orphanage update
from Sarah Hinton

We had some good news on renovation work from the St Nicholas Children’s Village at MEC this autumn. Earlier this year the bathrooms and toilets at the village underwent renovation to improve sanitary conditions and now look very smart, complete with lovely wall and floor tiles. MEC’s partners in the Netherlands and Belgium funded this work which has “cheered the children and aunties of the orphanage as well as management.”

MEC’s latest newsletter also features one child, Grace Kambika, who came to the orphanage when she was just three years old. She started her preschool education at Makeni School in Grade 1 and has done very well in her education. Grace is now 14 and doing Grade 10 and has high ambitions. The newsletter reports “She enjoys playing with the younger girls and always tells them that she would not want to go back to the living conditions she was in when she was orphaned. She says she would not want to experience suffering and misery again and that is why she works hard both at home and at school. She sees her grandmother suffering to earn a living and wants to help her in the future. So she wants to pass her Grade 12 with flying colours, go to university or college and get a good job. She believes everyone has a chance to lead a good and comfortable life if they are supported and work hard.”

She also added that she appreciates what MEC and the donors are doing for her and would not want to disappoint them.
Deadline for articles in next month’s Newsletter are due Monday 19th January.
Contact: melissaguiliano@gmail.com

Calendar for January

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<td>Naming &amp; Circumcision of Christ, SM 10am</td>
<td>Ss Basil &amp; Gregory, bishops &amp; doctors</td>
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**SUN. 4th**  
SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS

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<td>THE EPIPHANY, LM 7:45am HM 7pm</td>
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<td>William Laud, bishop &amp; martyr</td>
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**SUN. 11th**  
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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<td></td>
<td>S. Aelred, abbot</td>
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<td>S. Antony of Egypt, abbot</td>
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**SUN. 18th**  
SECOND SUNDAY of EPIPHANY

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<td>S. Wulfstan, bishop</td>
<td>Richard Rolle, spiritual writer</td>
<td>S. Agnes, martyr</td>
<td>S. Vincent, deacon &amp; martyr</td>
<td>of Requiem</td>
<td>S. Francis de Sales, bishop &amp; doctor</td>
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**SUN. 25th**  
THIRD SUNDAY of EPIPHANY

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<td>Conversion of Paul (transf.), LM 12:00pm, SM 7pm</td>
<td>S. Thomas Aquinas, priest &amp; doctor</td>
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<td>S. Charles, king &amp; martyr</td>
<td>S. John Bosco, priest</td>
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**Daily Intentions and Anniversaries of death for January**

World peace  
Dorothy Ogden, Derek Williams  
1st
Teachers of the faith  
Daphne Peck  
2nd
Walsingham  
Edward Maycock, pr., Lena Wheatley,  
3rd
Arthur Clough, Cecilia Scott-Townsend  

Our Parish & People  
Continued keeping of Christmas  
Joyce Day, Peter Dicken  
5th
That all may know Christ’s glory  
Maggie Hulyer, Ray Holland  
6th
Schools & Colleges  
7th
Cambridge Churches Homeless Project  
8th
Sufferers from depression or anxiety  
9th
Catholic Movement in the Church of England  
Silvia Skeil  
10th

Our Parish & People  
Geoffrey Baines  
11th
Increase in vocations to the religious life  
12th
Church & people of France  
13th
Confirmation candidates  
Marjorie Shepherd, Aline Norman, Elaine Wheatley  
14th
The unemployed  
Isabel Nourse  
15th
Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service  
Marjorie Galletly  
16th
Hermits  
Margaret Rowett  
17th

Our Parish & People  
Daphne Clavey  
19th
Spiritual writers  
Pauline Martindale, Donald Harris, pr., Madé Katib, bp.  
20th
Those persecuted for the Faith  
Athelstane Furley  
21st
Deacons  
22nd
The Faithful Departed  
23rd
Peterhouse & Pembroke College  
Robert Garrett, pr., Peggy Hall  
24th

Our Parish & People  
25th
The conversion of persecutors  
Maurice Rayner, James Rone, pr.  
26th
CamTrust  
Elsie Perrin, Peter Barnard  
27th
Theological learning in the Church of England  
28th
Cambridge Street Pastors  
Eric Furley, Beryl Goonetilleke  
29th
The Queen  
Mary Hammond  
30th
The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament  
31st
It is a commonplace in this season to explain the meaning of the term ‘Epiphany’, which comes from a Greek word meaning ‘appearing’. The word is used on a small handful of occasions in the New Testament, mostly to refer to Christ’s sudden revelation or coming on earth in the Incarnation and at the Last Judgement (e.g. 1 Tim. 6.14; 2 Thess. 2:8). The purpose of the season of Epiphany follows on from this and might best be summed up in words from the Epistle reading of the feast itself: we are ‘to perceive…the mystery of Christ. In former generations, this mystery had not been made known to the sons of men, as it has just now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit’ (Ephesians 3.4-5). It has ‘just now been revealed’ because Christ has just now come among us in the great humility of His Incarnation. And, indeed, this Incarnation is a mystery, being adorned by many wondrous signs.

For this reason, the Sundays of Epiphany are characterised by Gospel readings that focus upon mysterious or revelatory events in Jesus’ life. As this is Lectionary year ‘B’, we will soon read of the adoration of the Magi on Epiphany itself, of Mark’s account of Christ’s baptism on the First Sunday of Epiphany, and then, on the following Sundays, of three mysterious events: (1) Jesus’ self-identification as the one on whom the angels ascend and descend (2) the transformation of water into wine in the Wedding at Cana and (3) the astonishment of the crowds in Capernaum at Jesus’ teaching and ability to exorcise demons. Overwhelming as these are, the lectionary dares to join these luminous Gospel passages with heavenly visions from the Book of Revelation and with mysterious stories from the Old Testament, such as the separation of light and darkness at creation, the calling of Samuel, the offerings of Melchizedek and the promise of Moses that a new prophet would arise after him. A glimpse of the complexity of the whole biblical witness is given here, and that witness is revealed to be a riddle wrapped in a mystery in an enigma. We know, of course, that Christ is the key to it all, but how He is that key is not always so apparent.

It would be a mistake, then, to think that our contemplation of Jesus Christ in these readings necessary leads to our total understanding of Him or of them. These marvellous events produce wonder, love, and praise towards the one who is revealed, as much as (or perhaps more than) they create understanding in those to whom He is revealed. They inspire us to say with the astonished crowd at Capernaum, ‘What is this? A new teaching, with authority!’ For how can we plumb the depths of the mystery of Christ Indeed, ‘how unsearchable are His judgements and how inscrutable His ways’ (Rom 11.33).
Rather, we must cherish these events, treasuring them up in our hearts and pondering the mystery of the revelation of the God-Man among us, the wondrous union of humility and grandeur in the Incarnation. For, as one fifth-century writer put it, ‘Our Lord Himself, as an infant in Judaea, cried in His crib and lay in rags, yet a wonderful star on high revealed His majesty to the whole world. Who can comprehend the glory of these miracles? At one and the same time, for our salvation, a creature gave light in the heaven, and the Creator shone on earth.’

How wondrous, how inscrutable was His appearing among us. Power shone forth in weakness, glory in humility. Light dawned in a dark place, and the darkness did not overcome it and could not comprehend it. In this season, we would thus ‘do well to be attentive’ to the writings of the prophets and apostles, ‘as to a lamp shining in a dark place’ (2 Pet 1:19), waiting and praying until the morning star Himself illumines our darkened hearts. For He leads those who would follow Him, step by step, into deeper adoration and knowledge of Himself, just as He led the Magi from a far land, just as He led the apostles to a high mountain. And there He shines with a new and eternal radiance, for we have been brought forever near in Him, we have ascended in Him, and we are made new in Him, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, born of Mary.

_image above and front cover are woodcuts by David Jones (1895-1974)._