

December 2020



We are all a bit sad that we can't get together with family and friends in the usual easy way this Christmas. But as someone has said: "Let's put up with being apart so that when we meet no-one is missing!"

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
God bless Jan and Kathy



What's on in December

3rd December 7pm Taize service at St. Mary's Woodbridge Road



Live-streamed on YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCCJ4RA2ocNUgNNombaKiy5A

20th December 6pm Rev Antony (Dedham CoE church) is planning a 'Drive in Carols' at the Ardleigh car boot site. Here's what he says:

"We are partnering with Popcorn movies to host a **Drive in Carol service** on Sunday 20th December at 6pm at Ardleigh Car Boot site (CO7 7QR). Join us for a great evening of Carols led by the Kingsland Gospel Choir, Stories from charities who've been helping local people and a Christmas message from the Bishop of Colchester, Roger Morris." Tickets which are free are available from www.popcornmovies.co.uk/

Christmas masses

St. Mark's: there is an online booking system at <http://www.stmarksparish.org.uk/> Additional masses will be put on if necessary. Currently masses planned are:

24th Dec (The Nativity of The Lord) Mass at St Mark's Ipswich at 5:30pm and 8pm

24th Dec (The Nativity of The Lord) Mass at Holy Family Brantham at 8:00pm

25th Dec (Christmas Day) Mass at Holy Family Brantham at 09:00am

25th Dec (Christmas Day) Mass at St Mark's Ipswich at 11:00am

St. John Payne: Dec 24th 5pm and 8pm, Dec 25th 9am and 10.45am

Please email Fr. Jon if you wish to attend any mass on the 24th or 25th: sjpchurch@btinternet.com
He will put on additional masses as necessary.

Our Lady's Medjugorje message 25th Nov 2020:

"Dear children! This is a time of love, warmth, prayer and joy. Pray, little children, for little Jesus to be born in your hearts. Open your hearts to Jesus who gives Himself to each of you.

God sent me to be joy and hope in this time, and I am saying to you: Without little Jesus you do not have the tenderness or the feeling of Heaven which is hidden in the Newborn.

Therefore, little children, work on yourselves.

By reading the Sacred Scripture you will discover Jesus' birth and joy, as in the first days which Medjugorje gave to humanity. History will be truth which, also today, is being repeated in you and around you.

Work on and build peace through the Sacrament of Confession. Reconcile with God, little children, and you will see miracles around you."

Our beloved dead

Audrey Cavanagh	9 th Dec. 2007
Emer O'Malley	17 th Dec 2019
Dympna Arundel	18 th Dec. 2006
Joel Moulton	21 December 1993
Marjorie Benson	24 th December 2004
Delia Dinsdale	25 th December 2019
Paul Jennings	26 December 1990

If you have any photos, prayers or holy jokes you'd like to share next month please email jan: jan.s.cavanagh@gmail.com or kathy: kathypollard51@gmail.com

Don't forget to let us know if your email address changes.

Message from Pope Francis:

"Hold out your hand to the poor, instead of demanding what you lack. In this way, you will multiply the talents you have received.

The season of Christmas is approaching, the holiday season.

How often do we hear people ask: 'What can I buy?'

What more can I have? I must go shopping.'

Let us use different words: 'What can I give to others?'

in order to be like Jesus, who gave of Himself and was born in the manger."

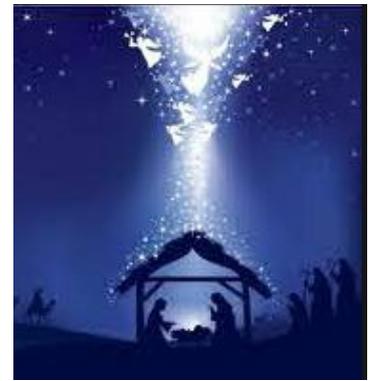
Here's a beautiful Christmas song that Jan found. You can watch it on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God

Mary, did you know? (Did you know?)
Mary, did you know?
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know?

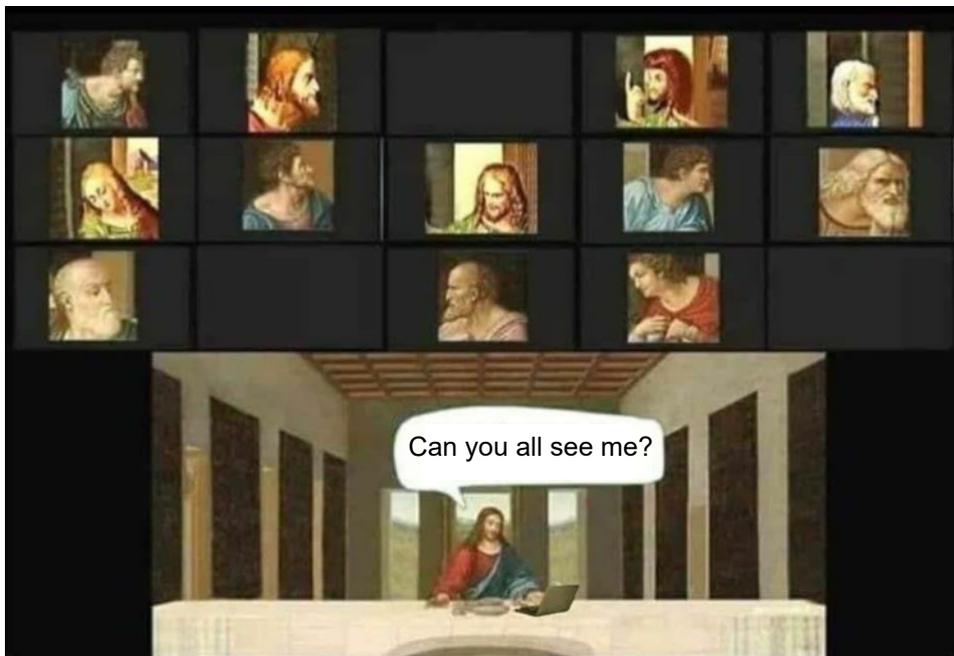
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb!
Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)



We ask for your prayers for Ann C, Monica D, Rachel P and Paul C and all our friends and relatives who are ill at present.

The last supper re-imagined on Zoom!



Technology has certainly kept us in touch with each other this year - although learning how to use it has been something of a challenge!

We've been very blessed to have such a choice of masses online since March. Some of us have been as far afield as Australia and the United States for mass - and all without leaving our own homes!

Thank God for the technology - even if it's just the humble telephone.

And now a few things to make us smile:

There were five houses of religion in a small town:

The Presbyterian Church,
The Baptist Church,
The Methodist Church,
The Catholic Church and
The Jewish Synagogue.



Each church and the synagogue were overrun with squirrels. The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they determined the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

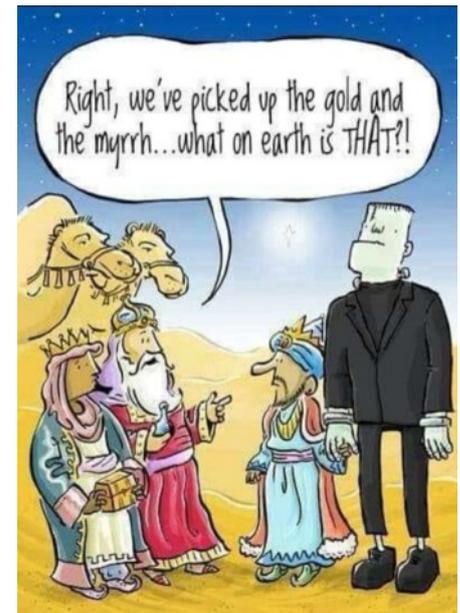
At the Baptist Church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The Elders met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free in the forest a few miles away - but they soon came back.

The Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptised all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish Synagogue, but it's rumoured that they took one squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel on their property since.

A new commandment?



**Should have gone to
Specsavers?**

These quotes come from a Catholic elementary school. Children were asked questions about the New and Old Testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by the children. They have not been retouched or corrected - that's the best part!

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pears.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals.
5. Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
7. Moses led the hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.
(More next month.....)