

Trinity Times

Christmas

2021



Peace
Love
Grace
Hope

Jesus is
Joy!



Holy Trinity Church
Maisons-Laffitte

3 EUROS DONATION

Who Does What

Chaplain	Charlotte Sullivan 06 83 08 59 67
Reader	Richard Medcalf

Church Wardens	Christine Salisbury David Bean
Church Council Secretary	Didier Trufanow
Chaplain's Assistant	Jenni Gibson

Activity	Contact person
Address List	Jenni Gibson
Book Stall	Sarah Masset
Buildings/Grounds	Adrian Parr
Charitable Giving	Rachel Ischoffen
Choir	Rachel Meuriot
Coffee Rota	office@html.com
Crèche Rota	Jenni Gibson
Ecumenical Group	Christine Salisbury
Electoral Roll	Elizabeth Bean
Flower Rota	Fiona Dabas
Guiding	Christine Salisbury
Intercessions	Elizabeth Bean
Lesson Readers	Elizabeth Bean
Little Fishes	Jessamy Dinot
Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet
Organist	Joan Bauman
Outreach Group	Eric Peyrard Chris Parr

Activity	Contact person
Pathfinders	Chaplain
Pew Sheet	office@html.com
Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield
Prayer Net	Edith Briard
Safeguarding	Alice Auperin
Scouting	Gillian Barratt
Sidesmen	Patrick Gautier-Lynham
Sunday Groups	L.J. Desmeulles
Treasurer	Bob Hughes
Trinity Tots	Jenni Gibson
Web Site	Richard Medcalf
Welcomers	Jane Gorini
Youth Worker	Chaplain & Joy Van Staalduinen
Home Groups	
Monday p.m.	Richard Medcalf
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet
Thursday a.m.	Hesry Marshall

Chaplain's Corner—Advent



If you've been out shopping, you will know that the shops are already full of Christmas gifts and Santas. Decorations and trees are now available, friends and family are planning their festive gatherings. Yes, Christmas is everywhere....and yet it is only November!

Well, Christmas is everywhere except in the church, because first we have the season of Advent to go through.

It seems like we are out of step with everyone else. Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier, shouldn't it be the same for us in the church? Perhaps we should just "do away" with Advent! What do you think?

It's such an odd season!

We are supposed to be reflecting, but we don't have time.

We are supposed to pause, but we can't seem to do it, (how can I "pause" when I have so many lists and so much to prepare?)

The hymns are somber, and there never seems to be enough time for us to sing our favourite Carols.

And the Advent readings well what can I say, they are eschatological, often relating to death and judgement and not exactly "Christmassy"!!

But, here I have a revelation, because the readings throughout Advent do cause us to pause ! Especially on the final Sunday when the writer of Hebrews offers us this image of Christ as our high priest, the one who intercedes for us with God, and who connects us to God (Hebrews 10 v 5 - 10).

In the Jewish tradition, the high priest was human, and was able to understand human frailty and the hopes of the people. He (always a he, in those days) was also chosen by God for this role. He stood in a unique place between God and the worshipers. You can see why early Christians picked up this image for Jesus, whom we call both human and divine. Jesus, too, stands in this distinctive place, with a unique understanding of humanity and a special understanding of God.

The early Christian faith grew out of the Jewish faith, and so this image would have been familiar to the believers. The writers of this passage took a well-known religious figure, and made it unique to our Christian faith with the presence of Jesus. Just in case we're tempted to think too much about Jesus as a baby, or as the dusty, sweaty figure who walked all over Palestine, this text offers us another image of him. This is a figure deserving of our awe. This is a figure to make us stop and take note, not to be taken for granted. This is where we need to pause and take in the mystery of Jesus, with all of the sides and facets that we don't see during most of the Christian year.

So, Advent is the place where we pause and take in Jesus in a new way. We stop for surprise, and we rest in awe. Personally, I like surprises and awe don't you? So let's keep Advent, but let's learn how to pause.

I know this doesn't come easily, especially in this season when there's so much to do.

I would like to suggest several ways!

There are some very helpful Advent activities found on this website, for you to do alone or with your families.

https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-10/Christmas_2021_A4_Advent_Activities_v4.pdf

Or, perhaps you would like to join our Advent Bible Study on Wednesday nights on zoom at 8pm from the 1st December.

Or, purchase one of the excellent Advent study books now widely available. I would be happy to offer suggestions. I am reading an excellent book which focuses on the first five verses of John's Gospel. In the beginning was the word.... Its called Patmos by C Baxter Kruger, and gives an interesting explanation of those words which we so often hear at Christmas but for which we seek a deeper understanding.

However you choose to "Pause" this season, I pray that within the space that you create, you will connect with the mysterious awesome presence of Jesus.

Above everything else on our to do lists, this alone is our best preparation for Christmas.

Charlotte x

Hebrews 10 v 5-10 NIV: Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God.' " First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Chaplaincy Council

Highlights of Last Meeting on 13 September 2021

All Council meetings have regular updates about spiritual development matters, Eco-Church initiatives, safeguarding and our financial situation.

During the last meeting in September, the Chaplaincy Council devoted considerable attention to the following points: Eco-Church actions, spiritual development, infrastructure & grounds and Diocesan safeguarding policy.

Specifically, the following points were discussed:

Eco-church – as you may remember, Bishops Robert and David have requested that chaplaincies take concrete actions to help the world's environment, which has been gifted to us by God. Nigel Bartram, our Environmental Link Officer, attended the environmental portion of the Chaplaincy Council meeting in September. There was quite a long discussion and the following actions were agreed to:

Holy Trinity will offset its carbon emissions in the very near future and the Charitable Giving Committee will choose and contribute to an offset project (see article on pages 20-22).

Various measures will be taken to improve the quality of our church buildings:

- (i) our roofs and gutters need to be properly maintained to prevent damp from entering the buildings and warm air from escaping,
- (ii) all draughts need to be blocked to stop cold air from penetrating around doors
- (iii) actions need to be taken to ensure that electric heating is switched off after rooms in the church halls are no longer in use.

We will be switching to a green electricity supplier. This matter is currently being investigated.

Quotes will be obtained for all necessary drainage and remedial work to the church's flat roof. In addition, it was agreed to begin a fact-finding process to assess the possibility of installing solar panels.

A meat free option will be offered at all church catered events and meat alternatives will be tested.

Different types of channels will be developed, e.g. workshops, electronic media, testimonials to inform our congregation members about possible actions each one of us can take to help protect our God given environment.

As our gas boiler is by far the piece of equipment with the highest carbon emissions, the maintenance company will be contacted to discuss this matter.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, please do contact Nigel Bartram or the Chaplain if you have any thoughts or suggestions about environmentally-friendly actions we can take. Your ideas are more than welcome! If you are interested in joining Holy Trinity's environmental group ('Green Lantern'), please do let us know. The more fresh ideas we have, the better!

Worship services – have returned to their normal times since the beginning of

September. There are now services at 9.15 am and 10.30 am on Sunday mornings. Services are well-attended (12 to 15 and 50 to 60, respectively). Our online worship YouTube Channel is continuing with a lower, but steady number of views.

Sunday morning groups for children – Twenty-four children have been registered for the Children's groups. The groups are going well and are regularly attended. Many thanks to L.J. Desmeulles, who has kindly agreed to coordinate the Sunday morning Children's Groups.

Youth Group – Attendance on Sunday mornings continues to be very good (up to 17 youth!). The mid-week Zoom Youth session is led by Joy Van Staaldin, our Youth Worker and the twice-monthly Sunday sessions at church are led by Johanna Devlin.

Infrastructure & Grounds – the following ongoing matters were discussed: quotes for some tree work, the church tower floor, recommended short-term building repairs, Eco-church initiatives related to the church infrastructure and the beautification of the church grounds.

Diocesan Safeguarding policy – Alice Aupérin, our Safeguarding Officer, explained that some (not all) activities organised in the name of our church needed to be included in the Diocesan 'Safeguarding Dashboard'. The aim of this dashboard is to ensure Safer Activities through the application of appropriate safeguarding procedures. Council members discussed this item and drew up a list of church-related activities to be included in the Safeguarding Dashboard.

Alice Aupérin also drew the attention of Council members to the extraordinary work being accomplished by our Link group. She said this group's efforts were making a real difference in the lives of the different people being supported with much love and compassion.

Christmas – the organisation of the following Christmas services and events was discussed: (i) Christmas Day service, (ii) Christmas Eve Service, (iii) Crib Service, (iv) Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and (v) the Christmas Fête.

Date of next Chaplaincy Council meeting: 15 November 2021

D.T.

Remembrance Day



Several members of Holy Trinity attended the service at Les Invalides in Paris on 11 November. Thomas Desmeulles was a flag bearer.



Fun, food and fellowship were the key ingredients to an amazing afternoon when our Youth worker, Joy Van Staalduin, came from the Netherlands to ML to meet the Youth in person

Joy comes to Holy Trinity Youth



There was pizza, there were Oreos, and there was laughter. That was only the beginning of the fun that took place at our youth fall kick off on Sunday, 12 September. Joy came down from The Netherlands to meet people in person for the first time. Following worship, volunteers congregated to the kitchen to prepare pizza while youth gathered outside and played a relay game. All the students had peanut butter smeared on their foreheads which served as a glue to affix an Oreo between their eyes. They ran up one at a time and had to wiggle their face until the Oreo made its way into their mouth. Once they had chewed it up, they ran back

to their team and the next youth made their way to the front. Fun was had, and students enjoyed the chocolate treat.

Youth enjoyed their pizza outside. Volunteers worked tirelessly providing drinks, snacks, pizza, and cleaning up as the youth enjoyed fellowship in small groups. The sun was shining and the birds were chirping. Joy mentioned how nice it was to feel even if just for an afternoon, that despite the pandemic, things felt “normal.”

There was such a large number of youth that we were able to split into two groups divided by age. We played games in our groups and began our study about what it means to be rooted in Christ. The students really enjoyed being able to be more open as they were sharing with peers of a similar age. This same study has continued through the fall semester and our youth have been able to continue to learn and grow virtually after such a fun kickoff event.

J.V.S.



What's new with Sunday School groups with thanks to L.J. Desmeulles



Sunday school update

Sunday School has taken on a new format and so far the children are loving it. After 18 months without Sunday School 'en présentiel' we saw a massive drop in numbers of young children coming to church. Therefore, we had to rethink how we could run a fun and exciting Sunday School that would be enjoyed by all children from 3-10.

The new format has seen all the children work together in a fun and engaging manner. One week we had a relay race where we had to gather heavy objects, representing life's little lies and imperfections in our character, and then try to get into heaven through the gates. It was almost impossible, but thankfully God allows us to cast off our imperfections if we ask him. On another occasion we had a Harvest assembly, the children loved blind tasting and guessing the different fruit on offer. They were then horrified when one child was given lots of food and they only got a carrot or a small packet of rice. The shouts of 'It's Not Fair' rang loud and clear, thus highlighting the inequality of life.

Coming up in the next few weeks will be our annual Nativity Play, this year however it will happen during the family service on the 5th December. We are hoping that these budding young actors and actresses will draw in the crowds.

What will the next Sunday School session involve? Interested? Aged between 3 and 10? Then what are you waiting for, come along and find out and maybe you might have fun too.



L.J.D.

Fish and Chips!

A wonderful weekend was had by many on 23 and 24 October when Rev. Charlotte's friends Karen & Andrew came to ML in their "Dordogne Chippy". We are already looking forward to their next visit!

Reverend Canon Elaine Labourel leads retreats and workshops and is a Spiritual Director. Elaine is a locum priest and has come several times to Holy Trinity to lead services. She is facilitating the Church of England's LLF course for the French Archdeaconery and led the course at HTML in October 2021

What is LLF?



Living in Love and Faith is an invitation by the Church of England to embark on a venture of learning and discovery. Following disagreements within the people of God as to relationships, marriage, and pastoral practice with their roots in Scripture, doctrine, ethics and developments in science, it was felt necessary to look in depth together at these issues. As we try to understand the mind of God revealed in Scripture and listen to the Church past and present, we also use our reason and understanding, drawing on the natural and human sciences.

The LLF course is about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage but it's also about growing together as disciples, obeying Christ's command to love each other especially in areas where we disagree. The Pastoral Principles, which undergird the whole course help us by getting us to reflect on and change our behaviour. (You can find them and many other linked resources available on the website : churchofengland.org).

Many of us know what we think about LGBTI+, about sex outside of marriage, about divorce and so on. During this course, the different 'labels' and opinions are explored to give us a more complete picture and a better understanding. It does mean that the course is uncomfortable in different places for everyone who follows it sincerely and honestly. It shows us the reality of the depth and breadth of our disagreements and yet, our vision must be that somehow we are one. (John 17 :21). There will probably never be a time when we all agree exactly but together we can demonstrate the same love to each other that we have experienced from God, the grace that includes everyone, the holiness that changes the world and the unity that calls others to faith in Christ.

As we explore together the issues with an open mind and heart, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. We carefully look at Scripture to be sure we understand what it really says and not take things out of context. By taking the time to connect with people different to ourselves, we hear their stories. Everything in the course is bible based, but as there are only five sessions of one and half hours, we cannot focus solely on bible text study as there are many linked issues to reflect on as well. The course's aim is to help us think as widely as possible through the 'difficult topics' so we are able to make our own informed decisions. Whatever the topic, we can go further by looking at bible commentaries, the 468 page book which accompanies the course and the website.

No course is perfect but I think this one is commendable for what it is trying to do. Yes, it raises more questions than it gives immediate answers, but that's the point.

Spiritual growth means expanding our thinking. Following Jesus often means wrestling with Scripture to understand his Way, where Law and Love meet. As we realize that it is not all black and white, we have to hold things in tension because we don't have the answers yet. It is destabilizing and can sometimes feel like the rug has been pulled out from under us, but it can be exciting and fulfilling as well.

What has touched me perhaps the most is seeing people (especially on the accompanying video clips) who are very different to me and listening to their stories. What was a label to describe someone before, became a real person with feelings and emotions. Seeing the suffering caused by the unkind words and behaviour of some Christian brothers and sisters was sad. This isn't how Jesus showed love. When I think of who he spent most of his time with and how he cared for them, Jesus welcomed everyone with open arms. The only people He gets angry with are the ones that show no love, which doesn't say He doesn't confront wrong behaviour because He does, but when He does that He speaks in love.

As disciples we desire an ongoing, deepening and authentic relationship with the One who loves us. Our love for God leads us to serve Him in bringing about His kingdom vision of a world where people live in peace, having what they need and where no one lives in fear. We are called to bring love into the world by loving others as Jesus loves us. Of course, it's quite a challenging way to live.

Our Christmas story speaks of many challenges but perhaps the biggest challenge was God choosing to be born as a baby in a stable in Bethlehem ! He chose the name 'Emmanuel' (God with us) though reminding us that we don't face the challenge of the Christian life alone.

Reverend Canon Elaine Labourel

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Maisons-Laffitte

December Christmas Services

Sunday 5th, 10h30 - Christingle/Nativity Service

Saturday 11th, 17h30 - Nine Lessons and Carols
at St Nicolas Church (followed by mince pies & mulled wine)

Friday 24th, 17h00 - Family Crib Service

Friday 24th, 23h30 - Midnight Eucharist

Saturday 25th, 10h30 - Christmas Day Service

Sunday 26th - Virtual Service
(htcm1.com/Christmas-2021)

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed!" Matthew 2:10

With thanks to Angela Labaisse-Brodie for some reflections on the LLF course

Romans Chapter 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Each individual is made in the image of Christ. We have different talents, different backgrounds and we have walked different paths to come to Christ

We are put in this place of work or of worship for a purpose and each have a role to play. We only partly know and understand each other's paths, turmoils and trials; fears and fortitudes.

Christine said quite rightly one evening "who are we to judge?". I very often feel: "There but for the Grace of God go I" and to quote from Romans ch 8 in that nothing should separate us from the love of God, I do not see that it is my place to come between anyone who is sincerely seeking to follow and understand the teaching of Jesus.

I was interested to learn that Elaine's church in Rouen was full of francophone, divorced people desperate to take communion.

My children have massively pushed me out of my comfort zone. The search for identity is out in the open in a way that was not possible 20, 40 years ago. The world is a much more complex and diverse place and our children are so much more able not even to see these "differences" as a problem. As a mum, I know how much I would only want the best for my children: to know God's love for them, for them to be able to take communion, to be part of a loving community that supports them in time of need, and listens to their questioning - how can I possibly refuse that to someone else's child.

Unity and Diversity in One Body

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
1 Corinthians 12: 12-26.

A.L.B.

One session of the LLF course was on Identity, a topic which inspired Jeanne Halpern to make links with Identity and the Bible

Who Are We?

"Write down who you are ", Elaine, our spiritual guide of our 5 week course, 'Living in Love and Faith instructed us. The nine of us all contributed three words to describe our identity eg. Christian, wife, mother or daughter, teacher, single. Limiting our identity to just 3 words is of course not possible as there are many different things that identify who we are. In our groups at Holy Trinity, we were invited to discuss Gender Identity in particular, and to consider our attitudes to those different from ourselves in their sexuality. Genesis 1 v.27 tells us that God created Humankind in His image "Male and female He created them ". The Creation story makes distinctions between Day and Night, yet God also created Dusk and Dawn. Jesus only makes one reference to those people who fall into a "Twilight Zone ". In Matt. 19 v 11 He says, "For some are eunuchs because they were born that way, others were made that way by men" If Jesus didn't discriminate against those who are different from ourselves, neither should we! In Galatians 3 v 28, Paul says "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus "So who are we in essence? The Bible tells us that once we put our trust in Jesus, we are all Children of God. (1 John 1 v 12). So let's think of ourselves as being 'found in Christ ' and of having gained Christ's status before the Father. We are all first and foremost God's beloved children and co-heirs with Christ. (Romans 8 v 17). This identity adds greater meaning, value and depth to all our other identifiers; Thus, I am not simply a wife, mother, grandmother, but a Child of God who is a wife, mother and grandmother. Even if one of these descriptions changes, I shall still go on being a Child of God, living in His Presence, serving Him and letting myself be guided by Him, even if I am woefully disobedient and inadequate at times!

The Course book talks about our identity in Christ, as our shared identity. Indeed ALL Human Beings are equally loved by God , and we must rejoice in our diversity. God says to each of us "You are precious in my sight and honoured and I love you. (Isaiah 43 v 4) What's more, God sent His only Son to remove the obstacle to our salvation caused by our sinful natures and to reunite us with Him, the father. Jesus, by His death restored us as righteous in God's sight and part of His beloved family. "While we were still sinners Christ died for us " (Romans 5 v 8) He died for us all whatever our gender, professional or cultural background, skin colour etc. "Woe to the Hypocrites, Jesus said (Matt. 23 v 13 to 33) those who have mixed attitudes or who say one thing in private and another in public, condemning the vulnerable while appearing righteous. This course challenged me to consider my own attitudes to my brothers and sisters in Christ. Do I love them all deeply from the heart, whoever they are?? How far am I prepared to go in admitting my own shortcomings and need for confession repentance and forgiveness.

In Romans 14 to 15 Paul teaches the 'weak ' and the 'strong' a Christ-like way of living together despite their differences.



Our behaviour must echo Jesus' teaching on Christian unity when he prayed to His Father 'that they may all be one' (John 17 v 21).

The Living in Love and Faith Course stimulated me to explore further my 'Identity in Christ', using my bible and concordance.

Let me share my findings with you.

2 Corinthians 3 v 18 (we are being transformed into the Lord's likeness)

2 Corinthians 5 v 17 (Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation)

Galatians 3 v 26 to 29 (You are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ-Jesus and heirs of Christ)

John 1 v 12 (But as many as received Him to them he gave the right to become the children of God)

Romans 8 v 17 (If we are God's children then we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ if we share in His suffering)

Matthew 6 v 8 (Our Father who art in heaven)

Philippians 3 v 20 (Our citizenship is in heaven)

Colossians 2 v 10 (You have been given fullness in Christ)

It is only when we look to God and read His word, that we can truly understand who we are individually and collectively.

We need to remember, that without exception we ALL stand in need of God's mercy and grace.

Love each other as I have loved you, our Lord said (John 15 v 12) I feel I have been drawn out of my comfort zone by this course and been made to reflect on how we ALL stand in need of God's mercy and grace. May I, along with others try to welcome my brother, my sister, the stranger in our midst, just as Christ has welcomed us.

J.H.

A fun Christmas tradition which accompanies Jennifer Lucas and her family whichever country they are living in

Christmas cookies, biscuits, bredele



Source: *recipetineats*

I'm speaking about those sweet treats that we bake during the Advent season and share with neighbors, family, and friends. Ever since I was a child, baking Christmas cookies has been a family tradition. I remember fondly rolling out the dough, pressing the Christmas-shaped cookie cutters into the dough, and decorating the baked goods with royal icing and sprinkles. After that, we would select the best ones as presents for teachers, friends, and neighbors. The less than perfect shapes (reindeer missing antlers or stars without all five points) would serve as our well-deserved snack!

Throughout our family's moves from Paris to Alsace to Switzerland to Bahrain to London and back to Paris, I have kept up this annual tradition. The younger children invite friends (parents often tag along) to an afternoon of baking and sampling treats. There is no better way of making new friends and breaking down cultural barriers than in the kitchen swapping recipes and tasting homemade treats.



Below is the recipe taken from Good Housekeeping for four dozen sugar cookies:

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp kosher salt
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
1 large egg
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp pure vanilla extract



Whisk dry ingredients. In another bowl, beat sugar and butter with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and then vanilla.

Reduce mixer speed to low and gradually add flour mixture, mixing until just incorporated. Shape dough into 2 disks and roll each between 2 sheets of waxed paper to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Chill until firm, 30 minutes in refrigerator or 15 minutes in freezer.

Heat oven to 350°F (180°C). Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Using well-floured cookie cutters, cut out cookies. Place on prepared sheets and bake for 10-12 minutes (depends on the size of the cookie). Cookies should be light golden brown on edges. Let cool on wire racks before icing. (I never have enough wire racks, so they finish cooling on plates...).

Decorate with royal icing and sprinkles.

J.L.

You will be tempted to try this time-tested recipe for your Christmas meal submitted by Caroline Varley

Turkey Stuffing

Ingredients

12 dried and soaked apricots
120gm sultanas
20cl port
6 slices chopped bacon
60gm chopped mushrooms
1 tablespoon butter
2 finely chopped large onions
350gm sausage meat (vegan/vegetarian variant: oats or smoked tofu)
1 beaten egg
1 teaspoon dried mixed herbs
1 slice bread into breadcrumbs
1 eating apple
Pinch of paprika

Preparation

Can be made and frozen a week before Christmas.

You will need a large bowl and a large frying pan.

The night before you start, soak apricots in water, and sultanas in the port.

The following day, fry the bacon in its own fat in the pan until crisp, then crumble into the bowl. Sauté the onions, mushrooms, and apple until soft, then put in the bowl. Add the sausage meat, sauté gently for 10mins, then into the bowl. Warm the sultanas in the pan with the port, scraping around the sides and bring to the boil, then into the bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well.



Source: Food Network

C.V.

*Ideas for turkey leftovers suggested by Jan Mitchell
(from Nigella Christmas book).*

Thoughts for Turkey Leftovers

Turkey Pilaff with Pomegranate and Dill (serves 4-6)



Ingredients

275 g brown basmati rice
200 g shredded cooked turkey
125 ml strong chicken stock (not needed if eating cold as a salad)
4 x 15 ml tablespoon chopped dill
seeds from 1 pomegranate or 75 g from a packet
2 teaspoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
50 g salted and herbed seed mix
salt and peppermint

Cook the rice according to packet instructions.

Put the shredded turkey in a generous-sized pan with the chicken stock. Bring to a boil & bubble gently for 1-2 minutes until piping hot.

Drain the rice & transfer to a large bowl or dish, add the contents of the turkey pan & fork through to mix.

Add the chopped dill & most of the pomegranate seeds, reserving some to sprinkle over the finished dish, & fork through again.

Dress with the lemon juice & a little oil, then scatter with the seeds, fork through again, & check the seasoning.

Sprinkle with the remaining pomegranate seeds to decorate.

If you happen to have leftover rice, this makes a great salad, but you won't need the stock component: just mix all the other ingredients, cold, in the same ratio, and serve.

Wild Rice, Turkey, Cranberry and Pecan Salad (serves 6-8)

Ingredients

500 g wild rice
75 g dried cranberries
500 g cold cooked turkey, diced or shredded
2 x 15 ml tablespoons cranberry sauce or jelly
2 x 15 ml tablespoons lime juice
60 ml olive oil
75 g halved pecans or pecan pieces
handful of parsley, chopped



Cook the rice according to the packet instructions, & let it go cold.

Add the dried cranberries & diced turkey to the cold cooked rice.

Make a dressing by whisking together the cranberry sauce (or jelly), lime juice & oil.

Toss the dressing through the rice, cranberries & turkey. Add the pecans to the salad with most of the parsley, turn out onto a plate or into a serving dish, fork again to mix, then sprinkle with remaining parsley.

J.M.

Dates for your Diary

Weds 1, 8, 15 & 22 December 8 pm

Advent Bible study on Zoom

Saturday 4 December 10.30 am

Christmas Fete

**Please keep an eye on our website for up-dated information on all our services and other activities and / or sign up for our e-newsletter:
<https://htcml.com/>**

Deadline for Spring issue of Trinity Times: 20 March 2022

A picture tells a thousand words! This powerful Christmas image will leave no one indifferent. Thanks to Angela Labaisse -Brodie

Christ With Shopping Bags



As museums opened again over the summer, my son took me to visit The World of Banksy Exhibition which, by the time you read this, will soon be ending on 31st December at the Espace Lafayette Drouot.

I did not really know Banksy beyond one or two of his provocative Street Art images and of course his painting that self-destructed as soon as it was sold at Sotheby's for \$1.4 million: Going, Going Gone.

Toward the end of the exhibition, we came across this staggering image (I am someone who likes to enjoy a fair amount of retail therapy) which has stayed with me since the summer, entitled: Christ with Shopping Bags.

Produced in 2004, it shows the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, yet Banksy has removed the structure of the cross, replacing the nails through Christ's hands with shopping bags, each festooned in fluorescent pink ribbon, but appearing to be seeping with blood. Christmas presents seem to bulge from the shopping bags, including commercially associated American childhood icons: the candy cane and Mickey Mouse. Parts of the image appear to be melting, reminding us that both material goods and the joy that is derived from them do not last. Jesus appears to be in pain, weighed down by the shopping bags, symbolising the damage consumerism has on the values of Christianity: no longer a day of rest and reflection away from the preoccupation of material things in life, Christmas has become symbolic of rampant consumerism.

Jesus come into the world in simplicity, born in a stable. Yet we overindulge. We buy endless stuff for our family and friends, sometimes at the expense of debt and gluttony, when really all they want, and need, is our time and our attention.

Over the Christmas period we will no doubt hear many times the familiar quotations from St John's Gospel: "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him". The true gift of Christmas is Christ.

Jesus came to the world, once and for all, that we might forever know that He had an absorbing interest in the way we live, the way we believe and the way we die. He came to demonstrate to us that God and mankind belong together. He came to mend the gap and fill the gulf that separates us from God.

Through his death on the cross, we receive forgiveness from our past, hope for our future and the promise of eternal life. His gifts of grace, mercy and love to help us navigate the everyday.

We are called to be his light in the world; his body, his feet and his hands. May we remember all that we have received as we share the story of Christmas and the festive season with those around us at work, at home and in our day-to-day.

May God grant you the light of Christmas which is faith. The warmth of Christmas which is love. The radiance of Christmas which is purity. The righteousness of Christmas which is justice. The belief of Christmas which is truth. The 'all' of Christmas which is Christ. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may God grant you all these things. Not just at Christmas, but also throughout the New Year and all the years to come. Amen.

Because it is in giving that we receive.

A.L.B.

Inauguration of Place Vera Leigh in Maisons-Laffitte on 22 October



More on this in the Easter 2022 issue.

First Steps to Net 0 Carbon Emissions



Earlier this year, Bishops Robert and David asked all chaplaincies in Europe “to care enough for our common home so that it remains a sustainable place for future generations” emphasising that “Now is the time to act!”. All chaplaincies have been given “A practical path programme to net zero for our churches”, which is fully supported by our Chaplaincy Council.

In terms of carbon emissions, Holy Trinity is much more than just the building, grounds, and activities. As members of our church community, we each bear part of the responsibility to safeguard God’s creation, and must work individually and collectively towards the common goal of reducing our own carbon emissions, as well as those of our church. It is for this reason your Church Council urges you to read and act on these recommendations which have been put together by Green Lantern, our church’s environmental group...

Step 1 - Measuring our carbon footprint

Until we know what our household emissions are, and how they come about, we’re in no position to be able to reduce them. There are plenty of **online measurement tools**.

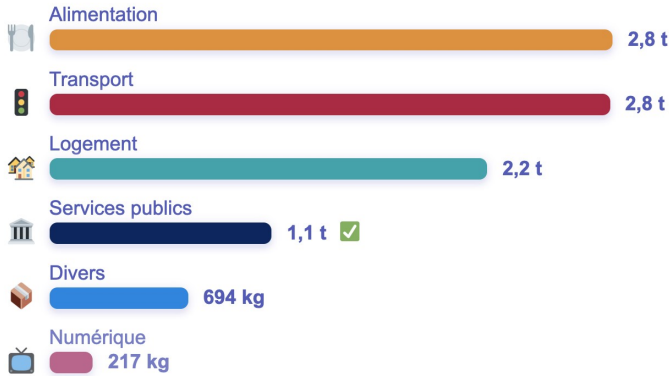
This one, backed by French governmental agencies, shows our CO2 emissions “by source” (as shown in the table below) with suggestions on how to reduce them **<https://nosgestesclimat.fr>**

Another simpler WWF calculator is here **<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>**

Try to do this at least once a year!

Step 2 - Offsetting our current carbon footprint annually

Unless we are already at “net zero” (in which case, very well done!), we can **offset our carbon emissions** while working to reduce them. Offsets from reputable sources (see below) can be bought for just under €6 a year per tonne of CO2 - around €75 for 9.8t offsets a member of the average French household. By offsetting, as well as immediately getting our CO2 to zero, we can choose to support programmes which improve lives of underprivileged people and communities around the world.



Below are two websites where we can offset our carbon emissions with confidence. They have a high level of expertise and operate to very good ethical standards:

Offset 'Gold Standard' is the work of the WWF and other NGOs and is here: <https://marketplace.goldstandard.org/collections/projects>

Carbon Footprint Ltd has the UN, the UK government, many municipalities, and companies as clients. To get a quick and simple idea of the cost of our offset as well as presenting a range of options to invest in (as does the Gold Standard site) look here: <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/carbonoffset.html>

If we have kids who've flown the nest, why not offset their emissions as a precious gift to help secure their futures?

Step 3 - Reducing our current carbon footprint

1. FOOD AND DRINK: Many people can easily reduce greenhouse gasses (GHGs) by reducing (or eliminating) meat consumption (especially red meat) and animal products. A meat and dairy diet produces dozens more GHGs than plant-based. Globally, 80% of land is used for grazing or growing animal feed. When measuring carbon emissions, we can clearly see the positive effect of moving from a heavily animal-based diet to plant-based. Becoming vegetarian could cut our total CO₂ emissions by 10%.



If we eat meat almost every day, let's start by having one or two meat-free

days. There are plenty of delicious, easily accessible, healthy vegetarian and vegan recipe books or on the internet. <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes> is a great site to start off with!

Also, the manufacture, distribution and disposal of **bottled water and carbonated drinks** is harmful to the environment, even with recycling. If we drink bottled water or fizzy drinks, cut down or cut it out! Although water bottles are 100% recyclable, their use consumes much more energy than using tap water (fewer than 50% of the 9 billion bottles sold in France annually are actually recycled).



2. TRANSPORT: Flying is by far the biggest GHG emitter per kilometre, so reducing flights is an absolute minimum. On average, per passenger, planes produce over 10 times the CO₂ emissions of a train. If we must fly, offset! Cars emit 4 times the emissions of a TGV, so let's take the train whenever we can. Always ask, is my car journey absolutely necessary, could I walk, take a bike, use public transport, or car share? When we next change car could our new one be electric?

3. HABITATION: Unfortunately, most, if not all of our homes are not nearly as energy efficient as they could be, and many improvements are expensive. However, there are a few easy wins. If we haven't changed over to 100% LED lighting, then let's do so ASAP. LEDs are 20-50 times more efficient and last around 50 times longer than incandescent lightbulbs. The efficiency of LEDs in increasing and their price is decreasing. By using LEDs only, we'll save many € on our electricity bills as well as reducing our CO₂ emissions.



Switch to an electricity tariff or supplier which offers a "Green guarantee" that 100% of the cost of our supply benefits producers of renewable energy and has good customer service, such as Ilek - www.ilek.fr

Many CO₂ emission gains are to be had from **good housekeeping**, such as **always turning lights off, not heating unused rooms, stopping draughts, not leaving appliances on "standby"** but switching them off at the mains, or unplugging. Could we **wear warmer clothes** and **turn the thermostat down**? When we need to buy a new electrical appliance, **buy AAA rated ones**, or try to **get machines repaired rather than replacing**. If we have a garden and there's space, **plant trees, bushes, shrubs, and flowers**.

The greatest potential reduction in energy use and carbon emissions is from downsizing. The effect is dramatic as we can see when we measure our carbon footprint. If for whatever reason we can't downsize then make sure we offset.

We have inflicted immense damage on God's creation through our greenhouse gas emissions. Oxfam calculate the world's richest 5%, which includes almost all of us, are responsible for 37% of the total growth in carbon emissions. That's over 7 times the global average. Time to take responsibility and action without delay!

J.G. & N.B.

A few ideas for some slightly different board games for the Christmas season, or anytime

Games for Christmas

What was your favorite game as a child? We can all remember long hours playing card games, board games or crazy games like Twister. These past 2 years, sales of games and puzzles have soared. It is a way to disconnect from screens and reconnect with family and friends. A fun activity for all ages.

Here is a small selection of tried and tested games. One may be just right for you and your family. But if not, it should get you started on a quest for the perfect game for this Christmas. Let the game begin!

BANANAGRAMS ages 7-107, 1-8 players

Think scrabble but less stress, more fun!

Letter tiles come in a yellow banana-shaped pouch. Each player works on their own letter crossword, doing and undoing the words as they wish. Once out of tiles, a player yells 'peel' and each player must take an additional tile. The game usually speeds up until the winner calls out 'Banana Split!'.



BLOKUS by Mattel is a strategy game for 2 – 4 players from the age of 7yrs upwards.

The rules are simple. The idea being to put down as many pieces as possible and to block your opponents to stop them from doing the same.

Each game takes about half an hour. It's not always easy but great fun !! One can even become mildly addicted !

GREED ages 8 to adult, 2 or more players

You might be wary of a game with the name, Greed. Players try to rack up as many points as possible by throwing the die to create the special combinations of numbers which are worth high scores. The big question is when to stop rolling the dice. One roll too many and you lose your points.

QUIRKLE ages 6 to adult, 2-4 players

Starting with it's name, Quirkle is quirky and fun.

The rules are easy to learn. Tiles have 6 shapes and 6 colors which you combine to make your score soar. Adults and children will love this game! One of our wardens is a great fan!

N.H. & S.M.

Hedgehogs Havens Part II



Source: <https://ptes.org/campaigns/hedgehogs/>

This is how we came across our first rescue hedgegie, on October 15, 2020. I thought it was a huge bird in distress, when in fact it was a wee little hoglet, barely 100g! Eric named him Beethoven, we gathered oodles of hedgehog lore and rescue instructions on the internet, and ended up with the tiny Beethoven in the cat carrier, with a little ‘chez soi’ in our bathtub. We kept him with us for several days until it became clear what to do with him. In his case, we took him to the Maisons-Alfort École Na-

tionale Vétérinaire, whose immense grounds also include a Réfuge Nationale de Sauvetage pour la Faune Sauvage. Our veterinarian had recommended taking him there, as they have nearly 100% success in helping young or injured hedgegies survive the winter months - until mid-May. Beethoven was so sweet and affectionate! I surprised myself by crying for some time after leaving him there. We went home to an empty bathtub...

Then, on November 30th, around 10.30 p.m., Eric took out our little doggie Veronicka for a walk. Barely 10 minutes later, he phoned me, « Viens vite ! » I rushed out into the -3°C night air, fearing that something awful had happened to him or to Veronicka. And there was a large hoglet, trying to clamber up the stairs to our front door! I scooped him up into a big towel, and popped him into the cat carrier, and installed him in our bathtub with a long towel runner, some water and some kitten dry kibble. He weighed in at 327g, barely half what was necessary to overwinter. He had several ticks on him, always a bad sign of weak health. We were told that hedgehogs will often begin their hibernation when the temperatures drop below 5°C initially, but if it warms up above that point, they will come out of hibernation, and eat everything they can find, in order to replenish their fat reserves for the remaining winter months. He must have done that, but was too small and unhealthy to face the sudden drop in temperatures from around 15°C to -3°C in a few hours. We named him Berlioz, then later on Becky Berlioz, as we thought he must be a female. (He wasn't!). In our tub, he ate well, grew plump and healthy, and eventually attained the hefty weight of 1250g. Wow! He quadrupled in size, too! We let him out regularly to walk around the bathroom. And, of course, we took him out of the bathtub whenever we needed to use the shower.

In mid-February, again around 10.30 p.m., came another distress call from Eric. Sure enough, another hedgehog was huddling beside our front door!

Again, it had warmed up considerably for over a week, then the mercury plunged down to -5°C. This time, the rescued hedgegie was an adult - a female weighing 980g. We put her in a small room for the night with food and water and some goat cheese, which they love and can eat. The next day, the weather had stabilised at around 9°C, so we put her back in the garden to continue her winter.

With Becky, we began letting him out to romp in a makeshift corral in the yard, slowly acclimating him to his return to the wild state. Sometimes, he preferred the comfort of his cage and his special bedding to the coolness of the yard. I would bring him out so he would get some nice green grass under his toes. At these moments, our kitties would often come round and sniff him. He would sniff them, too, with no fear. It was clear that the cats quite appreciated their prickly brother! Finally, on the evening of June 13th, he went out and trotted quickly off to some taller plants. I saw where he had gone, and left out food and water and his little cat carrier bed for several nights until it seemed clear that he had not returned for several nights. We were forewarned that male hedgehogs are quite solitary, and only seek the company of the females when the time is right for starting a family.

Hedgehogs are so named because they traditionally like to live in hedgerows, and they make little snuffling noises like a small piggy. The French 'hérisson' comes from Latin 'ericius', also meaning 'oursin', as in sea urchin. My research could not uncover whether the name 'ericius' came first for the mammal or the crustacean! Either one could have been named after the other.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society has wonderful information about hedgies, as well as a hotline for emergencies. I actually called them once for advice when Becky was off his food, and was well-received and very well-advised by one of their many volunteer experts manning the emergency lines. By contrast, everything in France is mainly done by e-mail, although some places will receive endangered hedgies for emergency care. There are around 45 hedgehog rescue centres in France. For info, look up « Le Hameaux des Hérissons », and « The British Hedgehog Preservation Society » UK Tel : 01584 890801. They have just put out a lovely film called « Hedgehog Close ». You can also sign a petition on their site at this time to ask for hedgehog-safe highways in all new builds. Bravo, the Brits!

Here in France, we can participate in a hedgehog census, designed to hopefully follow the hedgie population year to year. It involves counting the hedgehogs that pass through your garden by putting out a little hedgie tunnel with flour in it so as to see how many hedgehogs (and other garden residents) go through it nightly. Many people I know who are passionate about hedgie-watching have installed infrared cameras.

Hedgie Dont's:

I find that hedgehogs all have very distinctive markings, faces, manes and fur skirts, some with longer legs, with bigger feet, with different facial markings, and even with very distinctive patterns formed by the colors of their spines.

-For this reason, it is absolutely wrong to put Tipex, or nail polish, or paint on a wild hedgehog in hopes of re-identifying it later, as their quill designs are used for communicating danger amongst them.

-Never give milk or cheese or meat or chocolate or apples or mealworms or bread to a hedgehog.

-Never give fish or fish-flavored kibble or fish cat food.

-Never use paper products for their bedding or under their kibble, as they chew on them, swallow them, and die quickly from a blocked intestine!

Hedgie Do's:

If you want to put out food for them in your garden:

-They can easily eat kitten (or cat) dry kibble, chicken flavored.

-They can have goat cheese- use the harder white parts of a goat cheese log, not the crust or the runny parts.

-They can have a bit of honey.

-If they are in your garden, doing fine, leave them alone, observe from afar.

-Make a hedgehog house, place in your garden in a well-chosen spot. There is a lot of advice on the Internet and YouTube for this.

-BE CAREFUL WHEN DRIVING! Look out for scared hedgies on the road curling up into a little ball as a 'protection' against your oncoming vehicle!

-Be aware of hoglets and juveniles in the autumn. A hedgehog out in plain daylight is a hedgehog in distress! Bring it inside, warm it in your hands if necessary, then put it in a warm box with a sheet or a towel (NOT paper products – see DON'Ts above).

-Give it water and kitten (or cat) chicken or turkey flavored kibble. Next, call a veterinarian, or contact a hedgehog rescue centre.

-Tell as many people around you as possible to Look Out for Hedgies on the Road.

-Tell as many people as possible to refrain from using slug and snail poison, and other garden poisons.

-Tell as many people as possible to spread the word for saving our hedgehogs!

J.B.

Word from the Editor



About a month ago, I received this photo from Judy P. without a message attached. It brought a huge smile to my face as I remembered the moment, a few years ago at a 'normal' Christmas fete. Everyone on the stands was dressed in festive array, several sporting Christmas aprons in red and green made by Christine and Hesry. Others wore festive sweaters, festive jewelry and festive headgear.

That particular year I was wearing Rudolph ears. Imagine my surprise when Noreen came up to me to say how much she loved my ears, and that she would like a pair. So I promptly took off the reindeer ears and placed them gently on Noreen's head. The timing was perfect as Judy caught the special Christmas moment that Noreen and I shared. After that I could see where in the hall she was by searching for the reindeer ears. Noreen wore them home. I hope she wore them again at other Christmas celebrations that year. They must have elicited surprised comments from family and friends, as they were not part of the dignified wardrobe we are all used to.

My Christmas message of 2021 is not a profound one. It is this. We all know how stressful and busy and lonely Christmas can be. So be watchful for those special moments of pure joy, love and sharing, with family, friends, neighbours, or the stranger you pass on the street. It is those moments that you will remember in years to come, those moments that will make your face light up with a smile, and those moments when perhaps we can say we saw a tiny ray of Christmas light and hope in all the hustle and bustle of Christmas.

Noreen too remembers this Christmas moment caught in the photos. My thanks to Noreen for agreeing to feature in this article and to Judy for prompting the memory.

Nancy

**Wishing you and your families a Blessed Christmas.
Edith, Sarah, Carolyn and Nancy.**

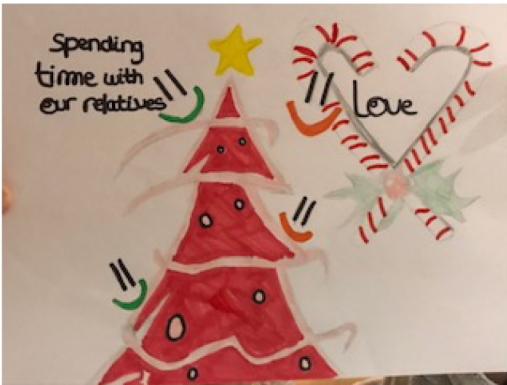
**Thank you to Johanna Devlin and the youth group for designing
the cover of this Christmas issue.**

The policy of this magazine is to publish articles of interest provided they are neither illegal nor immoral. The content of the magazine does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial committee.

Youth



Group



Christmas
2021