

December 2018 Edition 36

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it. **(John 1:5)**

The Vicar writes ...

The Christmas Fair on 1st December was the most glorious celebration of so much that lies at the heart of St Mary's. The Social and Fundraising Committee is a group of people who get an idea and run with it.

Once we had decided to have a Christmas Fair, individuals and small groups began working tirelessly, collecting and making all kinds of items to sell and raffle. And on the day itself so many people were involved in everything from getting tables out, to serving refreshments – and, of course, coming to support the event.

On a dull December day, everything in the hall spoke of joy and community – aided by a little festive music – and, with the addition of an extremely generous donation, we raised an extraordinary £2,628.

What is true of one committee is also true of so many groups and

individuals. I often marvel at the wonderful way people just get on with things, keeping the buildings and grounds maintained and being there for one another.

In the Christingle assemblies in our local schools, I have been reminding children that the Christingle is our sign of the “reason for the season” – the birth of Jesus, reminding us that God chooses to be with us, and understands what life is like for us.

As we remember the reason for the season, perhaps we might also remind ourselves of the reason behind everything that is done here at St Mary's. We seek to be a sign of God's love for all people. Showing that love is what lies at the heart of all we undertake.

I pray that this Advent may be a time when we remember God's love for each one of us, and shine as lights in Cuddington and beyond. **Rev Theresa Ricketts**

More memories of building Guildford Cathedral

Following the articles in the last two editions about the building of Guildford Cathedral, this month we are publishing a photograph of the Cathedral under construction in August 1958 taken by Margaret Rymill, then Margaret Batt (1938-2016), and some of her memories of the Cathedral written in 2015. The photograph shows the nave still under construction; the narthex at the west end, the Lady Chapel at the east end, and the upper parts of the tower were all yet to be built.



‘As a young teenager in the 1950s, I travelled to Guildford by train with my mother from one of the furthest corners of the diocese (Cuddington), and walked up the hill from the station and up the steps to the cathedral. I was thrilled to pay for a brick and to have played a very small part in the building of our cathedral. I was told ‘my’ brick was probably going in the tower.

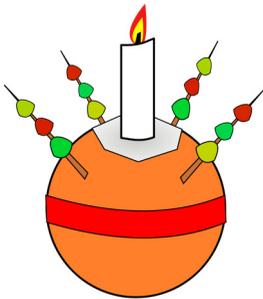
On a later visit, when inside the cathedral, I saw one of the large bells being taken up by pulley to the tower. It was being raised from the crossing just where the golden stag marks the top of Stag Hill. Soon people gathered to watch the bell ascending towards a small trap door in the ceiling. Open-mouthed we wondered if it would get safely

through and sighed with relief when it vanished from sight.

When the cathedral was dedicated in 1961, I watched the ceremony at home on television. I tried to record the sound using my rather primitive Gramdeck tape recorder, with a small microphone placed on the sideboard in front of the television. The sound recording worked quite well, though it did pick up a few remarks from my old Granny, who was sitting nearby.

I also stitched one of the cathedral kneelers, a basket of flowers, and enjoyed visiting the 'needlework' room in the cathedral.

Christingle



This year we are taking Christingle services into three local schools, The Mead, Cuddington and Auriol, but what is Christingle, and what does it mean?

Christingle is an advent service which started in Germany in 1747. It was introduced to the UK in 1968 to raise money for The Children's Society and currently raises £1.2 million each year to help vulnerable young people.

During the service Christingles are made and/or distributed, consisting of an orange, some red ribbon, a candle and some sweets, and each element has a special meaning in the Christian story.

The orange represents the world. The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ. The lit candle is Jesus's light bringing hope to people living in darkness, and the sweets signify the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.



A Sunday School teacher asked her class "What was Jesus's mother's name?" One child answered Mary. The teacher then asked "What was Jesus's father's name" and a child answered Verge. Confused the teacher asked "Where did you get that?" The child answered "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge 'n Mary".

Christmas Greetings from the editorial team.....

Christmas is here again so please don't forget to send me your photographs of the Christmas activities at Saint Mary's together with your articles for publication or your thoughts for sharing, and thank you for your support during the past year.

If you would like to talk to me about this or about something you would like to see in The Listening Post please let me know. You can usually find me in the hall after the 9.30 service, or you can email me on thelisteningpost@cuddingtonparish.org.uk or leave a message or text on 07778 127670. I can also be contacted through the C pigeonhole beside the choir vestry door.

Linda Charlton, Editor

January Services and Events

Saturday 5	0830	Men's Group Breakfast at the Hogsmill
Sunday 6	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Sunday 13	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Café Church followed by Holy Communion
	18.00	Choral Evensong
Wednesday 16	20.00	PCC in the Choir Vestry
Thursday 17	14.30	Thursday Club in the Cuddington Hall
Saturday 19	10.00	Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 20	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Sunday 27	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Family Communion with Baptism
Wednesday 30	19.30	Men's Group Carvery at the Hogsmill

**Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am
All are very welcome.**