



THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter for the Parish of Isle of Dogs

February 2010

CANDLEMAS

WHEN DID YOU PUT AWAY YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS THIS YEAR? IT IS A POINT OF PRIDE WITH MANY OF US THAT THERE IS NO SIGN LEFT OF CHRISTMAS AFTER TWELFTH NIGHT – THE TREE HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT, ALL THE DECORATIONS TAKEN DOWN AND PROBABLY A BIT OF A SPRING CLEAN HAS HAPPENED. THE REASON WHY WE DO CLEAR AWAY CHRISTMAS ON TWELFTH NIGHT IS PROBABLY LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME, BUT IT SEEMS STRANGE TO CLEAR UP JUST WHEN THE THREE WISE MEN ARE ARRIVING (AT EPIPHANY). IN THE CHURCH THE CRIB HAS CONTINUED TO BE PART OF OUR WORSHIP DURING EPIPHANY (MOST OF JANUARY). WE KEEP IT IN CHURCH BECAUSE THE CRIB REMINDS US OF THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS UP TO THE POINT WHEN HE IS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE BY HIS PARENTS MARY AND JOSEPH.

THIS MOMENT IS MARKED IN THE CHURCH BY THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION, SOMETIMES CALLED CANDLEMAS. MARY AND JOSEPH BROUGHT JESUS TO THE TEMPLE ALONG WITH PAIR OF DOVES TO OFFER TO GOD FOR MARY'S PURIFICATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON. IT IS THE MOMENT WHEN SIMEON AND ANNA, LONG TIME VOLUNTEERS IN THE TEMPLE, RECOGNISED THAT JESUS WAS GOD'S OWN SON AND BEGAN TO PROPHECY ABOUT HIM. FROM THIS ACCOUNT WE HAVE THE GLORIOUS HYMN OR POEM OF TRUST WHICH WE CALL THE NUNC DIMITUS – SIMEON REALISES THAT HE HAS NOW SEEN ALL AND DONE ALL THAT GOD MEANT HIM TO SEE AND DO AND NOW HIS LIFE IS ENTIRELY IN GOD'S HANDS TO PRESERVE OR TO TAKE AWAY.

CANDLEMAS IS THE END OF THE NATIVITY SEASON. AND IT FACES BOTH WAYS; BACKWARDS TOWARDS BETHLEHEM AND NAZARETH AND FORWARDS TOWARDS JERUSALEM AND THE CROSS. SO CANDLEMAS ACTS A BIT LIKE A HINGE BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND LENT AND THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH ON THAT DAY IS VERY RICH, A MIXTURE OF JOY AND FOREBODING. THAT MIXTURE WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE SIGNS AND WORDS THAT WE WOULD USE IN OUR SERVICES ON CANDLEMAS SUNDAY (SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY). THE CHRISTMAS TREES THAT ADORN OUR TWO CHURCHES HAVE BEEN CUT DOWN AND TRIMMED TO MAKE ROUGH CROSSES AND IN THE EVENING WE WILL BE INVITED TO LAY CANDLES UPON A CROSS – LAID OUT ON THE FLOOR AT CHRIST CHURCH, SYMBOLS OF PRAYER HELD ON A SYMBOL OF SUFFERING FOR ALL. IT WAS THE TRADITION OF THE CHURCH TO BLESS AT CANDLEMAS ALL OF THE CANDLES THAT WOULD BE USED IN THE CHURCH IN THE COMING YEAR AND WE CARRY ON THAT TRADITION BY STARTING OUR SERVICE HOLDING UNLIGHTED CANDLES. THE CANDLES ARE BLESSED AND THEN LIT, THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SPREADING OUT INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD.

ANNIE KILGOUR

Annie was born in 1926 to Caroline and Thomas Evans in the old houses in West Ferry Road, with brothers and sisters Tom, Fred, William George, Annie, David, Florrie and Bertie.

Annie was baptised at the Scottish Church (St Paul's – now The Space) and went to Harbinger School.

When she left school, she first worked as a machinist and then went into the Civil Service where she worked for 25 years as a clerical officer for the DHSS. She dealt with payments often dealing with people face to face.

She met her husband Bill at a dance at Mudchute. They were married, again at St Paul's, and their daughter Geraldine was born in 1949.

Annie was involved in just about anything that was going off in the community, whether it was the Residents' Association on the western side of the island or amateur dramatics in which she was a leading lady. This carried on into her later life. In 1999 she took part in a production of the play All We Needed Was the Old Joanna, a production by the St John's House Dramatic Company. The play went on tour, including performances at the Albany Theatre, Deptford.

Annie's sense of drama worked hand in hand with her religious faith – church was always an occasion and Annie always looked the part – especially in her suits and coats. Apart from every Sunday Worship, she and Bill took part in processions and passion plays.

It wasn't all drama. Annie had a serious part to play in the leadership of the Parish, acting as Church Warden and Parish-Trust Trustee. In 1982, with Rob Yeomans, she was part of the team that led the project to alter the west end of Christ Church. In her time, Annie has worked alongside many vicars; Peter Priest, John Dennis, John Scott, Rob Yeomans, Nick Holtam and Martin Seeley and our present vicar, Tom. All of them comment on Annie's inspiring depth of faith. It was this strength of faith that kept Annie going through Bill's death and the sad, untimely loss of Daniel their grandson. The experience of sadness made Annie the most warm-hearted and genuinely concerned neighbour.

Annie was known to so many folk – in so many ways. She is a sad loss to our Parish and our community.

Navy Days

As most of you will know, Tom the Vicar is also a Reservist Chaplain for the Royal Navy. Over the past three years he has been doing his basic training and this is to be completed by some time at sea on a capital ship (an airship carrier or an amphibious warfare platform). Tom will spend this time in HMS Ocean as she takes part in winter training in northern Norway in company with many ships from NATO countries. The land exercises there will involve nearly 15,000 troops. Quite a lot of those troops will be based aboard HMS Ocean, so there will not be a great deal of room (Tom has been told to bring very little kit) but there will be lots of opportunities for ministry among the sailors and Royal Marines and the Royal Naval Air Squadron. The ships will be operating well within the Arctic Circle so there is the challenge of coping with beautiful but inhospitable conditions. Tom will fly home from Harstad on the northern coast of Norway. There will no doubt be lots of good stories and breathtaking photographs to share.

Tom is, on a weekly basis, Chaplain to HMS President which is the large grey building just east of Tower Bridge. He has the role of Chaplain and counsellor to the large ship's company based there and at Chatham. A new project at President is the creation of a family and employer support centre which will give help and guidance to families and employers of people who are currently deployed, perhaps in Afghanistan or on anti-narcotic patrols in the Caribbean or anti-piracy patrols in the Arabian Gulf.

Confirmations

St Luke's School had its confirmation at Christ Church on Monday 18th January. Five children were confirmed by Bishop Ed Holland, and you can read their names on the back page.

The date for the Parish Confirmation this year is Sunday 2nd May. The Bishop who will be confirming will be Father John Dennis who was the Parish Priest in the 1970's. There are two classes preparing for confirmation; an adult class which meets on Wednesday evenings after the evening service at Christ Church (it is hoped that the candidates will attend the service beforehand which will be happening in the crypt) and a children's class which will meet on Monday afternoons at 4.30pm.

Lent Course 2010

The theme for Lent Courses this year is Discipleship and we will be using resources called Giving for Life that have been created for the Church of England by the National Stewardship Committee. A report of the same name was presented to General Synod in 2009. The goal is to deepen our understanding that we are all of us caught up in the mission of God in the world and that we can make a difference by how we use our gifts and time and money. The Course will be on Tuesdays starting on 22nd February at 7.30pm in church, in the Parish Room when available.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is from 9th – 15th May and the theme this year is
"Poverty – Let's End It."

There will be a presentation on street collections of the Christian Aid theme on Tuesday 13th April. Volunteers are sought for a street collection on the Saturday at Island Gardens DLR and at ASDA

BAPTISMS IN JANUARY

Jason Keziks
Connie Christine Ellis
Chloe Charlotte Newman
Delora Christine Joyce Curran
Olivia Grace McPhee
Izzie Beau McPhee

CONFIRMATIONS IN JANUARY

Jason Keziks
Chloe Charlotte Newman
Olivia Grace McPhee
William Alexander Leslie Dittrich
Zhanae Hagan

"Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world and the devil and continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant to the end of your lives"

WEDDINGS IN JANUARY

Jonathan Ivan Williams and Anna Jane Loke – at St Luke's

"God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them"

DEATHS IN JANUARY

Bessie Conway
Ronald Vincent
Queenie Roberts

"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them"

PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

In Christ Church and St Luke's there are green forms for you to fill in if you wish to have a prayer said for yourself or someone else

<p>We are planning to publish The Loop every first Sunday of the month along with the Parish diary which also comes out at that time</p>
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