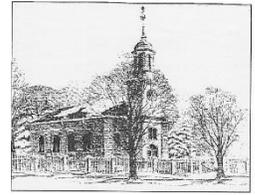


THE CROWN

The Newsletter of Christ Church Shrewsbury
Christ Church is a community committed to exploring the reality of God in today's world



Volume XXIII Issue I

January 2023



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2023

10:00AM IN THE CHURCH

NO 8:00AM SERVICE

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Friends,

We have entered the darkest part of the year – at least as far as our planet vis-à-vis the sun is concerned. The days are so very short, the nights so very long, and the coldness seeps right into our bones. How strange then, that this also happens to be the lightest part of the year – at least as far as our Faith vis-à-vis the Son is concerned.

January is when we begin the Season of Epiphany, *the* Season of Light, when we celebrate and honor the Light “which coming into the world enlightens every person”. Epiphany puts flesh on the words of Dr. King. Epiphany breathes life into our hearts’ desire, our longing for hate to be driven far from us. Epiphany is Jesus coming into the world during our darkest moments, and stretching out the light of hope, the light of faith, and the light of love.

It is one of the reasons I so love our tradition of the Epiphany Pageant. Most churches have a Christmas pageant sometime during Advent, leading up to Christmas. When I arrived at Christ Church, we had a pageant on Christmas Eve at the Children’s Service. That was sheer craziness! Trying to corral children on Christmas Eve is one thing; trying to do so when families are driving all over kingdom come is quite another. Having the pageant on the Sunday closest to the Feasts of the Epiphany (January the sixth) makes all the sense in the world.

By that time, we have all pretty much recovered from all hectic activities that come with the Christmas holiday. By that time, I think we are ready for one last “hurrah” and have calmed down enough to really enjoy the ending to the first chapter of Jesus’ life. For the Epiphany is about the Magi, or Three Wise Men, as we have come to know them – finally at long last arriving at the stable.

I like the fact that that regal company didn’t show up on the night of his birth. I like that it took them awhile to even *find* the heavenly babe and that they got a little bit lost along the way. I like that they were unsure of the whole thing. Because it is so often that way with us. Sometimes, we don’t get it right away. Sometimes, we are a few steps behind things, and even get lost along the way. Sometimes, we are unsure about the whole thing

In the midst of our own inner darkness, Epiphany is there to tell us there is always hope, that light has been unleashed into the world, to drive away every kind and manner of darkness. The Christ has taken on flesh and entered our very human realm of existence, and he comes to do no other than to drive away hate. For only love can do that.

It has been said that Jesus is the very sacrament of God. That he is the visible sign of God’s invisible grace. That better than anything else we can possibly imagine or conjure in our minds, Jesus is that link, that bridge; he came to show us we are not alone, he tells us there is real meaning to our lives, he whispers to us that the darkness is not really dark to him, and that in him is the light of life.

I won’t be with you for the Epiphany Pageant this year. I am already regretting that! And hoping someone will tape it. For the word on the street is that this one is going to be a wonderful telling of the story. It is happening on January 8th right there in the nave of Christ Church. Come be a part of it. Come be reminded why we bother getting out of our beds during these darkest days of the year. Come be reminded why we brave the winter cold to hear the story once again.

Come, and help to shatter the darkness and put an end to hate. Come, the Christ Child bids you to come to Bethlehem, and see this thing that God has done.

Peace,

Mother Lisa +

NEWS AND NOTES:

Any Changes? Advise us of any changes in your address or telephone number. Let us know so we can keep our records up to date. Please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220

Parish Hours

Monday – closed

Tuesday – 9 am – 2 pm

Wednesday - 9 am – 2 pm

Thursday – 9 am – 2 pm

Friday – 9 am – 2 pm

A Message from the Altar Guild Chair

Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of Memorials and Thanksgivings for our beautiful Altar and Narthex this year. Beginning in January, we will not be able to have flowers on the Altar every week. It has become too expensive based on the donations we receive each week. We will have arrangements on the Altar and in the Narthex without flowers, so they will last longer. If you would like flowers, please call me and we will try to accommodate your request. We do hope this is a temporary situation. Please continue your requests for 2023 on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Cindy Webster

The 2023 Calendars are now available located in the Narthex in the back of the Church.



A Message from the Altar Guild Directress

Many thanks to Andrew Brown, Judi and Stuart Buncher, Walter Dein, Edgar John, George Edwards, Marie and Bramley Maber, Colleen and Mark Roth, Cindy and Rob Webster who helped green the church for Christmas this past Sunday.

Phyllis Edwards



Your Prayers Are Requested

For the sick and suffering, and those in any need or trouble:

*Mignon Williams, *Cassie Reagan, *John Smalls, *Joan, *Jim Miller, *Beverly Ryser, *Judi Buncher, *Carolyn, *MiMi Brown, *Sarah Schmid, *Susan Van Valkenburg, *Tara Dunford, *Irwin Rapolla, *Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern, *Jonathan Badal, John Veil, Jennifer Turner, Pam, Stan Brower, Queeni, Jocelyn, Mariwether Schmid, Julie, Heather Lance, Pat and Bob Rivenes, Savita, Farshid, Peedy, Gil, Edie, Julia, Bert, Barbara, Sherrie, the Fontana family, Cindy and John Jobe, Vivian Hillborn, Lea Gallagher, Judy, Mary Ellen, Tammy, Don Smith, Greg, Judy Gregor, Jack Sauber, Rico and Liesel Rauschmayer, Bob, Jim Halpern, Joe, Jane Barnes, Jay Curlee, Alison, Rick, Geraldine Watson, Katie, Michael, Donna, Michelle Ten Eyck, Tabitha Shimooka, Evelyn Curley, Marian Bryja, Judy Smith, Mary Andrews, Ann Hatami, Eugene Krikowski, Timothy Keating, Walter Hutchins, Max Garweg. Smith, Mary Andrews, Ann Hatami, Eugene Krikowski, Timothy Keating, Walter Hutchins, Max Garweg, Lynn McKittrick, Barbara Roth Moore Ann Miller. *May they be relieved of their distress.*

**denotes members of Christ Church*

A Message from Queeni

To my Christ Church Shrewsbury family,

The final quarter of 2022 has been hectic for me. I could barely inhale the Christmas air until today the 23rd of December. Yesterday marked the conclusion of the first semester and I am finally home at my mother's place. This season was more challenging for me, unlike the past December. I've been pulling all-nighters and couldn't feel like Christmas was coming. I leave for school early morning and get home late at night. I am truly grateful for my progress but I have to admit that those days were physically and mentally tedious and draining. What keeps me going is knowing that I am close to making one of my dreams come true.

I keep reminding myself that it is the most wonderful time of the year. After all, Christmas is my favorite holiday. But as soon as I got home I slumbered in my chambers. It is the most comfortable for me although Mom and I still share a bed at this age. I slept soundly for 13 hours. The longest sleep I ever got since October. All the sleepless nights and academic fatigue got to me. I noticeably lost a few pounds and got acne breakouts. So I thought as soon as I graduate I need to give some time for myself first.

Finalizing the thesis was a long and strict procedure. It's hard to briefly explain what happened and what's next, but we passed the final defense. We need to make final edits for both our paper and documentary over Christmas break so the research coordinator, panelists, and Dean may accept it for hardbound and publication. We still have a lot to do during the holidays because we need to return to school by the 3rd of January and process internship requirements. Travel and heavy traffic are equally tiring, but I remind myself that these are all investments for my future.

Despite the lack of time, I am very happy that I'll get to spend Christmas with my family. I had the chance to buy Christmas presents for my nine godchildren. I had no idea how many people appreciate my existence. I was touched by the messages I got from longtime friends, acquaintances, and those I had only briefly met. Knowing that I somehow touched their lives warms my heart. I do hope everyone at Christ Church is happy and contented. I believe that is all that

matters this holiday season. May 2023 be a good year for everyone. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and blissful new year!

Love and prayers from PH to USA,
Queenie



My groupmates and I during the Thesis 2 final defense together with our research



“SOCK AND MITTEN TREE”



Through the Christmas season we are asking you to help decorate the Christmas tree located at the Baptismal font with new gloves, mittens, hats, socks, etc. Any size or color will do! These “ornaments” will then be donated to various charities to help those less fortunate over the cold hard winter months. Take advantage of those great after Christmas Sales!!

Columbarium Update

As many of you may have noticed the Columbarium is up! We are still offering pre-construction prices to parishioners.

How do I purchase a niche? Contact the office or Bob and Kim Honecker kimroberts05@gmail.com 732 530-7451 and set up an appointment to meet .

After acceptance of the Policies, you may submit an application along with payment. Upon receipt of payment, you will receive a copy of the Columbarium Commitment. This document shows the location of your niche(s) to keep for your records.



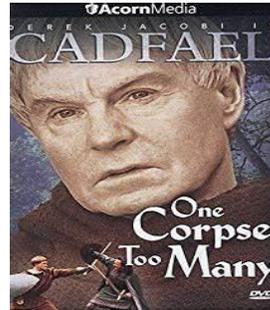
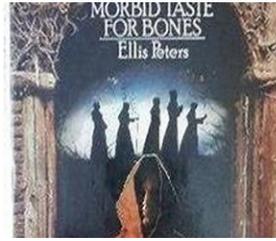
Toy Drive

Parishioners were very generous once again this year in their donation of toys for the children of the Bayshore area. Toys and wrapping paper were blessed at the altar during the service on December 11th. After the service, the toys were brought to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg where they would be distributed to children's families during the following week. Deacon Rose, of St. Mark's and her group of volunteers prepares the presents for the children and plans for that distribution. Thank you to Christ Church parishioners for your donations. *Elaine Feyereisen*

Second Saturday Work Day

We took a break in December but there will be a workday January 14th. Inside the Parish House is currently in the state of repair but there are certain things that need to be sorted between what needs to be saved and what needs to be discarded. If the weather cooperates there are also a few outside projects. Keep in mind just an hour or two of your time can make a big difference any time between 10 am and 4 pm.

Walter Dein Second Saturday coordinator



Peak in the Week

Peak in the Week is winding up the excursion into murder, mystery, and mayhem with a trip to 12th-century England through the first two books of the Brother Cadfael series. Ellis Peters is the author of *A Morbid Taste for Bones*, and *One Corpse Too Many*. With our readings in 7th-century Ireland and 12th-century France, we've learned a lot about church history but the real takeaway is that NOTHING has changed in the human quest for power and glory and basic unconcern about right and wrong. Alas.

Start the New Year with Peak in the Week at 9:30 Panera Bread time each Wednesday. The asiago bagels are GREAT! Even better with a schmear.



Epiphany Pageantome

If it's January, the Epiphany Pageant must be coming up. There is still time to be part of the fun-- contact me, Donna Devlin at sarahannb@aol.com. Just come to our rehearsal at 11:00 on Saturday, January 7. This year's pageant will have some EXCITING surprises! Don't miss it--10:00 service on Sunday, January 8.

The Coventry Carol

By Patrick Durek

In a canon of bright and cheerful Christmas songs, the late medieval Coventry Carol is a bit of a black sheep. Its gentle, rocking 1-2-3 rhythm, combined with its recurring “lully, lullay,” mark it as an unmistakable lullaby. But while most lullabies are in major—think “Away in a Manger”—the Coventry Carol is in minor.¹ The music is shadowy and somber, not the tone of sweet anticipation. Nor, that matter, are the words:

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.
Thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing,
“Bye bye, lully, lullay?”

Herod the king, in his raging,
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee
And ever mourn and may
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
“Bye bye, lully, lullay.”

The carol—is it a carol at all? —is thus a foreboding one. King Herod has ordered male children under age two to be killed. The parents of said children are understandably dejected and mourning. But why, one might ask, has this ditty of pathos been a Christmas staple for centuries? Others, too, have been asking. According to music professor Daisy Black, of Wolverhampton University, the Coventry Carol is progeny of the medieval drama, “[which] was in the business of staging what was considered the entire history of the world represented in scripture, from Creation to Doomsday. Unlike our modern nativity plays, which tend to safely end with the visit of the Magi,

they carried on to the massacre, showing the very human cost of Christ’s birth.”

Coventry Carol, then, was not intended as a Christmas carol at all, but as part of the medieval midsummer Corpus Christi festival tradition; in its own case, first appearing in the mid-1500s *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*, in Coventry, England. As a unit within the entire biblical drama of Christ, the song was one of three songs in the nativity section, hence its Christmas connection. While the lyrics are pregnant with anxiety, they are not nihilistic: King Herod’s Massacre of the Innocents, whether or not it is believed to have occurred, is a smaller point. It is part of the Christ story, and the audience knows that Christ grows into adulthood, is crucified, resurrected, and realized by them (and much of humankind) to be the Messiah. From this view, the Coventry Carol is a transitory meditation on a grief that is momentary. Taken in this light, Coventry Carol is not dark and dire. And, as for the minor key sound, it should be noted that, in the late medieval and early Renaissance periods, minor mode did not have the same sad connotation it has today.

So, when did Coventry Carol become a Christmas song in the modern era? After being banned for a time by the Tudor monarchy—for being too “Popish”—it resurrected in 1940, following the bombing of Coventry by German air attackers during World War II. A BBC special aired a speech given by the provost of Coventry Cathedral, followed by a choral performance of Coventry Carol. The song was given new meaning, and its melancholia became its strength. Christmas could and would be celebrated, but not with ebullience, but with endurance and faith. The anguish is temporary. The joy on the horizon is obscured, but perceptible.

¹ While most Christmas songs are in major, there are a half dozen staples of the season in minor. The British music magazine *Classic FM* lists, among others, “We Three Kings of Orient Are,” “What Child is This?” “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” “I Wonder as I Wander,” and “Carol of the Bells.”

Those Who Serve – January 2023

January 8

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8am Edgar John 10am, Joshua and Matthew Dunford
Halina Nibbling
Lectors: 8am Peggy James 10am Tara Dunford
Ushers: 8am Peggy James 10am Larry Nibbling, Elaine Feyereisen, George Edwards,
Stephen Rudolph
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar Guild: Phyllis Edwards

January 15

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8am Judi Buncher, 10am, Dexter and Kody Craven, Cassandra
Murphy
Lectors: 8am Sean Griffith, 10am Elaine Feyereisen
Ushers: 8am Walter Dein, 10am Rod Webster, Jim O'Connor
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar Guild: Phyllis Edwards

January 22

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8 am Edgar John, 10 am Isabel & Isara Chen Durek, Andrew
Brown, Teddy Keating
Lectors: 8 am Peggy James, 10 am Robert Maber
Ushers: 8 am Carl Alfano, 10 am Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster

January 29

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8 am Edgar John, 10 am Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Teddy
Keating
Lectors: 8 am Walter Dein, 10 am Martie Viets
Ushers: 8 am Judi Buncher, 10 am Larry Nibbling, Connie Goddard
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar guild: Judi Buncher

January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	6	7 Rehearsal for Epiphany Pageant 11 am
8 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist Epiphany Pageant	9 <u>Office Closed</u>	10	11 9:30 - 11:15AM Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	12 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	13	14 <u>10am-4pm</u> 2 nd Saturday Workday
15 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist	16 <u>Office closed</u>	17	18 9:30 - 11:15AM Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	19 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	20	21
22 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist	23 <u>Office closed</u> <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> 7PM VESTRY meeting	24	25 9:30 - 11:15AM Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	26 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	27	28
29 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist	30 <u>Office closed</u>	31				

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*The Communications Team reminds you to check
the web site for current parish news.
www.christchurchshrewsbury.org*



"Be friends with Christ Church
Shrewsbury" and then invite your friends to be our
friend so
we all can be informed and connected to
events in our community.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.
BRING SOMEONE TO CHURCH WITH YOU.

The Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell, Rector
The Reverend Victoria Cuff, Deacon
Iris Chen, Organist/Choirmaster
Debbie Roese, Office Administrator
Kevin Carroll, Sexton

VESTRY 2022

Peggy James – Senior Warden, Stewardship
Connie Goddard – Junior Warden
Carl Alfano
Walter Dein – Building and Grounds
Sheila Hatami-Watson
Sue Napoletano- Church School
Larry Nibbling – Finance
Robin Solbach
Martie Viets – Parish Life
Treasurer – Stephen Craven
Asst. Treasurer--Lynn Marengo, Larry Nibbling
Vestry Clerk – Nancy Stewart