

St Edmund Champion

Watlington

AND...

Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity

Stonor Park

Newsletter | December 2019



www.stedmundswatlington.com

It's beginning to look a lot like

Well, you know the rest...

Dear parishioners and friends,

I am sure you know the story about the Priest who began his letter in the same way. However, he misspelled 'friends' and it became 'fiends.'

So, Advent and the Church's New Year are upon us once again. How wonderful to have Margaret Silf with us at this time. She will be sharing some of her insights and being encouraging in these difficult times.

There are various ways we can make our Advent season fruitful. Why not read Margaret's book? We have the 'Walk with Me' booklets as well. There will be services of Reconciliation in different parishes in the Deanery. There is almost always a daily Mass here at 9.30 a.m. Music is a wonderful way to prepare ourselves for Christmas. There are the Advent carols, and nearer the time Christmas ones also.

I visited All Souls Church, Langham Place the other day, in the centre of London. They have twelve Carol Services! We just have the one! As Christians we need to witness to the importance of our family life and values. The Christmas Masses are such a highlight for us all.

Peace and Joy to you all!

Fr. Michael o.d.c.s.



Only with Christ has authentic joy made its appearance and the only thing of ultimate importance in our lives is to learn to see and know Christ, the God of grace, the light and joy of the world.'

(Emeritus Pope Benedict)



An extract from 'The Art of Advent'

by Rev. Jane Williams S.P.C. K. 2018

'In Advent, we are preparing our hearts and our lives for the birth of Jesus. Some of this preparation will be joyful but, as with any new birth, there will also be apprehension: this new birth, more than any, is life- changing, world-changing.

John's Gospel speaks of Jesus's birth as the coming of light (John 1, verse 2), without which nothing can live, but also in which nothing can hide.'

'William Blake's The Ancient of Days shows God leaning out from the sphere of light which is God's home to begin to measure out creation. Light is symbolic of all that is God: it is life , it is truth, it is warmth, it is active, it pushes darkness away.'

Margaret Silf reflects in ' Lighted Windows' for Christmas time:

'As we come closer to the festival of Christmas, we join Joseph and Mary on their journey to Bethlehem and allow them to draw us with them into the very heart of the mystery. This is a journey we are called to join in, not to observe from a distance.'

'It is a journey that will lead us to a deeper understanding of where we 'belong' , and how that 'belonging ' calls us into new ways of relating to each other and to God.'

'Jesus is conceived into emptiness- an empty ,waiting womb. We reflect on our own awareness of the empty spaces in our lives .and how they can become containers for God's overflowing grace.'

' We share in the stillness of the Holy Night, and seek to meet God in the depths of our own hearts' stillness.'

'God is the 'God of Surprises' , who gives Godself to us in the surprise of Christmas morning, and in every new surprise that awaits us around the next corner.'



Glimpses of Eden

And exciting times ahead...

Jonathan Tulloch has written a wonderful book about nature, with short reflections on our faith. Jonathan's brother Andrew was one of my students in the Carmelites.

This is an extract from his Winter cycle:

“ I paused for a while beneath the alder that grows by the beck. For months it has been a sombre even austere sculpture of grey and brown. But now, at the end of Winter , it seemed to glint in my eye.

When I looked more closely I saw that the whole tree was tinged with purple. The catkins were in bloom. Trees of river, stream and marsh, alders maintain our waterways; their roots not only prevent bank erosion but also provide shelter for fish.

It's white wood bleeds to red on being sawn, and since it does not rot under water is ideal for the construction of waterside buildings: virtually the whole of Venice is underpinned by alder piles.

The nodules of their roots fix hydrogen, helping to clean, reclaim and once more make fertile sites degraded by industry or intensive agriculture.

I tarried a little longer . A breeze whispered through the alder ,and it's rustling purple seemed to crackle under the foot of departing Winter.”

Glimpses of Eden. and is published by Darton, Longman, and Todd, 2018.



Dates for your diary

'tis the season...

6pm December 11th | William and Ailsa Stonor have invited us to drinks at Stonor Park. Children are welcome. What a way to prepare for the general election!

7pm December 18th | **Carol service at St Edmund Campion, Watlington**

We are hosting the Ecumenical Carol Service for the first time in many years. Please come along and pray with us, sing with us, and celebrate with us ! Refreshments to follow. The collection will be for EMMAUS OXFORD - working together to end homelessness. Details of the charity will be at the back of the church

Christmas Masses:

10pm, December 24th.

Christmas Eve Mass with carols at St. Edmund Campion, Watlington

10.30pm, December 24th

Mass at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Trinity, Stonor.

9.30am December 25th

Christmas Day Mass with carols at St Edmund Campion, Watlington

10.30am December 5th

Christmas day mass at Stonor

10am December 26th

Feast of St. Stephen Mass at St Edmund Campion, Watlington



A stained glass window depicting a religious figure, likely a saint or martyr, with a halo and a red garment. The figure is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is filled with intricate patterns and colors, including blues, greens, and reds.

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