

Five Alive



The Magazine of the Redruth Team Ministry
St Euny Redruth, Christchurch Lanner, St Andrew Pencoys
St Andrew Redruth and St Stephen Treleigh
(REDRUTH PCC - registered charity no 1204231)



DECEMBER 2024

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Latest date for articles: **FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER**

How do you answer the door?!

We British have a very unique attitude to our front door. It is the gate to our castle; the border to our kingdom. A couple of months ago I was in my bedroom in the afternoon, with the view over our close. I spotted some people; two women, smartly dressed, coming into the close. They came to our door and Wes answered. I heard his tone of voice from upstairs and it was clearly a tone of “not today thank you”! I heard them commenting on things they could see inside our home and thought “how cheeky!”. So I carried on watching their progress around the close. No answer at number two or number 3. Number 4 were skilled in politely shutting the door (not quite in their face!) and number 5 (the Jehovah’s Witnesses) were especially keen to send them on their way, which discredited my first idea of who they might be! I guess they were mormons! Bless those two women, who care enough about their faith that sharing it with anyone who will listen will even move them to knock on British doors, where our sense of “castle” makes it a daunting barrier!

Contrast this with another door, millennia ago, when a pregnant girl and her weary husband desperately searched for a place to stay. You know where I am going with this...

Middle eastern culture is so very different to our own in terms of hospitality. We see it in many biblical accounts, where strangers knock on doors, and the responsibility is with the homeowner to find food and space for the uninvited guests. We may be overly influenced by the comedy moment of many nativities, where the inn keeper slams the door and says “NO ROOM!” in a loud and clear voice, followed by affection tittering from the audience. But Joseph and Mary’s experience would have been very different; the overcrowded town literally did not have an inch of space, because of the Roman census. But one property owner found a small corner of an animal shelter where the couple could at least stop.

This Advent and Christmas, we as church have to consider how we welcome so many folk to our churches. In our varied events from fetes, to carol services, to school services, to Christmas lunches... in all of these moments we welcome people who already have a place in our community, and in God’s heart. We need to be mindful to welcome with a culture found in the bible, rather than my street!!!

The world engages with Christmas in a way that has shifted over recent years; with Christmas trees up as soon as Remembrance is over, and a desire to “find Christmas Spirit”, there is a “lostness” in lots of people as they strive to find something that Christmas somehow promises.

The C of E has chosen to promote Christmas as “calm and bright”, and reflect on the Christmas carol “Silent Night”. Many people are seeking peace, love, meaning, and welcome. It is the responsibility of every one of us to offer that welcome at Church, as people seek something that they might not be able to name, and come to our services and fetes.

As we await Jesus, and prepare ourselves to welcome him again this Christmas, let’s be sure that we are ready to also welcome everyone he loves, and share what we know of his peace and love.

Revd Becca Bell

HEALING AND CHANGE

Reflecting on this past week, it's impossible to ignore the significance of the events that have transpired within the Church of England. This period marks a critical juncture, especially in light of the Makin Report, which has brought to light issues of abuse and profound failings within the Church. As a member of the Church, I find it essential to reflect not only on these events but also on the implications they have for the Church's role, its mission, and its call to embody justice and compassion in the world.

Historically, the resignation of an Archbishop of Canterbury has been an uncommon event, one with profound implications for the Church and its members. In the last century alone, there have only been two other resignations of such high-ranking Church leaders: Randall Davidson and George Carey. This week, however, we have witnessed the resignation of Archbishop Justin Welby, a step that signifies a response to the revelations within the Makin Report. While such an action might be viewed by some as a gesture of accountability, it also serves as a painful reminder of the Church's human fallibility. This moment highlights the heavy responsibility Church leaders have often borne for institutional failings, sometimes at great personal cost that parallels Christ's sacrifice for the Church.

The Church, like all human institutions, has its flaws and blind spots. However, never has there been such a comprehensive public exposure of these failings. In the face of such revelations, it is crucial to acknowledge the importance of transparency and accountability. This openness is not about tarnishing the Church's reputation but rather about facing the truth of its missteps. As painful as it is, public acknowledgement can be the first step towards healing and change. We must remember that as Christians, we are called not only to a life of faith but also to a life of integrity, one that includes repentance and the commitment to making things right where possible. These revelations call us to collective reflection and to a renewed dedication to living out our faith authentically, even if that means confronting uncomfortable truths.

In thinking about our response, I am reminded of the writings of theologian Walter Wink, who spoke about the possible reactions to injustice. Wink suggested that we have three choices when faced with wrongdoing: we can respond with anger and confrontation, we can choose passivity and allow it to continue, or we can choose a third way. This "third way", seeking out creative and compassionate solutions that aim for true justice. To truly embody Jesus' teachings, for the truth to set us free, we must follow a path that confronts wrongdoing and seeks a just, healing response—one that reflects His call for accountability alongside His boundless compassion.

In reflecting on these events as we approach Christmas, I am reminded of the season's symbolism: light entering a dark world. Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, the light of the world, who came to bring hope and redemption to a broken world. Yet, the significance of light is only apparent in the presence of darkness. This season, more than ever, we are reminded of the Church's brokenness and the ways in which it has failed to live up to its calling. But we are also reminded of our hope in Christ, our High Priest, who bears our sins and offers us grace.

continued

Sunday 17 November, Safeguarding Sunday Sermon

Mark 13:1-8 and Hebrews 10:11-25.

The gospel speaks about stones, and there are lots of stones in Scripture. They include the stones of the beautiful and holy Temple (Mark 8:2) which Jesus says will be brought down to the ground; the stumbling stones (Mt 18:6 & Rom 9:33) that trip us up; the mill-stone (Mt 18:6), which drags down anyone who causes a child to trip and fall; stone hearts into which new life needs to be breathed (Ezek 36:26); stones that are set up to mark great moments in an individual's life (Genesis 28:10-22) or the life of a community (Joshua 4:1-8).

These stories about stones might then give you a way to speak about different aspects of the experience of the last week, including the risks of putting our hope in what look like 'strong stones' rather than in Jesus; the ways in which we can cause people to stumble and fall, and the consequences of doing so; the need to focus on our 'hearts' where character and commitments are won or lost, before our activities; or the need to mark important moments – including moments of trauma, lament and repentance.

The first of those points offers an opportunity to speak about the temptation for many of us, particularly in a world that feels uncertain and anxious, to over invest not just to strong structures, but to strong leaders. While we need leaders to help us set a vision, make decisions and work together, over-investing in apparently 'flawless' leaders inevitably leads to catastrophe.

Instead of making people dependent or submissive, Christian leaders, like the Temple, are meant to point away from themselves and towards Jesus. And in Mark's gospel it is clear that Jesus is saying that he, rather than the temple, is the dwelling place of God's holy presence (Shekinah). Jesus is also the cornerstone (Acts 4:11), a stone rejected by the builder (1 Peter 2:4) and the one through whom we are built into 'living stones' (1 Peter 2:5)

Both in church and beyond it, we need a healthy culture of leadership, which does not deny the proper authority we are given to carry, and which always uses it to point towards Jesus. The New Testament reading (Hebrews 10:11-25) provides rich opportunities to build on these themes, including by reflecting on how a commitment to safeguarding is a matter of conviction and character, rather than being a tick box exercise (the 'covenant written in their hearts and minds').

The passage ends with a beautiful call to 'hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful'. However badly the church fails and in every season of suffering and pain, Jesus remains faithful to his promises and to us.

Bishop Hugh

THE RT REVD HUGH NELSON
BISHOP OF ST GERMANS

ST ANDREW REDRUTH

The church was again decorated beautifully for Remembrance by Marion in November. The display supported by Redruth Old Cornwall Society included a newly refurbished Shikari Shield, thanks to Mike Tapping of Illogan Old School Centre, who lovingly stripped and polished the shield, re-varnished it and gave it a sturdy stand. The Shikari was the ship adopted by the Redruth, Camborne and Stithians area during WW2 and the navy was grateful for the enormous sums of money raised locally for this ship and others in the 'Warship Week' and other fundraising efforts. The shield was a sign of their gratitude. The story of the Shikari was on display with the shield over the Remembrance period. Looking forward to December, St Andrew's is going to be even more busy than usual. The weekend of Redruth Wassail and the first weekend of Advent will see the Christmas market in the church on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th November from 10.00am to 4.00pm on both days. If you are able to support, please do contact Lez, our churchwarden, all offers welcome!

The posada begins its journey that same weekend, moving from 'inn' to 'inn' as our homes represent the stay of the Holy Family on their journey to Bethlehem. This year there will be two representative families due to the popularity of the scheme.

On Sunday 1st December young people will be welcome to messy Church, in the crypt, from 3.00-5.00pm. This has proved very popular in past years and is an ideal opportunity to invite families and young people to an informal church experience with community tea.

The following Wednesday will see the presentation of the Randoms Christmas Concert in the Crypt, at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4th December. Tickets for this sell very quickly, so buy yours early to make sure of a place. The annual Town Band Concert by candlelight will be on 15th December at 6.00pm.

On Christmas Eve children are welcome to the children's service at 4.30 pm, dressing up optional but encouraged. Later, at 11.30pm, St Andrew's will host the Midnight Mass.

All these along with the school concerts and plays will ensure that we all have plenty to look forward to, but also please be aware of the need for support to enable the community events to take place and do sign up for a shift if you can.

Linda Beskeen

St. Andrew Pencoys with Four Lanes Methodist Church

'FLAPJACK'

Worshipping, praying and working together as 'One in Christ'

St. Andrew's Church remains open daily from about 10am until 4pm with optional Covid-safe precautions in place.

We warmly invite everyone to join us for our St. Andrew's **Patronal Festival Supper** on **Saturday 30 November** at 6pm in Pencoys Hall. This is a 'bring & share' event; please bring a small savoury or sweet item to share. Our next **First Sunday Evening Event** will be held at St. Euny Church on Sunday 1st December at 6pm featuring Advent Carols and Meditation. All are welcome. Flapjack events and services during **December** will be:

Said Holy Communion each Wednesday at 6pm at St. Andrew's Pencoys

Sunday 1 December Flapjack Holy Communion, Methodist Church 11.15am
Lighthouse, young people's event 3 – 5pm Methodist Church
Advent Service at St. Euny Church 6pm

Saturday 7 December Quiz Pencoys Hall 6pm

Sunday 8 December Flapjack Family Event with Holy Communion 11.15am(St. A.)

Friday & Sat 13 & 14 Dec Staging of Christmas Tree Exhibition

Saturday 14 December Christmas Grotto in **St. Andrew's Church** 1-3pm then
Procession to **Methodist Church** for **Bazaar** 2- 4pm

Sunday 15 December **No morning service : Village Carol Service** Methodist Church
2.30 p.m. Said HC St. Andrew's Pencoys 6pm

Thursday 19 December Holly Tree Lights & Remembrance Books 7pm St. Andrew's

Friday 20 December Village walkabout to view Christmas lights 6pm then
Fish & Chip Supper at the Sportsmans Arms 7pm
(Please let FP know by Sunday 15 if you would like to come)

Saturday 21 December Christmas Bingo Pencoys Hall 6 – 8pm

Sunday 22 December Flapjack Holy Communion St. Andrew Pencoys 11.15am

Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve Crib Service St. Andrew Pencoys 5pm
'Midnight' Mass, St. Andrew 10pm

Christmas Day **Holy Communion, 11.15am followed by Community Christmas Lunch, Methodist Church 12.30pm for 1pm** (Please let FP have numbers asap)

St. Stephen's Day 26 St. Stephen's Treleigh Patronal Festival, Holy Communion
10.30am

Sunday 29 December Breakfast Service, Methodist Church 9.30am

Parish Holy Communion, St. Andrew Redruth 10.30am

Teatime Celebration Pencoys Hall 4 – 5pm

Christmas Tree Exhibition: We welcome our usual exhibitors to display a tree, but please tell Brian (214069) or Jill (07809 043656) if you do not wish to do so this year, or know of anyone else who would like to join us. Thank you.

Please note that all **Flapjack Sunday morning** services will be held at the Methodist Church from **5th January until Easter Sunday, 20th April** (also at the Methodist Church). Third Sunday and Wednesday evening H.C. services remain at St. Andrew's.

Jill Tolputt

ST EUNY

Creation Care have been busy planting trees in the field opened up by Mary Anson and dedicated to the five churches in the parish. Five oaks were planted by Joan & David Doble on behalf of St Euny, a sweet chestnut and a horse chestnut from Treleigh, donated by Robin and Trish Knights. Thanks to all involved for this important step toward improving and recognising the importance of our natural environment.

A Remembrance display supported by Redruth Old Cornwall Society was at St Euny, for the first two weeks of November. Our Open Café crafties have been busy and thanks go to Janet Geach who has knitted us a soldier's head and poppies. Knitting was a major feature of the home front in the Second World War, my grandmother being amongst those who kept busy at home by knitting constantly, mainly socks for servicemen. Wool would be sent from the Ministry and she would know from the colour whether the socks would be intended for army, navy or air force. Our knitters today offer a reflection of this popular domestic activity, at one time supporting the war, today supporting the Remembrance.

We will be holding several special events in the Advent season, preparing for Christmas both spiritually and physically. Advent Sunday, December 1st coincides with First Sunday, so will combine to become an 'Advent Carols Event' which will include raising money for the charity of the month.

On the following two weekends we will be holding our wreath making events, Saturday 7th December and Saturday 14th December, from 12.00 noon to 3.00pm in the church. The church will be decorated with Christmas Trees, stalls selling gifts, decorations, books and cards will be in the church, soup lunches will be served along with hot drinks, including mulled wine; children's craft corner will be open throughout. All are welcome. If you wish to make a wreath the cost this year is £10 to include all the components. This is an opportunity to open the church and invite members of our community to join us in a relaxed atmosphere, meet and experience the church, so please do inform anyone who might be interested. We will be taking bookings in advance if you wish to be assured of a place, but all are welcome. You can book by email to me (lindabeskeen@gmail.com) or contacting Joan, Andy, Sarah or any of the St Euny regulars.

On Sunday 15th December there will be a Christingle Service at 4.00pm, for all those young in age or at heart, followed by refreshments with a 'Continental Christmas' theme.

A service of lessons and Carols will be at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We hope that we will welcome as many as we did last year.

For once, Open Café will not be open as Christmas Day falls on a Wednesday. We will be open as usual on the following Wednesday, which is New Year's Day, when we will have a festive theme to our tea.

On the first Sunday following Christmas Day the Cornish Carol Service will be held in St Euny at 3.00pm, the service sheets will be bilingual, so everyone can follow the words. Everyone is welcome.

Looking forward to 2025, Avril has written another pantomime 'Sapphire and the Knockers' to be performed at Epiphany, further details will be on the pew sheets.

Linda Beskeen

CHRISTCHURCH LANNER



Christchurch remains open 10.00am– 4.00pm and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30am. The third Sunday is a Communion with new music and each

Wednesday there is a Prayer Book Communion Service at 11.00am.

Although the 'vacancy' has ended, the LAST Sunday of each month will continue to revolve through the SIX worship settings and starts at 10.30am. In addition, the FIRST Sunday of each month will alternate between the settings with their Sunday Service at the same time:

ST ANDREW, REDRUTH & CHRISTCHURCH, LANNER / 9.30am

ST EUNY, CHURCHTOWN & ST STEPHEN, TRELEIGH / 11.15am

THE FLAPJACK COMMUNITY (St Andrew, Pencoys & Four Lanes Chapel) are already linked at 11.15am.

CHRISTMAS AT CHRISTCHURCH

CAROL SERVICE: Tuesday December 17 7.00pm followed by mulled wine etc.

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE: 3.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE BETHLEHEM MASS: 8.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY HC: 10.00am

CHRISTMAS FILM CLUB: Friday December 27 "NATIVITY" 6.30pm / 7.00pm

THE CHRISTCHURCH SUPPER CLUB: Christchurch enjoys a SUPPER CLUB every three months. There is always lots of food etc. brought by the guests and a good time, by candlelight is had by all. The next Supper Club date is to be held on SATURDAY JANUARY 25 at 7.00pm.

OTHER EVENTS AT CHRISTCHURCH: Margaret's Last Monday Tea Party 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

You may have missed the November party, so how about coming along to the December one on **Monday December 30**. You will be VERY welcome.

OTHER EVENTS: The games afternoons and the film nights are advertised in the weekly pew sheets. **BUT** maybe you got involved in the **180th anniversary of the parish of Lanner** (see the article in last month's 5 Alive)

**STOP PRESS!! PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A LIVE NATIVITY ON THE FESTIVAL OF THE EPIPHANY IN MARY ANSON'S FIELD. BOOK THE DATE:
MONDAY JANUARY 6 2025**

With God's blessings to the parish, and to Rebecca our Rector.

ST STEPHEN TRELEIGH



On Sunday the 2nd November we were worshipping with our friends at St Euny. It pleasing that so many of the Treleigh congregation were able to attend. The service was led by the Rev Margaret Saville with Charlie playing the organ. Later that afternoon at St Stephens we held our annual remembering service with the Rev Becca. A very moving service during which the Rev Becca read the names of those we wished to remember, the congregation were invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones. From the recently bereaved and the not so recently bereaved and a representative of the funeral directors, silent tears were shed with smiles and hugs at the end. Thank you Becca for such a moving service enjoyed, perhaps enjoyed is not quite the right word, by all who were there.

Our service on Remembrance Sunday was led by the Rev Margaret with Trish reading the lessons, Mary the intercessions and Charlie on the Organ. The service began with the remembrance part of the service with Helen in her Naval Uniform laying the wreath at the Altar before reading the Exhortation and leading us into the two minutes silence. This was followed by Kohima Epitaph after which we sang the National Anthem which completed this part of the service. We then continued with the Eucharist part of the service. Refreshments were served in the hall following the service served by Carol and Doreen.

On the second Tuesday of the month we held our Tea Party for those collecting children from school and anyone who was passing by. Parents came in before collecting the children for a warm drink and piece of cake, Of course they had to return with the children when they came out of school. The children's chatter as they decide whether to have a cake first or a sandwich. The please and thankyou as they come to the hatch to ask for a drink. The little girl who wanted the pink mug and the young boy who asked for a drink of orange in the orange mug all made for another successful afternoon.

On Wednesday the 13th two car loads of ladies descended on the Royal Oak, at Perranwell for lunch. An afternoon of eating and convivial chat between friends. Our thanks to our drivers Anne and Carol. On the 27th we have another outing, this time to the Trelawney Garden Centre at Wadebridge. As is usual when we go a bit farther afield, we will be traveling in a mini bus driven by Mel. We will miss Joy though, as she always had a trolley which we all put our goodies in as we went around. Lunch will be a highlight (we ladies do love our food) and we always make time for a hot drink and cake before we make the journey home. This will set us up for a busy December and the run up to Christmas when we have Treleigh School having some services in church and some in the school. Busy Bees nursery also will come into church on a Thursday morning for their nativity with Father Peter. Another highlight will be our joint carol service with the school choir. This will be followed by a hot drink and mince pie in the hall on Sunday the 15th. Christmas Eve we have our Crib Service at 3pm and Bethlehem Mass at 9pm. We do not have a service ourselves on Christmas Day but Boxing Day is our Patronal festival when our service will begin at 10.30am. As is our tradition we always have fizz and cake before going home. All are welcome to join us in our special service.

Mary Harris

Remembrance 2024: Remembering W.J.Tregoning

A few weeks ago I was contacted by a lady called Veronique who lives in Oxfordshire, but who was born in Belgium in the town of Theux with a Belgian mother and English father. Her parents retired to live in Theux, a small town close to Verviers. In the cemetery at Theux there is a row of Commonwealth War Graves, all of young men who died **after the end of the war** (in February 1919) **mostly** of the Spanish 'flu that swept through Europe after the war. Every year **since retiring in 1993** Veronique's father honoured these English war dead with a special poppy for each grave. Since his death **in 2009** Veronique has continued that tradition. This year a significant Remembrance ceremony will take place with these graves as a key point in the event.

One of the graves is of W.J.Tregoning. Willie Tregoning, as he was known, was aged 23 and from Redruth; you can see his name on the war memorial in Victoria Park and on the Redruth Wesley war memorial in the Wesley Chapel. Veronique was in Cornwall earlier this year and was researching some more detail on the names in Theux. Willie Tregoning lived at Gew Terrace and attended East End School for a short time, before going to Trewirgie School. Willie was one of six children to Joel and Fanny Martin Tregoning, two girls and four boys. One daughter and one son died before the First World War, as did their father Joel, and another son died in 1916, leaving Mrs Tregoning a widow with three children by the end of the war, then Willie died in February 1919. Only two of the original six siblings lived on. The birth places of the children tell a story typical of the time. Joel went to work in mines in South Africa and Willie was born in Johannesburg in 1895. His sister Lydia had been born in Nevada three years earlier. Joel was travelling the world in search of work and his wife and young children followed long distances to be together.

All the children attended the Wesley Sunday School and Willie and his brothers and sister were all given prizes for full marks in the Catechism examinations in 1906. On leaving school they all entered good jobs, Willie becoming a law clerk, Raymond a bank clerk, Fanny a clerk in Trounson's and Joel a draughtsman at an engineering works. None went into mining or labouring, an indication of the commitment to education and the support from the schools in Redruth and the Methodist Sunday School.

We have been commemorating our war dead every year since the end of the First World War. We are used to seeing the services at the major Commonwealth War Graves and the commemorative visits to significant battle sites. We hear very little about the local cemeteries where our war dead are buried with those amongst whom they lived their last days. Each of these cemeteries have the familiar plaque that we see on our cemeteries showing that there is a Commonwealth War Grave present. Each grave is well tended by the War Graves Commission. In some cases, as in Theux, there are local people paying respects and remembering these young men, most of whom are unknown to them.

I was particularly moved to hear this story from Veronique. My great-uncle, James Finucane, of Redruth, was also buried in February 1919 in a grave in Belgium, three miles away from Theux. He also died of the Spanish flu that ravaged the country after the war.

continued

Remembering W.J.Tregoning continued

He attended Trewirgie school at the same time and was the same age as Willie Tregoning, so it is almost certain that they knew each other. His grave is also in wonderful condition and for many years flowers were placed on the grave by someone in the town who remains unknown to our family. Veronique has arranged for his grave and the graves of some other soldiers in nearby towns and villages to have a remembrance poppy this year.

Over one hundred years have passed but this act of Remembrance draws a thread across time and place, bringing us together in ways that we cannot always know or understand.

Linda Beskeen

FLAPJACK

The members of Flapjack wish everyone a very happy and blessed Christmas and welcome all to the Warm Wednesday afternoons from 2—4pm on 4th and 18th December at the Methodist Church.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

10 November 2024	Emeila-Rose Louise Alston	St Stehen Treleigh
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FUNERALS

17 October 2024	Daphne Thomas	St Andrew Pencoyes
29 October 2024	Coleen Bridget Roberts	St Andrew Pencoyes
30 October 2024	John Thompson	St Stephen Treleigh

GRAVESIDE FUNERAL

08 November 2024	Doreen Patricia Berry	St Euny
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BOOK CLUB

On 4th November we met to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. We had to tread carefully as one of our group had not quite finished the book, and we didn't want to share any spoilers. Personally, I loved the book, and I think it was enjoyed by all of us. It's a hefty book at 462 pages but quite an easy read. The story follows Count Alexander Rostov, a Russian aristocrat, forced into "house arrest" in a fancy hotel in Moscow in 1922 during the Bolshevik Revolution.

The story unfolds as we see Alexander building a beautiful and full life for himself despite his exile within his own beloved country. Discussion centred on how the writer showed the passing of time and the fascinating descriptions of life in Russia in that period. There were funny moments to remember and we had a good chat about the strength of character it took to make the most of such a difficult situation. We were even able to draw some unexpected parallels with one of our recent books Jojo Moyes' *Someone Else's Shoes*.

Our next two books are;

My Father's House by Joseph O'Connor (2nd Dec). This is another historical fiction, this time about the Nazi occupation of Rome in 1943, where a Vatican City Priest Hugh O'Flaherty bravely sets up a team to help people escape the Nazis. However, with the net closing in on the team, they devise a terrifyingly audacious mission and by Christmas it is too late to turn back...



What You Are Looking For is in the Library by Michiko Aoyama (6th Jan). A light hearted read for such a busy season, this book is set in Tokyo and is about the magic of community libraries and the discovery of connection. Sayuri Komachi is no ordinary librarian. Sensing exactly what someone is searching for in life, she provides just the book recommendation to help them find it. In this uplifting book, we meet five of Sayuri's customers, each at a different crossroads. Can she help them find what they are looking for?

We are now meeting on the first Monday of each month at 10:00am. To find out more, please ring Margaret Saville on 07930 471 837. We will next meet on Monday 2nd December at 10:00am. Do come along, there is always room for more.

Becca Harrigan

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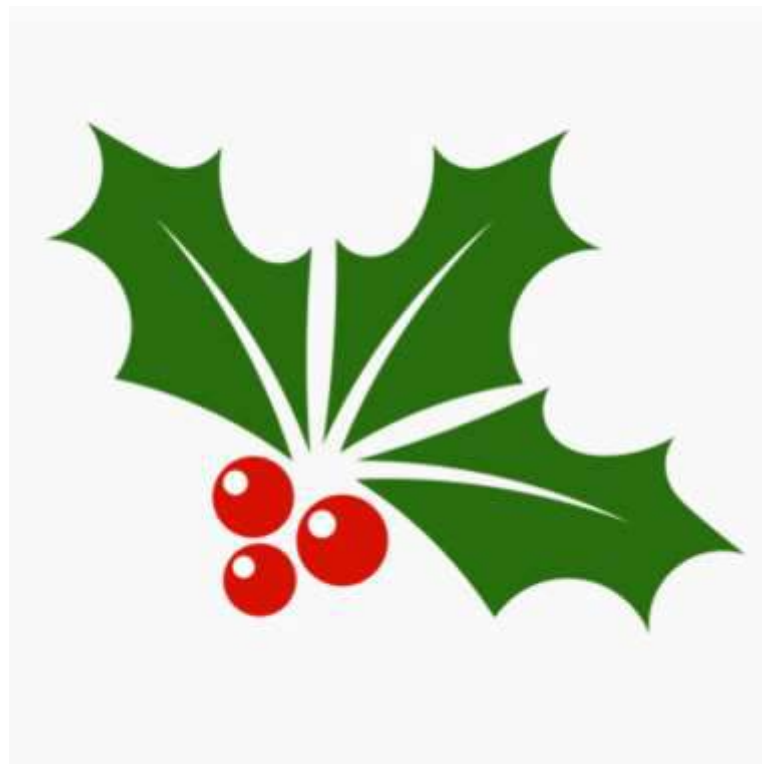
If you have any queries please contact Richard Robinson:-
robin1674son@btinternet.com 01209 715198

Thank you to all contributors for articles during 2024 and wish you all a
happy and blessed Christmas.

We look forward to your continuing support during 2025.

Special thanks to Jason for the wonderful cover pictures each month.
If any one is wondering where the cover picture is, it is Old Kea Church

Rosemary and Richard



My way to Compostela

Day 14 part 1

Cardenula to Rabe de la Calzados 26.5km

We woke to the ringing of the door bell for our hosts to enter and provide us with a sustaining breakfast at 6.45am, before heading off to pick up the route at 7.45. The day was to be one of contrasts, which is what life is like. Quiet country lane and very bustling city. Our way for the day started on a quiet country lanes for around 3Km to reach the village of Orbaneja. From here the guide book suggests two alternative routes into Burgos. One is to follow the main road drag into the city the other is to take a skirting route that takes the pilgrim around the perimeter of the airport to cross the Rio Arlanzon, this was the route that we plumed for which brought us to the quiet suburb of Castanares. From here a weary pilgrim could opt for a bus ride into the city centre to avoid the bustle of city traffic, or as we did, take the path that follows the Rio Arlanzon into the city. The path turned out to be a pleasant stroll through parkland. It clearly was the local constitutional walk for the citizens of Burgos as we passed and were passed by many people out for their morning walk. I have to say that there was little in the way of pleasantries directed towards us as we walked along. After 1.5Km we turned right off the path crossing the Rio via a foot bridge to enter the city and passing the statue of "El Cid" Burgos has a population of around 175,000. Its historical links to the Camino go back to the first recorded pilgrimage to Santiago. It was the beginning of stage VI of the Codex Calixtinus the first recorded route of this pilgrimage, it was also referred to as the Gothic Capital of Spain and when you look around the buildings, you can understand why it got that name. In Plaza Santa Maria sits its imposing 13th century Cathedral dedicated to Santa Maria, which is designated as a World Heritage site. The city is the birth place of Count Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, 'El Cid' a Muslim title give to him by the Moors out of respect. He was born in Burgos in 1040 and died in Valencia in 1099 from his wounds during the battle for the city of Valencia, which he recaptured for the Moors. His remains and those of his wife are interred in the Cathedral. He had previously been buried in the Monastery of San Pedro Cardena along with his war horse "Babioca". Burgos was also the seat of Franco's Government until the the fall of Madrid in 1938. The city, in so many ways still holds onto its Franco nationalist and establishment past, hence I think the reason for the lack of pleasantries of the walk in. So after a coffee, we headed out of the city for the 13.3Km to our chosen stop for the night in Rabe de las Calzados but not before saying goodbye to Gino the Italian chap who was part of our party. He was flying home from Burgos the next day.

Len Cunningham

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Answers next year!

1. How many gifts were given in total on 'The 12 Days of Christmas'?
2. Which guitarist had a hit with the Christmas song Felix Navidad?
3. Vitello Tonnato is a popular Christmas dish in which country?
4. What is a Pfefferkuchenhaus?
5. Wigilia is the name of the Christmas Eve Supper in which country?
6. What date was considered the date of the winter solstice in the Roman calendar?
7. The Anglo-Saxons and the Norse celebrated a winter festival called what?
8. In 1843 the first commercial Christmas card was produced by who?
9. What is the first line from the poem 'A visit from St Nicholas'?
10. What does a pickle mean on a Christmas tree?
11. Who was the first President to put up an official White House Christmas tree?
12. What was invented in 1610 Germany?
13. The image of Santa Claus flying his sleigh was created by which author?
14. 'The Polar Express' was released in which year?
15. Preston A. Whitmore 11 wrote, produced and directed which film?



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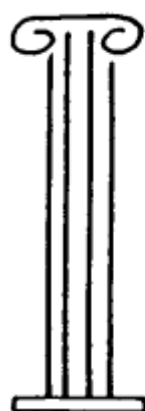


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