

Continued from the November Issue

It was difficult to decide how we could make my theory about Christ Church conclusive. I went to see Peter Ollerhead, the Crewe historian. I wrote several letters and put it on Facebook but got no positive response. I asked for both pictures of the church interior and any information but there were no replies.

Feeling that we were again at a dead end I looked up 'Commandment Boards' on the computer. It was very likely that there had been one to go with the pictures.

I found the following:

'The Commandment Boards that form part of the fittings of many parish churches appeared when literacy began to spread to the common people, but before they could be expected to own their own Bibles.'

In 1604 there was a directive from The Church of England under which bishops would have to ensure '.....that the Ten Commandments be set upon the East end of every church and chapel where people may best see and read the same, and other chosen sentences written upon the walls of the said churches and chapels, in places convenient. All these to be done at the charge of the parish....'!

The article ends with:

'In the later 19th century, however, commandment boards fell out of favour and began to disappear. Many boards were consequently thrown out in the course of restorations or when they became infected with worm or dry rot.'

This last part was particularly interesting as I had discussed the idea of our pictures falling out of fashion with Peter Boughton (Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester) . He suggested to me that the pictures may have been returned to Barthomley for this very reason.

In view of this and dry rot we may never know what happened here. Was there ever a Commandment Board to go with them? If so was it thrown out? We are left with more questions and still have no answers.

Valerie Allan

## St Bertoline's –Why we're here.

That the community we serve may know that St Bertoline's is here to profess the faith, to celebrate it in worship and prayer, and to share it in fellowship, so that we may say, "We would see Jesus".

November 9<sup>th</sup> 2018

The Rectory

Barthomley

My dear Friends,

Happy New Year (no 1) ! Advent Sunday, the start of another year in the life of the Christian Church. We move on from the long season of contemplation to a new beginning as we follow through the preparation for Christ's coming, from the time of the ancient patriarchs of Israel, the teaching of the prophets – both warning and encouraging, the ministry of John the Baptist to the fulfilment of God's promise in the sending of his Son, the Messiah with the unique role of the Virgin Mary.

So to the first great celebration of the Christian Year – Christmas!!

Our prayer for Christmas Day sums up what it is all about: "Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit."

Not surprising that for this great occasion in human history we should be going out of our way to make everything ready to celebrate with joy among family, friends and strangers. Parties, presents and special meals, sure, but we also need to get ready by thinking of the importance of what we celebrate, the birth of God's Son to restore the human race to our intended place in God's kingdom.

Through January we follow the early episodes of Jesus's life: much of it completely usual for a Jewish child of that time, but other unique happenings as well – the visit of the eastern wise men, the perilous flight into Egypt to save the child's life. Then we are with Jesus and his parents in the Temple at Jerusalem where the old man Simeon, who has spent years waiting for the coming of the Messiah, acknowledges that this child is the fulfilment of God's promise that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah.

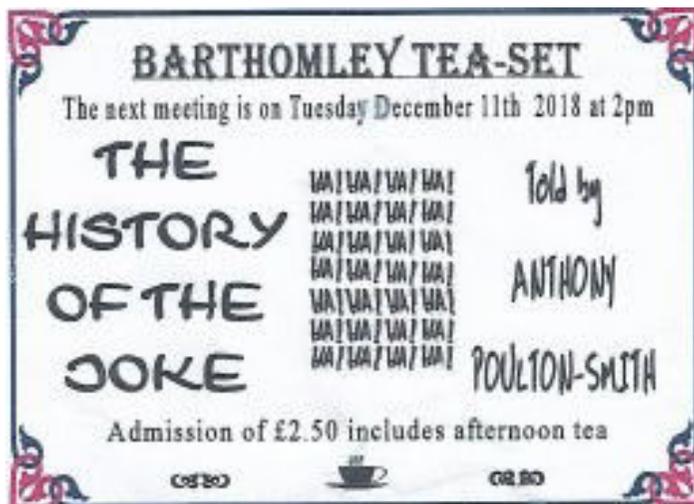
May we all rejoice once again at the coming of God's Son, Jesus.

**You will see from the calendar that the Eucharist on Christmas Eve begins at 8pm. Two particular reasons for this : the first, that we have no organist for a midnight service. Secondly, many of us are not keen to be out so late on a dark and cold winter's night.**

To all, a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year (No 2)

Darrel and Angela Speedy





8th January 2019  
 Motion of The Ocean  
 Hazel Griffiths

Vote of thanks: Sue Baldock  
 Flowers: Val Isom.  
 Hostesses: Val Isom, Ginny Roberts, Sue Baldock.  
 Competition: Vintage Postcard.



Of course it's that AGM time of year again when we reflect on the past year and look forward to the next one. Unfortunately they can have a bad reputation for being a little dull... However, I'm very pleased to report that we had a full house of happy members who enjoyed reflecting on a year of learning, sharing, fun and friendship.

We welcomed a new visitor and during the business of the AGM celebrated the reinstatement of our President Bev Newton and welcomed another new Committee member. Many hands make light work and new people bring fresh ideas, which is always exciting! Feeling quite emotionally drained after the business we turned to our refreshments to keep us going! We had a delicious spread of traditional cheese sourced from Godfrey C. Williams & Sons in Sandbach who sell a wide and varied range of a quality product from around the world. Recently Williams and Sons hosted a tasting session for Cheshire W.I. which I believe was enjoyed by all and obviously encouraged members to think local!

As you are aware the W.I. is famous for its Resolutions which always attracts national attention. One of our members has been exploring a way of preparing a resolution and the correct way of bringing it forward. She has been looking at food labelling and the confusing way that nutritional values are presented. We looked at packaging from a range of products and recognised that it can sometimes be quite difficult to find or even read the information given. Resolutions take a great deal of research and hard work to prepare - we will have to see if she takes it further.

However we will not be examining packaging when we sit down to enjoy our Christmas Lunch at The Academy at South Cheshire College in December, we know it will be delicious!

### Sponsors Needed

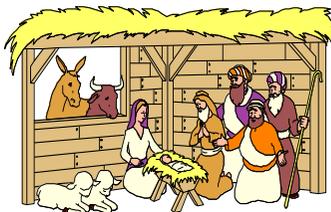
Thank you to all who have made generous donations over the past year to sponsor the PN. I would like to invite those whom have a significant date to celebrate in 2019 to offer to support further issues.  
 Costs are £50 for 300 magazines to be printed delivered and posted each month. Any contributions towards the costs of postage and stationary would be gratefully received. Ed.

Christmas Eve

24th December at 4pm

CHRISTINGLE combined with the  
 NATIVITY  
 Specially for the children.

Candle-lit service with collection going to  
 the  
 Church of England Children's Society.



Seasons Greetings and many  
 thanks to all the delivery boys and  
 girls.

