

## **CONTACT EXTRA — No. 1: January 2022**

This is the first expanded edition of CONTACT – to be referred to as CONTACT EXTRA and replacing the magazine IN TOUCH. It is a place where news of interest, not exclusively about church matters, may be shared, and we look to YOU to send items (to Heather on 440797 or [beneficecontact@gmail.com](mailto:beneficecontact@gmail.com)). It is planned to produce this for the first weekend of each month.

---

### **Death of Joan Hayes**

Following a long illness, Joan Hayes of Manaton sadly died on Christmas Day. Joan had been a much-appreciated Churchwarden and Deanery Representative for Manaton for many years and subsequently PCC Secretary – as well as a contributor to many aspects of the life of the community. *Our sincere condolences go to Geoff.*

**REMINDER – morning services at Manaton all now start at 11 am instead of the varied times that have been the case in the past.**

**Wendy Ellis** (*right*) duly took her final service at St Andrew's on Sunday 19th December. Sue Sheppard gave a warm tribute, and Wendy received a bouquet, and was joined by members of her family stretching over *four* generations!

*Our deepest thanks to Wendy for her massive contribution to St Andrew's and the community, and our best wishes for her future service.*



### **Moreton Sheep Trail**

**Gill Rhodes** writes: 'Our thanks to all who took part – including the local shopkeepers and pubs. We had more entries than usual which was great. The winning entry was drawn out of the box at the St Andrew's Crib Service by Father Christmas.'

*Our congratulations to the winner, and to Gill for devising this Trail again. We look forward to another next Christmas ...*

**The following item might seem a bit late for Christmas, but since the Twelve Days of Christmas last till the 6th January, and because there are references to people which may be out-of-date if kept till next year (!), it seems best to share this now.**

*This Christmas we are able to bring you an exclusive 'Leaked Email from the Archangel Gabriel', courtesy of our own Bishop of Plymouth, The Right Rev'd Nick McKinnel.*

### ***My fellow Angels,***

We have a problem in our favourite county of Devon this year. Miserable weather, economic worries, weary people and Covid restrictions are obscuring those glad tidings of great joy that we once announced to those shepherds on the hillside outside Bethlehem.

Forget the 'Boris saves Christmas' stuff. It is up to us to act. Here is your mission:

Remind our friends there that 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. Let them discover the joy of simplicity, the pleasure of sharing and the satisfaction of seeing the happiness of others ... without spending more than they can afford.

Their national media is full of gloomy experts and dire predictions. We need to draw attention to the endeavours of carers and health workers, delivery drivers and shop workers, teachers and emergency workers, the real heroes of Christmas.

We sang about peace on earth all those years ago. They need to hear it again. Some are fearful of going out, others frustrated at having to stay in, all are grumbling about their leaders. Help them to hear once more the call at Christmas to care for the lonely, comfort the sad, and support those for whom life is difficult, so that they think more about others than themselves.

Much as you might want to help their football team (and well done in securing a new manager for them so quickly), that is beyond the mandate given to us by the Almighty. But you may help them find joy in sport, pleasure in music, refreshment on the moor or by the sea, and the chance to enjoy all the gifts given to humanity.

Encourage families to laugh together, neighbours to care for each other, churches to worship with joyful praise, strangers to wish one another a Merry Christmas, and all to wonder at the child in the manger who is Christ the Lord.

In fact, let wonder be our gift to them this Christmas, that they may wonder afresh at the humility of the Son of God who enters their humanity so that they can join with us in singing 'Glory to God in the highest'.

With Christmas greetings to you all – *Gabriel (Archangel)*

### ***Diary of a Christian Parrot***

Copies of this book, mentioned in the final edition of IN TOUCH and being promoted for a church project on Exmoor, are still available at the reduced (50%) price of £6. Copies will be available at certain church services for inspection. A quarter of the stock ordered has been sold.

**east-dartmoor u3a** – A Happy New Year to everyone!

First meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday 5th January 10 am, at The Union Inn in Moretonhampstead when Darren Hewings will speak on *The Stover Canal*. Coffee £1 – new members and visitors welcome.

Membership application forms from our membership secretary, John Ralston (252386) – or join in person at the monthly meeting. *New members and visitors always very welcome*. Further details from John Ralston or visit <https://u3asites.org.uk/east-dartmoor>

### **The plague of plastic!**

Nowadays, many Christmas cards and much festive wrapping paper include plastic in the form of glitter and laminates which cannot be recycled. Do therefore check what you put in your recycling, and if it includes plastic but can be re-used next year, fold it and store it for another year.

Moreton *Action on Plastics* (MAPs) is planning (weather permitting) a *Plastics Pick* on Sunday 30th January, removing disintegrating tree guards along a hedgerow. If you are interested (two hours max), please contact Liz Prince ([elizzyprince@aol.com](mailto:elizzyprince@aol.com) / 440690).

### **The Lustleigh Society — Devon Orchards: *How Devon took to Cider* – 26th January**

Speaker **Michael Gee**, an orchard expert from Landkey, near Barnstaple, has written a book recording the history of fruit-growing in Devon, with the aim of preserving important knowledge of rural life and traditions for future generations. He has also written a book, *Mazzards*, on the revival of the North Devon Cherry, and is founder of a charity which protects and promotes Devon orchards and traditional apple varieties.

Lustleigh Village Hall 7.15 for a glass of wine before the presentation at 7.30 pm. Non-members welcome. *For more information, contact Lynn on 07852 998153.*

### **Moreton History Society**

On Wednesday 19th January at 7.15 pm, there will be a talk on *The buildings of Exeter; urban and suburban architecture in an ancient English city* by Richard Parker who is well known for his closely researched reconstruction drawings of historic townscapes and buildings. It is a Zoom talk that will enable you to see the fantastic details that Richard is able to recreate for some of Exeter's lost architectural gems.

Non-members welcome: £4. Annual membership remains at £15 per person. Please pay this by BACS to Moreton History Society, Account No 00699671, Sort Code 30-96-23.

*Bill Hardiman, MHS Chairman ([billmgs2001@hotmail.com](mailto:billmgs2001@hotmail.com) / 441083 or 07508 024882).*

**Mobile library (note new times)** Lustleigh Cleave Inn 10.10-10.40 Manaton Parish Hall 12.15-13.00  
Dates: Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 21, May 19, Jun 16, Jul 14, Aug 11, Sep 8, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1.

### **Cancellation of Dunsford Amateur Dramatic Society production**

Very sadly, Dunsford Amateur Dramatic Society has had to cancel its panto **Ali Baba and his Four and a Half Thieves** (advertised in December's IN TOUCH), owing to increased numbers of people contracting Covid and having to isolate. They hope to be able to stage it at a future date.

## Desmond Tutu – the staunch and steadfast healer of a nation

**Sunday Worship (8.10 am this Sunday on Radio 4) will focus on Desmond Tutu**

*‘When we thought we would never see a liberated South Africa, he kept us hopeful. He kept the light. The church was a voice and he was the voice behind it. The hope he had – it was amazing: that we would be free, free, and he would make people repeat this after him: “We will be free, we will be free” – and there we are; we are free.’*

It is encouraging when someone so clearly identified as part of the Church as Archbishop Tutu was receives such prominent and positive worldwide coverage by the media at the time of his death. Like the fall of the Iron Curtain, the end of apartheid in South Africa is in danger of becoming a dim and distant memory but Archbishop Tutu’s death has the power to remind us of it and reignite such memories.

Tutu was both acclaimed and yet also criticised by both sides in his home country for the many and varied stands he took – against the cruelty of the strange doctrine of apartheid, on the one hand, and in more recent years, his fierce criticism of the ANC’s failures in government – in particular, its slide towards corruption, on the other. President Jacob Zuma’s administration chose to ignore, or sideline the archbishop, even attempting to prevent him from attending Nelson Mandela’s funeral.

But Tutu – ever-prominent as the face and voice of the liberation movement – combined fearlessness with a famously mischievous sense of humour, which often helped him to defuse tensions when confronted with angry crowds in black townships, often after funerals.

‘He had the ability to channel people’s anger, and then the ability to say, “We are better than those people who are up against us, we don’t have to be like them.”

‘And he would use humour at times like that. At the very darkest moments, you would hear this diminutive bishop stand up and say to the regime, “Why don’t you join the winning side before it’s too late?” And people would laugh. But they would also know he was telling the truth because he was so utterly convinced that justice would prevail.’

After Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994, Tutu was appointed by him to a Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up to investigate crimes committed by both whites and blacks during the apartheid era.

He was also credited with coining the term ‘Rainbow Nation’ to describe the ethnic mix of post-apartheid South Africa, but in his latter years he expressed regret that the nation had not coalesced in the way in which he had dreamt.

One of seven defining moments in Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s life, according to Tutu himself, famously took place in a street in a township in the mid-1930s – some time before apartheid became the official policy of the National Government in 1948. A passing white man in a peculiar dress, whom he later knew to be the English priest, Father Trevor Huddleston, doffed his hat and respectfully greeted his mother, Mrs Aletta Tutu. What made the event remarkable was its context. Generally speaking, white men who ventured into segregated black townships were either police or government officials. For them to acknowledge the dignity of members of the local population was quite unheard of.

It marked the beginning of an enduring and special relationship between Tutu and the English priest, who spent twelve years in Johannesburg before being expelled by the government. For his resolute stance against apartheid, Tutu was given the name, Makhali-pile, ‘the dauntless one’ – also the title of a book by Trevor Huddleston. Known as ‘God’s angry man’, Father Trevor Huddleston campaigned tirelessly against apartheid, paying visits to world leaders (who gave him the opportunity) to press the case for sanctions. He wrote twelve books, not all on South Africa, but perhaps the best known is *Naught for Your Comfort*. Translated into one of South Africa’s indigenous languages with less than total care, the title, translated literally back into English, read ‘Being naughty, you enjoy yourself’ – a touch of quite unintentional humour that Tutu would probably have immensely enjoyed and appreciated.

*Lionel Holmes*