

Buy a bus stop for Christmas

Churches across the UK are being urged to buy the advertising space on their local bus stops in the run-up to Christmas.

The church-sponsored bus shelter would carry a special poster of the nativity with the message 'Christmas Starts with Christ' would be

displayed over the last three weeks of December 2009. The painting by the renowned artist, Andrew Gadd, depicts the traditional nativity scene in a modern-day equivalent of a stable – a bus shelter.

It is hoped that a total of 2000 bus shelter ad spaces will be bought.

By visiting www.ChurchAds.net and entering the church postcode,

churches can buy bus shelters for just £105.

To accompany the bus shelter posters special radio commercials have been produced.

They light-heartedly set the nativity in the context of a soccer match, a horse race, a police car chase and the Christmas pop-chart countdown. These can also be sponsored.

Church leaders have welcomed the campaign, urging churches to participate.

Bishop Nick Baines says: "This year's atheist bus adverts backfired (for the atheists) by putting God on the public agenda and provoking people to ask if God is there. Well, Christians now have a chance to say a firm and confident 'yes' – and he looks like Jesus! – and Christmas is *his* festival".

i The website www.ChurchAds.net has a wide range of materials to download – all free of charge – including the poster artwork (right) and radio commercials.



.. meanwhile in Greenwich



For the third year running Greenwich town centre is to be brought alive by 24 unique offerings in the lead up to Christmas.

At the instigation of St Alfege Church, shops, homes, schools and pubs are bending their imagination and artistry to produce a living Community Advent Calendar. A newly decorated window will be revealed, or 'opened', on each day of Advent (1 to 24 December) in different parts of Greenwich and remain on view until 2 January.

This year's theme is 'Cast Away the Dreams of Darkness', drawing on the Advent hymn, 'Hark the Herald Voice is calling'.

Left - One of last year's Advent windows.

Giving for Life

Last month the Bridge alerted you to the new stewardship material, 'Giving for Life, which was approved by General Synod in July.

Guides...

Copies of the Guide for Clergy, PCC material and pew leaflets have now been sent to all incumbents. We are conscious that some may not have arrived yet because of the postal disruption and have some spares if you want them urgently. Please contact Jackie Pontin, the Diocesan

Stewardship Resources Officer: jackie.pontin@southwark.anglican.org or on 020 7939 9461.

Briefings...

Communications and Resources have now organised clergy briefings on the material on Tuesday 3 November at 10.30am in Trinity House and Thursday 19 November at 2.30pm in St Matthew's Church, Croydon. You can go to either.

They have also organised workshops for PCC members and hope that many will want to come, especially Treasurers, Gift Aid Secretaries and Stewardship Committee

Chairs. They will include an introduction to the material and ideas about how to use it in your parish.

The meetings are on

- ☐ Wed 25 November at St Matthew's House, George Street, Croydon
- ☐ Wed 2 December at St Laurence Church, Bromley Road, Catford
- ☐ Thur 10 December at St Mary's Church, High Street, Putney

All three meetings will start at 8pm and end by 9.30pm.

Again anyone is welcome to attend whichever venue suits them best and clergy are welcome if they can't make the clergy briefings on 3 & 19 November.

Please let Jenny Wilson know which one you can come to: jenny.wilson@southwark.anglican.org or 020 7939 9438.

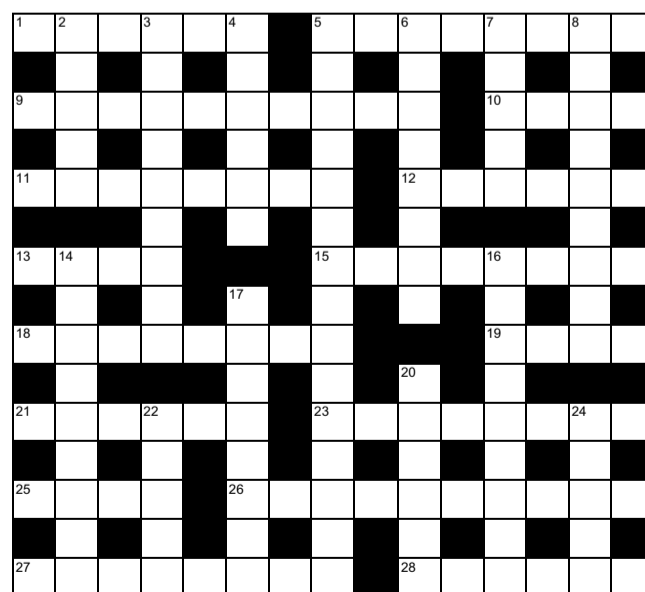


Blue plaque for anti-slavery campaigner

Mayday Hospital Chaplain, Rev. Hilary Fife has joined Britain's second city in honouring a relative who died 150 years ago. She knew nothing of the Rev. John Angell James, until she researched her family tree two years ago. Her ancestor Angell James was minister at Birmingham's Carrs Lane Congregational Church for a record 54 years. He was also a prominent anti-slavery campaigner. The Blue Plaque awarded by Birmingham Civic Society is to be mounted outside Moseley School, which now occupies the listed Victorian Gothic building.

Above: Hilary with Moseley School Head Tim Boyes

The Crossword set by Anthony Leeves



Across

1. Barbarous architecture. (6)
5. Crumb? 10! discovered in vessel! (8)
9. It lightens congregation when plain parable is told. (10)
10. Peas laid out in semi circle. (4)
11. More important points made by abbey's number two. (8)
12. Must be punctual - no going
13. Graduate and soldier bring presents after Christmas. (4)
15. Figures it's a month since went to Nova Scotia. (8)
18. Faith - dull inside - turned to ashes. (8)
19. Raze maybe - no, he wrote about the rebuilding. (4)
21. Sri Lanka man is ordained. (6)
23. Elated and on high, but was not honest about paper. (8)
25. Doctor identifies blood group for Lot's son. (4)
26. Frenchman going to Australia in the morning gets bill read out in Africa. (10)
27. Everyone at church (lan included) for wedding. (8)
28. Tennis player assists at the altar. (6)

Down

2. Anointer? (5)
3. Buzzing noise around poor Marion - it's only the organ. (9)
4. Money we returned to a nut. (6)
5. Cruciverbalists cannot resist it. (9,6)
6. Cricketer's cold shoulders. (8)
7. Respond about book son rejected. (5)
8. Mourns air pollution in night sky. (4,5)
14. Girl - a dish - a hoax! (5,4)
16. Franciscan - not a colourful character. (4,5)
17. Farmer to supply island with goods. (8)
20. Old ones are quondam sweethearts. (6)
22. Doctor of the law - given time he may go on a bit! (5)
24. Escape somehow due to the French returning first. (5)

The solution - upside down of course

Across: 1. Gothic; 5. Ciborium; 9. Clerestory; 10. Apse; 11. Prioresse; 12. On time; 13. Magi; 15. Octagons; 18. Cremated; 19. Ezra; 21. Cleric; 23. Uplifted; 25. Moab; 26. Mozambique; 27. Alliance; 28. Server.
Down: 2. Oiler; 3. Harmondium; 4. Cashew; 5. Crossword puzzle; 6. Boycotts; 7. React; 8. Ursa Minor; 14. April fool; 16. Grey Friar; 17. Stockman; 20. Flames; 22. Rabbi; 24. Elude.

Caption this...



The Rev. Brian McHenry celebrates his ordination as a Priest in September - and we thought we'd invite you to suggest captions. No prizes, just for fun. Send yours to The Bridge - address, e-mail etc. on page 2. Brian will choose the one we'll print.