

## That was the year that was...

**W**ho would have believed that by December last year we'd be on our way out of Europe and Donald Trump would be on his way into the White House?

The old 'givens' are falling away and a new world is being forged around us. It looks like a world in which the old nationalisms are re-gaining ground at the expense of the blocs and alliances many of us grew up with.

Some 27 years ago the old Soviet Bloc fell apart and we all thought NATO and the EU triumphant as former members of the old Warsaw Pact flocked to join either or both. Now it seems these two sets of alliances are on shaky ground too. Trump seems less keen on NATO and Europe is witnessing the rise of anti-establishment nationalism on an unprecedented scale.

Jesus was born into a *bloc*. This *bloc* had been around for a long time and was known as the Roman Empire. It was a bit more like the old Soviet Bloc than either NATO or the EU, and heaven help you if you tried to leave. You couldn't just trigger '*Articulum L*'.

But lots of Jesus' fellow countrymen were anti-establishment nationalists who wanted rid of the Romans and some forty-ish years after his death there was a revolt with tragic consequences for those nationalists. Many of them had thought Jesus might be their leader and maybe his lack of enthusiasm for this kind of thing was one of the reasons so many of his countrymen called for his death.

It took the Jewish State until 1948 to rise again. Jesus managed it in three days

and on that event the Catholic Church was founded, an organisation which transcends borders, ethnicity and all the rest that all mankind might be united in one human family, whatever the politicians say.

We don't know what 2017 will bring. We know what came with 2016. We may face it with trepidation. But let there be faith too for as Empires – or blocs – have come and gone our God remains for ever and says of the old year rather as Millicent Martin would sing in TV back in the sixties of the previous week: "It's over, let it go."  
*Fr Stephen*

## Parish church wins eco award

**T**he Parish church of St Peter & St Paul in Edenbridge has won a Bronze Eco Award in recognition of its congregation's efforts to care for God's earth.

The award was made by A Rocha UK for the church's activities in: Worship and Teaching; Management of Buildings and Land; Community and Global Engagement; and in Lifestyle.

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity, part of a global group of communities that are working for the protection and restoration of the natural world.

It is in response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. A Rocha carries this out through:

- practical involvement in nature conservation projects and ecological research;
- campaigning on biodiversity issues;
- engaging with churches, schools, communities and individuals.

More information from [www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk)

### Parish nursing: confidentiality is key

**N**ot many people really know what I do as a Parish Nurse, *writes Julie Barry RGN.*

One reason for this is that I like to keep a low profile and get on quietly doing all the different things that come my way. Confidentiality is key to being trusted to hear people's stories and so I can't share any details of all the wonderful things that are going on, unless I make sure first that the client in the story is unrecognisable.

Another reason that people are unaware of the work is that it is difficult to generalise. Each day is different and is usually a mix of planned visits or meetings plus crisis intervention. The following from my leaflet gives an idea of the areas I might cover.

"The Parish Nurse aims to promote well-being. She offers support to individuals, families and communities. This can be at a time of crisis or simply during the journey of life's challenges. The Parish Nurse can act as a health educator, referral agent, trainer of volunteers, developer of support groups, health advocate and integrator of faith and health. She will not give clinical care. She will work in a complementary and communicative way with all health care professionals and clergy."

The following is part of a report that I recently submitted to the ECC. This also gives an insight into the work:

**Overview:** The project continues to thrive. I continue to liaise with the local statutory agencies and good working relationships are evident. Parish Nursing Ministries UK have recently sent out updated statistics tables, so these will be easier to complete. Administrative requirements have increased along with client base and so I plan to build in more time for administration. At the moment two volunteers

help with computer based tasks.

**Client interaction:** Home visits continue. Trips to hospital and GP appointments, to support clients and explain treatments continue. I have taken part in multi-agency meetings and decision making for client's best interest. I continue to support Creative Minds and Reachout – mental health self-help groups that meet alternate weeks. These groups are thriving and membership has increased. I am supporting the new 'Refresh' meetings fortnightly, at BRIDGES. A two-year period of advocating for a client to get a specialist treatment is hopefully coming to fruition, with an inpatient treatment in London booked for December. I have been working with the Community Mental Health Team to help clients access care. Referrals continue from GPs, Health Visitors, Social Services, PCSO, Primary School, Community Warden and others.

**Training** (since September): Dealing with Difficult Behaviour; Basic Life Support and AED use; Safeguarding Level 3.

**Church Worker Accreditation:** Mid-term Ministerial Recognition Interview went well. One more piece of written work to submit, then final interview in July 2017. If I pass I will be an Accredited Church Worker (Baptist Union).

**Volunteers:** I have just started the process of hopefully recruiting two new volunteers; One from Grace Church, one from Hillsong. These ladies will hopefully be able to home visit the elderly. Current team of four active volunteers and three older volunteers (one who acts as a prayer angel in difficult situations), remain. 'Phone angel', to monitor my whereabouts on home visits is working well. (When I forgot to check in on time, her response was swift).

As always, I would like to thank all the churches for your continued support. I do feel very well supported in the church community.

### ECT celebrates 20 years of youth work

This January, Eden Christian Trust (ECT) is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

In partnership with the churches of ECC and the support of West Kent Extra ECT's objectives are to provide support in all areas of youth work, to encourage an understanding of the Christian faith and to provide activities to strengthen communities.

From slow beginnings ECT has become a victim of its own success, developing into a thriving organisation in the community with a full-time salaried Youth Worker providing key activities.

ECTreme Youth Club meets on Fridays and the doors are regular shut at 50 members for safety reasons, with an additional 15 young people hoping to get in. Many of you will have seen the ECT float in the bonfire parade with some well-known faces plus youngsters!

Youth Worker Anthony Shipwright regularly attends the primary schools in

the area (Crockham Hill, Hever, Edenbridge Primary and Four Elms) for films, crafts and discussion.

In rotation, Anthony attends the churches in the Trust: Eden Church, St John's Marsh Green, and Holy Trinity, Crockham Hill and of course SSPP.

Anthony runs a House Group on a Sunday with about eight young people providing discussion on a whole range of subjects, relating them to Christian faith.

One-to-One mentoring sessions are run coupled with activities and crafts.

The current activity for 2017 is Rebuild Mexico. Four members of our Parish are going – Anthony Shipwright, Lynda Nunn and Stuart and Linda Parrish – plus six young people.

The MAD (Make a Difference) Mission Week took place in Aldershot including eight representatives from Edenbridge.

We are indebted to a large number of volunteers to whom our thanks and of course to Anthony for all his hard work.

To find out more please feel free to discuss it with Anthony, or myself.

*Graham Brown, chairman of ECT*

### 'Sleep my Jesu' raises more than £600!

The choir's target of raising £100 to sing 'Sleep my Jesu' during Nine Lessons and Carols on 18 December wasn't just reached but overwhelmingly beaten with a total of £620 given in donations, which was sent to Macmillan Cancer Support. Carole's mince pies — all 36-dozen — made £200 for breast cancer charities. More info at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dancingday](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dancingday) #ChoirsAgainstCancer

### Blow up for Rebuild Mexico

First concert of 2017 for the Edenbridge Music & Arts Trust will feature world renowned trumpet player Crispian Steele Perkins and friends on Saturday 25 February. The event will be in aid of the Rebuild Mexico project. More details to be published in the New Year.

### Another way to support Rebuild Mexico

An auction of promises in support of Eden Christian Trust's fund will be in support of Rebuild Mexico on 28 January at Crockham Hill village hall. Funds raised will go to support Anthony Shipwright and the team to fly out to Mexico and build a house for a family living in poverty.

### Pilgrim group starts up

The New Year 'Pilgrim' Group for Young Christians (e.g. those in their 20s and 30s and maybe new to the faith) will be run by Lizzie Longhurst with David Flagg. Time and weekday to be confirmed but probably Monday early evening from 9 January for six weeks.

Contact Lizzie to find out more at [lizzie\\_noodles@hotmail.com](mailto:lizzie_noodles@hotmail.com), tel: 07554 808901.

### Help make our community safe

I want to talk about data. No, don't stop reading. Data is a means by which we can contribute to safety in our community. Let's start with the event that prompted this article.

My wife, Hilary, had just dropped off our granddaughter Sian at her house and was reversing her car. She heard a loud bang and on driving home found that the tailgate window was disintegrating.

When we examined it, we found that a mark of what appeared to be an air gun pellet. So we informed the police to get an incident number for the insurance and processed the claim. We thought that would be the end of it, just another insignificant data point in police statistics. After all they had nothing to go on, with no real evidence to follow up.

But when Hilary mentioned the incident to friends it appeared that the incident was not unique. Other incidents had occurred but had not been reported. We were concerned that someone was shooting at cars. If the shot had occurred a few minutes earlier it could have hurt our granddaughter. What if someone was injured?

So, let's get back to data. The police, like most organisations, have a large amount of data recorded. Data contains patterns that can be used to set priorities. But these patterns only emerge if there is sufficient data. We felt that to do nothing was not an option. If someone was hurt, then it was not enough to say that we had reported our incident and walked by on the other side.

I wrote to the Courier asking anyone who has had an incident like ours to report it to the police to increase the number of data points in the police database. It made the front page headline just before Christmas, which will be a great help. I also contacted the Kent Crime Commissioner to prompt a question of the data. This resulted in a police follow up which has revealed several other possible incidents.

If you have been the victim (or know someone who has been one) of what could appear to be an air gun pellet shot, please report it to the police. This increases the data points and may also make a pattern more obvious. The police asked us to publicise this incident so that if anyone sees something suspicious, then we can pass on details.

If we want to make our community safe, then it is up to us to be proactive in supporting the police and giving them the data they need to do their job.

*Jim Morgan*

### Diary dates

#### Sunday 1 January

New Year's Day Eucharist Service, 9:30am

#### Sunday 22 January

Epiphanytide Carol Service (with Lawrence's) at Parish Church, 6:30pm

#### Tuesday 28 January

ECT Auction of Promises for Rebuild Mexico

#### Friday 3 February

Quiet Day at West Malling Abbey

#### Saturday 25 February

EMAT concert, Parish Church, 7 for 7.30pm

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