

HOLY HAPPENINGS

Volume 27 Issue 2

February, 2019

Christmas Bells

Some years ago we introduced handbells to be rung during the Christmas Eve service especially during the Hymn "Angels we have heard on High" which we sang in place of the traditional Gloria and again at the end of the service when "Joy to the World" is sung. This year I noticed how we absentmindedly forgot to put any reference to the bells in the bulletin and decided not to confuse anyone and quietly just not have them. That is of course until right before the Christmas Eve service when Skyler Carlin one of our young and vivacious youngsters approached me and said, "Where are the bells? I replied, Well, Skyler I decided not to have them this year." To my answer came a very unexpected response, "You can't do that, we need the bells and I'll even pass them out." I guess sometimes we just have to listen to the voice of our youngsters because ringing those small hand bells made all the difference in the world. By the end of the service as I looked around I saw people ringing those bells with such vigor as if to say, "Joy to this world because our Lord has come and let us ring it out for all of the worlds to hear. I would later hear from various parishioners that our Christmas Eve service was beautiful, spiritually uplifting and yes, lots of fun.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Holy Eucharist
Sunday - 8 & 10 a.m.
Most Tuesdays - 11:30

OFFICE HOURS
Mon. thru Fri.
9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Parish Office 781-335-2030
Rector 781-974-7392

E- Mail:
office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:
www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Harold G. Birkenhead, Rector
The Rev. Brad Hultman, Asst. Priest
Casey Hannan, Organist & Choirmaster
Maryann Gurney, Director of Christian Ed
Peg Driscoll, Secretary
Tim Birkenhead, Sexton
Ron Russo, Warden
Steve Williams, Warden

Some time ago I read an article in the Anglican Digest which described the significance of bells and especially in the Church of Saint Michaels in Coventry, England. There are ten wonderful bells in the belfry and in addition to being noted for their purity and tone, the bells are remarkable for their quaint mottoes. The treble bell bears the motto; "Although I am both light and small, I will be heard above you all." The third bell says; "Such wonderful power is music given, it elevates the soul to heaven." Each bell has a motto inscribe upon it to describe attributes of the Anglican service and it is said when they are all rung together they ring out the clear sound of truth, the power of God's presence and the blessing of the Holy Spirit with hope, peace, joy, and love which were exactly those words spoken on this very special night of Christmas. I guess it is time to thank Skyler for reminding me just what we are ringing in this night and who we are singing and preaching about. It was fun, especially as our service was ending with the sound of an array of different sounding bells, we could all feel hope and peace and love because Joy came to the world this night and thanks to Skyler, we all got to ring it in. Joy and blessing to you all this Christmas season and in the coming New Year.

Blessings,
Fr. Father

Stewardship

"Stewardship is growing, developing, advancing, and building the gifts with which God has blessed us through our Season of Giving"

For those of you who have returned your Pledge Cards, we wish to thank you for your commitment to Holy Nativity.

This Process provides us the opportunity to reflect individually and as a parish community on our stewardship of God's gifts of money and possessions. When you return to the Lord a sacrificial measure of these gifts, your response reflects your faith and trust in the Lord and your willingness to make an investment in Christ's work here at Holy Nativity.

However, if you have not returned your Pledge Card, your response would be most appreciated to allow for us to complete the financial planning for the 2019 Budget.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke, 6:38)

God Bless You,

Your Stewardship Committee

Carol Ann Ruggiero & Paul MacPhee

Wardens' Report

As Wardens of this great Church, we feel blessed to be part of the family here and you make our jobs a bit easier during the past year. We keep on starting our updates with "Thank You" because without your participation and support, nothing would get done. So Thank YOU!!!

Seems like we just finished up the Holly Fair and the Advent season starts wow, and as always the church looks beautiful. The Bishop's visit was a great success as well as the confirmation. Bishop Harris was able to meet with parishioners at the following Coffee Hour and then with some members of the Vestry later that day for a productive and educational conversation. Two of the topics covered were about our youth here at the church and keeping them involved as they grow up before our eyes along with the future growth of our congregation and outreach into the community.

The teachers and students of the Sunday school class held their annual Christmas Play, thank you all and it was great to see so many children involved. Hats off to Maryann and her teachers.

We also want to thank all of you that have turned in the 2019 pledge cards, please don't forget to send yours in if you haven't yet. It is important that we have them for budget purposes.



Wardens' Report continued

The heritage Plantation trip was a great success. Thank you, Judy Leamy, for coordinating the trip. Hopefully it will happen again next year.

Recently we had the parking lot and driveway patched where some cracks appeared in order to keep it in good shape through the tough winter months ahead. This process did not disturb the daily parking arrangements and all went smoothly with no other disruptions.

Have a safe and Happy New Year!! We look forward to an equally successful and blessed 2019!

God's Peace and see you in Church,

Steve Williams and Ron Russo
Co-Wardens



On January 6, Epiphany Sunday, the children will learn about the visitation of the Wise Men and their gifts to Jesus. The focus will be the story of the Wise Men following the star to Jesus and how the men journeyed long and far to find the Christ child.

The following Sunday, January 13 we will watch a movie, "The Star". The movie will start at 9:45 and the children will not go into church that Sunday.

There will be no Sunday school Sunday January 20, MLK weekend.

Home Communion

If you or a loved one is unable to get to church to celebrate the Eucharist at any time during the year, please call the office at 781-335-2030 to schedule a Home Communion with Fr. Harry or Fr. Brad. The visit will be arranged at your convenience.

**Newsletter
Deadline**

The deadline for **FEBRUARY** Holy Happenings will be **Thursday, January 17**. Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent by email to the church office.

Hypnosis Seminar

Aligning with your Resolutions

**Date: Jan. 8, 2019
6:30-8:00
Common Room**

Why are some people able to keep their resolutions and others are not? A 1989 study from the University of Scranton reports only 19 percent of people who make New Year's Resolutions actually stick to them two years later.

Tonight, you'll discover some easy -to-learn strategies that will help keep you on track. You'll learn what's important to you and how to take appropriate action toward your desired outcomes.

Facilitated by Kathryn McGlynn, certified hypnotist.

For more information, see her website, www.hypnosis.ws , or call to reserve your spot: 781-340-2146

Tickets \$35.00 or early bird for \$30.00 (payment by 1/4/19)



**As a Parish,
We pray for:**

- Anders Eriksson
- Anne
- Bill
- Brooke & family
- Carly
- Casey K.
- Cora Leonard
- Corinne
- Devin
- Donna
- Ellen
- Ewen
- Ginny Blanchette
- Hazel Brunelle
- Jerry
- Jim Murphy
- John & Billie Greene & family
- John
- Marcia
- Mike
- Myrtle Perkins
- Nelson Harris
- Paige
- Patty Murphy
- Peggy Cinotto
- Phil Stephan
- Ray Thorne
- Rick,
- Rocky
- Sophia
- Terri
- Tommy Chadbourne.



Recipe Corner

From "Bountiful New Beginnings"

PORTUGUESE KALE SOUP

- 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 3 medium waxy potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 medium onion, chopped
- 4 to 6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 lb. kale, coarsely chopped
- Coarse salt and pepper
- 1 (15 oz.) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 lb. diced chorizo, casing removed
- 1 qt. chicken broth

Heat oil in deep pot over medium-high heat. Add potatoes and onions; cover and cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic, bay leaves and kale to pot. Cover and wilt greens for 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add beans, tomatoes, chorizo and broth to pot and bring soup up to full boil. Reduce heat to medium and cook 5 to 10 minutes longer until potatoes are tender. Serve with crusty bread and butter.

Submitted by Jean Hirtle

Adult Study: The Book of Joy

Adult Education on the "Book of Joy" which consists of conversations between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama on how to maintain a warm heart and inward peace amidst life's suffering and struggles.

In these times of political and social injustice, both the archbishop and Dalai Lama devote significant discussion how the spiritual life can assist people to engage in justice and not be overwhelmed by anger, frustration or despair.

The course will start Sunday, January 13, and meet weekly after the 10am service in the Common Room. If you plan to participate, please sign up on the sign up sheet in the Asher-Stoddard Hall. Copies of the book will be available on January 6, to give everyone a chance to start reading the book.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Fr. Brad



Social Action Conference:

THE WAGE GAP: How we can help the working poor



FREE CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019,
9 AM – 1 PM
ALL SOULS CHURCH,
BRAINTREE**

This conference will discuss the Inequality Gap as it applies to wages of workers who can't make it with one 40-hour job: what is the Gap, effects of the Gap, which classes of workers are affected (a lot of us!), and what individuals and local groups can do to reduce the Gap.

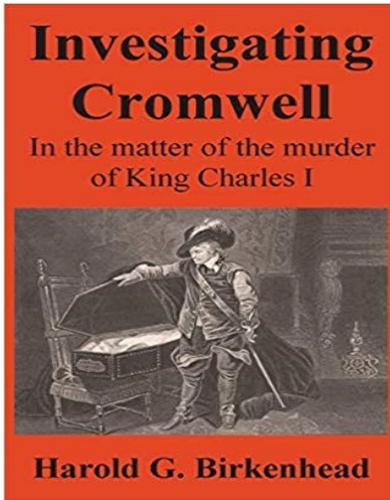
Continental breakfast and snacks provided.

Questions: Call 781-843-1388 or email office@allsoulsbraintree.org

**All Souls Church
196 Elm Street
Braintree, MA 02184**

**Corner of Church St. & Elm St.
Park on Charles St.**

Allsoulsbraintreechurch.org



Book Signing

As you may well know Fr. Harry has written a novel entitled "Investigating Cromwell".

"Investigating Cromwell" is a factually based and fast-paced novel set in 17th Century England. The story begins with the restoration of the monarchy when King Charles II has come to the throne. Those responsible for the murder of the King's father have been gathered, tried and convicted, however, Charles II is determined to prove to history his father's death was not by revolt nor a revolution, but an unjustified murder at the hands of one radical madman, Oliver Cromwell.

Called by his majesty to organize an investigation unearthing the plots and schemes of Oliver Cromwell is William Davenport, one of England's leading prosecutors and a bold, outspoken solicitor. Davenport sets out on a dangerous journey, scouring cities, villages, and townships, all the while uncovering backroom maneuverings, plots, manipulations, betrayals, imprisonments and yes, even murders.

Q Join Davenport and let him take you along on his journey.

"Investigating Cromwell" is a well-researched investigation which will appeal to historians and arm-chair investigators alike. Anyone who has been searching for concrete proof that Oliver Cromwell was, in contrast to what has previously been recorded, the one most responsible for the murderer of King Charles I, will find "Investigating Cromwell" most intriguing

"Investigating Cromwell" originally \$15.99 can be bought signed by the author for only \$ 10.00.

A book signing in the Asher-Stoddard Hall will follow a 6 pm Evening Prayer service to commemorate the death of King Charles I, on 30 January 1649. Light refreshments will be served and a possibility of a guest appearance by Chief Investigator William Davenport.

Food First Sundays

Food First Sunday is **January 6**. The Weymouth Food Pantry would appreciate donations of canned hearty soups or stews.

Tuesday Morning Eucharist and Luncheon

Mid-week eucharist and luncheon are back! Please join us on Tuesdays at 11:30. This quiet service has become a favorite with many people, even if they are only able to attend occasionally. There's always good conversation to go with luncheon

Vestry

Next Vestry meeting will be Wednesday, **January 16** at 7:30 in the Asher Stoddard Hall, following a service of compline at 7pm in the Sanctuary.



HOLY HAPPENINGS

Church of the Holy Nativity
8 Nevin Road
South Weymouth, MA 02190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED
December 31, 2018

Important Dates

January 6
Feast of the Epiphany

January 12
Weymouth Garden Club

January 16
Vestry

Mission Statement

The family of the Church of the Holy Nativity is called to be a caring community, committed to spiritual development; encouraging growth in each member's personal relationship with God, through Christ; by providing educational opportunities for youth and adults as well as Christian Formation for all, going forth to share God's message of love and forgiveness.

Important Dates

January 17
Holy Happenings articles due

January 21
Martin Luther King Day—office closed

January 27
Book Sale

