



## What is the Word?

Simply The Word is an idea to enable communication within the parish. It is intended to inform on things of interest happening within or outside the parish. It will be primarily an electronic communication but we will always print a few paper copies for those who do not have facilities.

**Pope Francis' Christmas reflection:** "Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Christmas!

Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation! Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant "day" which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and, above all, reconciliation. A day of joy: a "great joy" for the poor, the lowly and for all the people (cf. Lk 2:10)."

### Parish Council

A new parish council was elected on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 and immediately began the task of setting up sub-committees so that all areas of church activity could be more successfully linked together, following up on Father Quentin's initiative.

### What's on the web?

The Art of Dying Well:  
What do we mean when we talk about 'dying well'? This is one of life's greatest questions. This site explores some of the biggest questions and ideas, including what the Church says about death:  
<http://www.artofdyingwell.org/>

### Steward of the Gospel

A diocesan initiative to plan for the future with focus on evangelisation. By 2030 the likely number of priests will be halved. Mass attendance is declining. Jesus' message is reaching fewer people. The diocese and our parish therefore will change. We have identified our present strengths, resources and needs. We need to pray for our diocese and our future, consider, discuss and discern within our parish and neighbouring parishes. Please contact [william@yeung.org.uk](mailto:william@yeung.org.uk), whatsapp 07979128808. Please follow link for questions to be addressed.  
[Steward of the Gospel Questions](#)

### What does the Pope say?

The Vatican/Holy See: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>  
Follow Pope Francis on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Pontifex>

### Dementia Friends

Is someone you know affected by dementia? This Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. You can find out more about dementia and the small ways you can help.

The parish ran a 'Dementia Friends' Information Session on Tuesday 6th December for anyone interested in finding out more. Further sessions can be arranged in the New Year. Please contact the Parish Office if you would be interested in attending.

### SVP Christmas Time Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society have launched their Christmas Time Appeal, but they're not asking for money. Instead they're asking for parishioners to give a little of their time to help others by joining our parish SVP group. As you plan your Christmas celebrations, spare a thought for those who dread the festive season. For many it's a time of profound loneliness and solitude, while for others it means not being able to afford the family presents or delicious foods that the rest of us take for granted. But giving a little of your time to help those in need could help change that and it might be the best gift you've ever given. To find out more please contact the Parish Office.

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