

Big Ted's Christmas

Big Ted

Hello, and a Happy New Year to all my wonderful fans.

Most bears hibernate over winter. But, as you know, I'm not like most bears. As roving ambassador and star attraction of the Children's Corner in Plumtree Church, I have to delay my hibernation until after Christmas 'cos it's a very busy time at St Mary's, and I wouldn't want to miss out on any of the excitement.

First of all Plumtree School had their Nativity and a Carol Concert in the church with lots of lovely music and singing. And then my friends from The Wolds Day Nursery came to church (you might remember that I stayed with them in June for a whole week, which I wrote about in this magazine and on my web page). I got lots of hugs from them and watched their Nativity, it was really very good.

One Thursday evening, just as I was having a little snooze, Auntie Fiona came in to church, woke me up and changed me into my Christmas Santa suit. (It's not my favourite outfit as it's a bit prickly and looks as though it would lose a contest with a candle; I much prefer wearing my cosy new cardigan). Then a lot of people came into church carrying torches. They milled about a bit and then went away again. It was very strange. Meanwhile there was a funny smell of spices coming from the kitchen and a lot of to-ing and fro-ing with mince pies (yummy). Then all of a sudden the people came back and brought more people with them and I got lots of hugs, very exciting. Apparently, they'd been out carol singing around Plumtree and had come back for some mulled wine (I wasn't allowed to have any - far too sticky for my splendid fur). The children sang "Away in a Manger" under the Christmas tree, which Auntie Pauline had decorated that afternoon with lots of lights.



After that, on Saturday, the flower ladies took over the church. It's amazing what they can do with flowers, candles and foliage - some of it very prickly indeed. The church looked beautiful with the flowers and windows lit up by the special new lights that are much brighter and a lot smaller than the old ones. On the Sunday evening, there was a wonderful carol service. The church was full, the candles were lit and there was that funny warm spicy smell again and yet more mince pies.

On Christmas Eve we held a Christingle service. I didn't know you could get that many adults and children into St Mary's, but we all had a seat (although some of us were a bit squished). The service was led by Revd Trevor and Auntie Angela and was lovely. Lots of children joined in and everyone was very well behaved with their candles - adults included (snigger!) and we raised a lot of money for the Children's Society. There was another service on Christmas Eve, called Midnight Mass, but it was a bit late for me so I had a snooze instead.

Then, at last, it was Christmas Day and we had a lovely Sung Eucharist to celebrate. We even got to sing the last verse of "O Come all ye Faithful", you know the one that goes "Yea Lord we greet thee..." which you're not allowed to sing until Christmas morning.

Now after all the excitement and mince pies I can finally hibernate for a bit. So, please excuse me if you hear snoring coming from the Children's Corner. See you in the spring!

Love, **Big Ted xx**

PS I will try to wake up for Uncle Paul's "Candles and Moonlight" Fellowship Event on Saturday 11th February at 6:30. It sounds like fun, and I'm sure it will involve some hugs and a little something to eat.