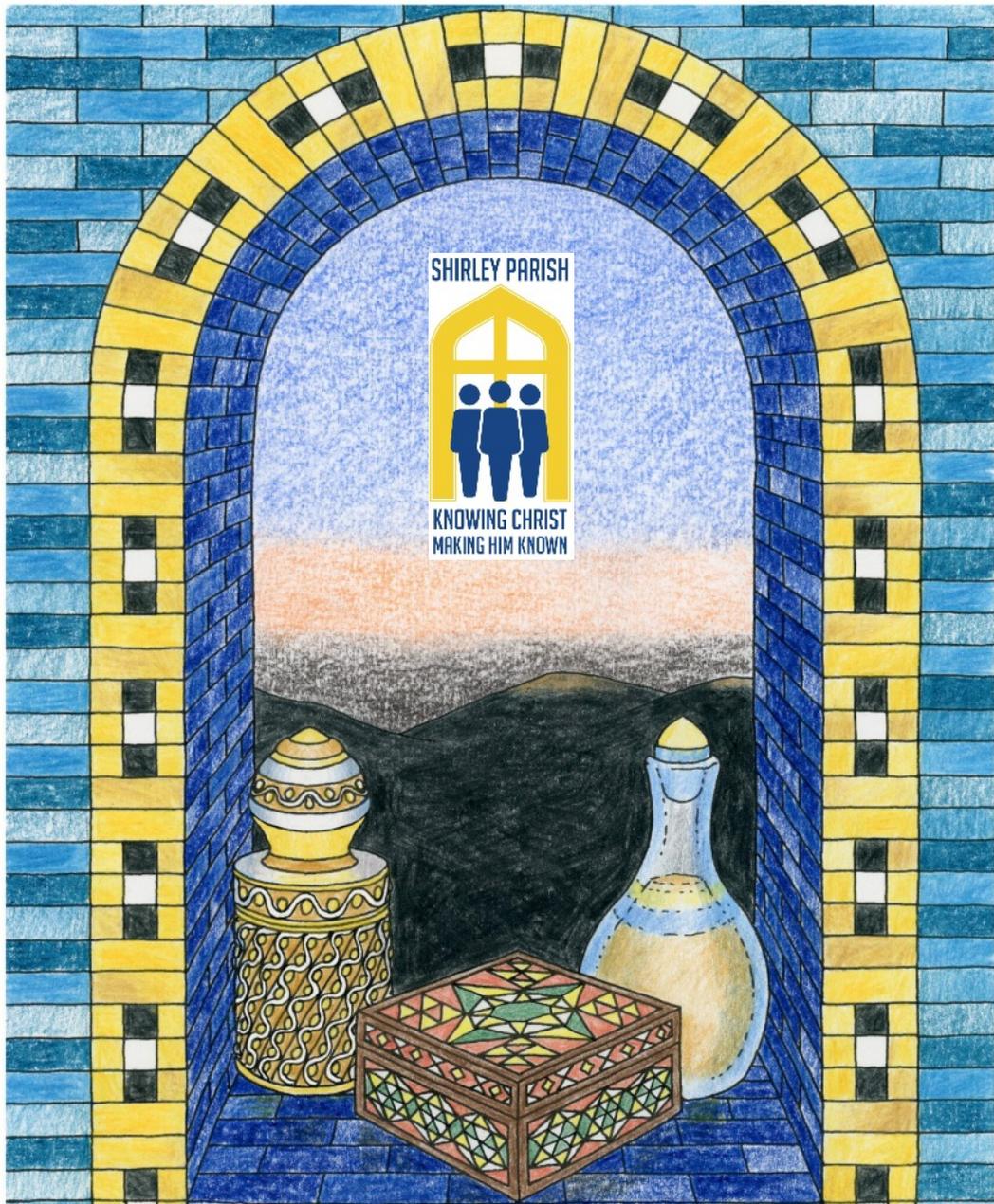




December
2021

Shirley Parish Magazine



SHIRLEY PARISH GUIDE (see also page 31)

CLERGY

Vicar - Reverend Paul Day

18 Widney Lane, Solihull B91 3LS
email: pgday@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 537 9672

Reverend Wendy Carter

134 Shakespeare Drive, Shirley B90 2AR
email: revwendy@sky.com

Tel: 0121 744 6315

Reverend Nick Ball

12 Apsley Croft, Kings Norton, B38 0AF
email: nicholaseball@hotmail.com

Tel: 0121 243 1336

Reverend Theresa Jones

email: theresaj1@btinternet.com

Tel: 01564 822687

SHIRLEY PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN

Parish Office, Church House, Church Road, Shirley, B90 2AX

Telephone: 0121 745 8896

email: admin@shirleyparish.co.uk

Parish Website: <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk>

Social Media: [twitter.com/@ParishB90](https://twitter.com/ParishB90)

facebook.com/@AdventureinFaithB90

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90>

Services on the telephone: 0121 798 0196

OUR PARISH PRAYERS



Give to us your people, living God,
A renewed faith and a bold vision
that we may proclaim
the Good News of your Son
with faith that your kingdom will come,
with hope for our community
and with love for Him
who died and rose again
to save us, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord
Amen

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

SHIRLEY PARISH



KNOWING CHRIST
MAKING HIM KNOWN

CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Thursday 9th & Saturday 11th December

10am - 5pm

Friday 10th December

10am - 8pm

Sunday 12th December ~

2pm - 3.15pm

followed by Community Carol Singing outside ASDA

plus a Craft Fair in Church House

on Saturday 11th December ~

10am - 2pm

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Project

St James Church, Church Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 2AX

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the November winners

£50 Jane Cook £25 Lorna Bevins

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the next six months (December to May) are now due - £13 for six months - £26 for twelve months.

Subscriptions may be handed into the Parish Office or posted to Lynda McPherson, 90 Dickens Heath Road, Shirley, B90 1RL.

The Friends of St James Walking Club
Our next walk will be on Sunday 12th
December - contact 'the Friends' for more
details or phone Christine on 01564 823217




Fellowship Singers of
Shirley

present a

Christmas Concert

with Solihull Youth Brass
Band

Saturday 4th December 2021 at 7.30pm
St. James the Great, Church Road, Shirley,
Solihull, B90 2AX

Tickets:
£7 Adults, £3 Children.



WE'VE GOT ROOM FOR SOME MORE TREES!

If your group or organisation would like to have a tree at our Christmas Tree Festival (see page 3) please contact Linda Pitt or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone who has bought a jigsaw puzzle in our sale - £266.10 has been raised so far for a bench in the new Church House garden.

There are still some for sale - please contact Linda Pitt or the Parish Office as soon as possible.



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For details about the school contact the PA to the Principal - Mrs G Sutton

Tudor Grange Primary Academy St James, Halifax Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 2BT
Phone: 0121 744 7897 office@stjames.tgacademy.org.uk www.stjames.tgacademy.org.uk

Mothers' UNION

Our branch met in Church House on Wednesday 6th October for a craft afternoon led by Jan Dalton. Jan demonstrated to us various crafts that she makes and how she adjusts them to fit the changing seasons. All took part in making a poinsettia, bows and a rose bud. The completed rose was a firm favourite with all. We expressed our appreciation to Jan in the usual way and culminated the meeting with refreshments.

Church House was full for our November meeting of members and visitors to listen to castaway Paul Day's choice of music luxury that he would take with him to a desert island presented by Ray Speakman.

Paul chose a wide variety of music ranging from Paul McCartney's 'Let it Be' to 'Sylvia' by Focus, to 'Holly the Hedgehog' a firm favourite of Paul's children when they were younger on car journeys. Kate Rusby 'Blooming Heather' a classic folk song was next on Paul's list followed by Elbow 'One Day Like This'. His seventh choice was 'So What' by Miles Davis an American Jazz Trumpeter. Paul concluded with 'I Heard the Voice of Jesus say' by Horatius Bonar.



Ray thanked Paul for his selection of music and noted that there was a lot of foot tapping during the afternoon which indicated a real appreciation of his choice of music.

Our Advent Carol Service is on **Wednesday 1st December at 2pm** in Church House.

Overseas boxes are now due to be emptied. They can be left at the Parish Office or handed to the Treasurer or a committee member please.



We extend a warm welcome to visitors to any of our meetings.

Susan Knight

OUR ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

On **Friday 3rd December at 7pm** in St James Church we will holding our annual memorial service at which we will be remembering all those who have died. Invites have been sent to those families for whom we have taken funeral services in the past year, but the service is open to all.

During the service we will sing some familiar Christmas carols, hear some words of hope and each have the chance to take part in an act to remember our loved ones. We will also read out the names of those who have died. The atmosphere of the service will be one of hope and encouragement as we continue our life journey together.

If you would like a name read out please contact the Parish Office. The service will be followed by some refreshments served in Church House.



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SITTING ON A BENCH ...

I glimpsed Christ the other day sitting on a bench, he had a can of beer in his hand, and he was waiting for his girlfriend to wake from her stupor.

I sat beside him, and we had a brief chat.



When I rose to leave, he stretched out his hand in order to shake mine and he said, "Thank you for speaking to me". I was surprised and replied "Why wouldn't I" and he said "because people just pass by and never look my way".

If we search, we are able to find Christ in each one of us.

Margaret Foreshew

ADAVU AND FOOD BANK NEWS

ADAVU: I hope that you enjoy seeing the Christmas tree which ADAVU have contributed to the Christmas Tree Festival at St James Church. The donations collected are



being split between Adavu and the Akamba Children's Education Fund so I thought that you might like to know something more about the financial situation of Adavu's clients.

Some of Adavu's clients have become Asylum Seekers and receive Asylum Support because they are destitute. This amounts to £37 per week to cover everything - all food, toiletries, travel, clothes and all other essentials. Those who were UK born or who have been given 'Leave to Remain' can claim Universal Credit. There are occasionally a few in full time employment but that is usually towards the end of their support period with Adavu.

Some clients (and these are the very worrying ones) have 'no recourse to public funds' and live hand to mouth on the generosity of friends, family or some other voluntary sector organisation — this makes them particularly vulnerable.

Some are in Emergency Accommodation i.e. hostels and do not receive meals. Very occasionally, if a client is on 'Section 4 Asylum Support', a basic meal may be included but this is rare.

I hope you understand a little more why I feel the need to give some (even slight) support to these traumatised folks, whether it be toiletries, toys for the children or the occasional bus fare. In late October a five year old boy was absolutely thrilled to receive a child's rucksack filled with a colouring book, felt tips, two easy reading books, two small cars and (best of all!) a bag of chocolate buttons.

Thanks to your wonderful response to the Christmas Gift Tree they will each have a Christmas parcel which will contain toiletries (always greatly appreciated), some basic new underwear, and maybe some biscuits or chocolate. I would love to pack up more items, but weight and space is an issue as they walk home or catch the bus from the party. I will put out some spare clothing for the children which the mothers love to rummage through, and packs of nappies and wet wipes and they can choose to add those if they can manage them.

ADAVU AND FOOD BANK NEWS continued

We shall supply individual cakes as their dessert and make sure that there are enough left over to fill ice cream cartons to be taken home as treats. So do think about us at the party on Thursday 16th December – curiously it is a very happy occasion.



FOOD BANK: the needs continue as ever. Please don't worry about giving 'fun foods' - they come in a plenty! It's the very basic items of tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, dried milk and Long Life orange juice which are always needed.

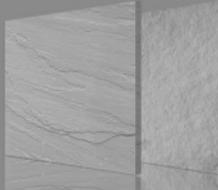
Hoping you have a relaxed Christmas and remain healthy in 2022,

Elizabeth Paice



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Saturday 8am - 5pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm

At the heart of Christmas



'At the heart of Christmas' is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021.

In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us.

This year, of course, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and communities. But whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Inspired by readings from the Gospels of Luke and John read at so many Christmas services, At the heart of Christmas is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.

At the heart of Christmas will consist of twelve Stories and Meditations from Justin Welby, Stephen Cottrell and guests where they will share personal stories exploring themes close to the heart of Christmas.

Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily (Monday to Saturday) until Epiphany (6th January), At the Heart of Christmas: 12 Days of stories and meditations for Christmas will help you make space for that exploration. On each of the twelve days, a different contributor will share something that lies close to the heart of Christmas for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and questions to ponder.

You can listen to the reflections on the Daily Hope phone line (0800 804 8044)
or sign up for daily emails or order a booklet at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/advent-and-christmas-2021-resources-heart-christmas>

BEGINNERS' COMPUTER COURSE

The first computer club course has taken place, led by Bob Ireland, a retired IT teacher and U3A course leader, and Kate Crocker.

Using a computer can make life easier in many ways and, as part of the project to make church services and activities available online, we received grants from the Allchurches Trust and Solihull CIL fund to develop a beginner's course.

In five weekly sessions, we covered the basics of using a computer, with time for some fun and friendship as well.

We had around eight students at most sessions, which gave plenty of scope for us to offer individual help. Some were absolute beginners, others just wanted to learn more.

Feedback was very positive and most of those who came along gained skills and, even more importantly, confidence to explore and learn for themselves. The course was shaped by the people who attended, and we were greatly impressed by their enthusiasm.

We intend to run the course again in the new year. It is free and open to anyone in Shirley. To sign up or to learn more, contact Kate 07562 664163 or kate_crocker@hotmail.com (if you can use email).



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JANUARY 2022 PARISH MAGAZINE

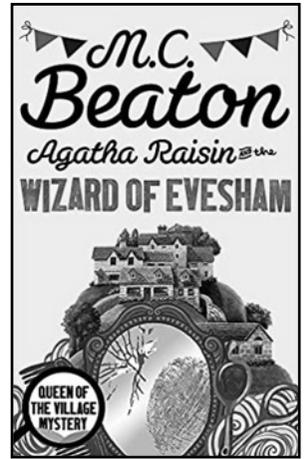
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION & ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY

Sunday 12th December

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB

A Marmite Book

The responses to our latest read have been very like the way a mixed group of people might respond to a plate of Marmite sandwiches. Some love what they see, some hate everything about it. Very few are in between. Responses vary - 'irritating' and 'unbelievable' alongside 'hugely entertaining' and 'an engrossing black comedy'. The book that caused these conflicting verdicts, is *Agatha Raisin and the Wizard of Evesham* by M.C. Beaton. Agatha Raisin is a reluctant amateur sleuth (heroine of several earlier novels) and the 'wizard' is a much admired hairdresser called Mr John of Evesham. He is murdered part way through the novel and Agatha tracks down the culprit.



Book Club readers often ask if we can read something unchallenging in terms of themes, characters and setting but which has, more than anything, a very strong and unexpected plot. In fact, it is often the plot of a novel that makes our readers love or hate it. They can like the people, the places and the broad issues tackled in the book but find the storyline less than gripping. Rather than being asked uncomfortable questions about life, some readers feel that diversion and entertainment are the most important features of a novel. The more unbelievable in terms of real life, the better.

The result is – Marmite. Some of our Book Club loved *Agatha Raisin*, others did not like it at all.

This read set several hares running. At our first meeting for a good eighteen months, we had an open discussion about what we might read next. What we would *like* to read next. The Marmite factor crept into that conversation, of course. M.C. Beaton lovers wanted more of the same – books like Elly Griffiths' *Now You See Them* (a Detective Edgar Stephens novel) or Ann Cleeves' *The Long Call* (her new post-*Vera/Shetland* series) or Stephen King's *Billy Summers* – a master of jaw-dropping plots. Those who prefer *places* to plot liked the look of Elisabeth Gifford's *The Lost Lights of St Kilda* and *Secrets of the Sea House* (both very like the Sarah Maine novels we read earlier in the year).

If it's *people* that draw you in primarily then it's Anne Tyler – especially *Celestial Navigation* – R.C Sherriff's *The Fortnight in September* – and anything by Joanne Harris. Add to this *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin (about an unlikely friendship in a terminal ward), Catherine Fox's *Acts and Omissions* (life in a fictitious diocese).

SHIRLEY PARISH BOOK CLUB *continued*

The Booker nominated *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro, like *Night Watch* by Terry Pratchett, describe worlds parallel to our own and have been much admired by members. Worth mentioning too, as part of our collective 'must-read' list, is *The Magician* by Colm Toibin – about the twentieth century writer Thomas Mann, which one of our readers described as 'hovering between biography and fiction'.

Quite a few books that ask questions – alongside quite a few 'comfort reads' – and there's nothing wrong with either type – and all of the books listed here were recommended with some enthusiasm by individuals in the Book Club.

Our next magazine article, to launch the New Year, will be a list of all the 2021 books we have read and how we have scored them.



The next meeting of the Book Club will be on **Monday December 13th at 2pm in Church House**. Why not come along?

Ray Speakman

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CHILDREN & FAMILIES

As many of you know, we put a lot of energy into the things we do with children and families. Things like the Journey to the Stable and Easter Journey, Jimmy Tots, Messy Church, Open the Book in Widney and Kingswood Schools, and, of course, baptisms.

I am very grateful to the many people who make all this possible – especially to Sarah who oversees much of it.

There are a couple of exciting new developments though.

St James School are keen to re-establish the links between school and church. We have managed to “borrow” Rachel Rollason, the Children and Families Missioner (CFM) from Tanworth Church, for a day a week for a few months, and she is now spending some time on Thursdays in the school with Sarah doing a Bible Arts Club with the children. This helps them understand Bible stories and what they have to say to us today.

You may also know that Shirley Parish is one of a number of parishes grouped together in what is known as Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery. The Diocese is appointing a lead children and families missioner who will spend half their time working across the deanery and the other half developing work in a host Parish. We have been asked to be the host parish.

The CFM will be here for half the week. Their role is not to do everything themselves as much as to develop work and enable us to achieve more. I am keen for them to help us make more of our links with baptism families as well as strengthen what we do in schools across the Parish.

We look forward to someone being appointed early in the New Year and to them beginning to work with us. Please continue to pray for all that we do in this area.

Reverend Paul Day

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



Wednesday 15th December
10.30am at St John's Church

All are welcome

Daily Hope, a free phone line which offers prayers and support for callers, receives nearly 20,000 calls every month. The service, which was launched during the Covid-19 lockdown, has spent more than 7.15 million minutes on more than 550,000 calls.



The phone line originally launched in April 2020, only to continue in response to ongoing demand once restrictions were eased.

Daily Hope set up by the Church of England nationally, has also been supported by Connections, a Missional Programme to older people based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Over the year and a half of service, Daily Hope has continued to encourage people across the country and beyond including Australia, Japan, and the United States.

Since the phone line launched, users have been able to listen to a range of audio, including the Church of England's national weekly service, hymns and daily prayer.

Many have messaged Lambeth Palace to express their thanks for the introduction of the phone line, particularly for elderly people.

ADVENT THOUGHTS

Waiting is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: *'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back'* (Mark 13:34-35).

Advent gives us a choice: *how will we wait for Jesus' coming?* Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return or simply look to him coming to us today. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. There is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master!



community

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

12th December

@ 3.30pm

Parkgate



Bring a lantern!

Shirley
Churches
Together

From **Monday 29th November to Friday 3rd December** local schoolchildren will be visiting St James Church to hear the Christmas story at

‘JOURNEY TO THE STABLE’.

Please pray for all involved and note that access to the Church will be restricted during this time.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Date	Time	Service	Venue
1st	2pm	MU Advent Service	Church House
2nd	10.30am	Holy Communion	Church House
3rd	7pm	Memorial Service	St James Church
5th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship	St John's Church
9th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
12th	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	St James Church
	3.30pm	Community Carol Singing	Parkgate
16th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
18th	10am	Messy Church	Church House
19th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Morning Worship	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
	6pm	Carol Service	St James Church
23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
24th	4pm	Crib Service	YouTube
	7pm	Holy Communion	Christ the King Church
	11.30pm	Holy Communion	St James Church
25th	8am	Holy Communion	St James Church
	9am	Holy Communion	St John's Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St James Church
26th	9am	Parish Service/Patronal	St John's Church

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, Widney Junior School, Clifton Crescent, Solihull B91 3LQ

ST JOHN THE DIVINE CHURCH, Tilehouse Lane, Tidbury Green, Shirley B90 1PW

Recordings/live streams - <https://www.youtube.com/ShirleyParishB90>

Copies of the sermons can be found on our website -

<https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/download-a-sermon>

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

I don't know about you, but I find that from the end of November to the beginning of December everyone is gearing up for Christmas, from the charity appeals to church services and the usual hurry of people as they go about their Christmas shopping.

But one thing that seems to stand out more is when you hold a door open for someone laden down by shopping bags, you get the response "Bless You " or "You're an Angel".

Then someone sneezes and "Bless you" is said again even if they are now trying to work out if that was just a random sneeze or something more.

Then people say to me Christmas is going to a hard one for you this year "Bless you we will be thinking of you ".

Lots more of these blessings seem to be handed out more than at any other time of the year, maybe it's because people are thinking more about Jesus and the love that came down to earth on that very first Christmas day, or is it because it's the season to think of others perhaps less well off than themselves. 'Bless you' seem to be a very good seasonal words, God be with you, even written in a Christmas card 'God's blessings be with you this Christmas' and so on.

Well, I think the biggest Christmas blessing comes in the still of the night when God brought his son to birth.

Yet the shepherds came and blessed him by bringing a Lamb, the Magi came with gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh, again to bless him.

A blessing is to bring favour upon the person who you are blessing by asking for God's protection, healing, forgiveness, even happiness for that person.

We have this love inside of us that seems to bubble over when Christmas is just a few weeks away, even when we are really struggling ourselves, we know of someone else where it's the saddest, coldest time of year for them and we do what we can to make sure they receive a blessing to.

So, when next time you say "bless you" also give a thank you after all it comes from God in love, in the form of the baby whose birthday we are celebrating in just a few weeks' time.

So, God bless you all and thank you.



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MORE FABRIC BAG MAKERS PLEASE

Recently, one of our volunteer team making fabric bags for the Food Bank, to avoid using plastic bags, made a bag for me as she knew I had admired that fabric in the past. I was very moved by her kindness and I love using the bag.

Some of you have asked if the bags are well-received by clients of the Food Bank. Well, I am not short of "stuff" and I was both humbled and delighted, so how much more will these people with next to nothing be so pleased to receive a bespoke bag made just for them.



We are now in desperate need of more volunteers.

If you have a sewing machine and a pair of hands and a willingness to "have a go", please contact Chris Speakman on 07970 601378 for a fabric kit and instructions.

Please help if you can. Thank you.

What's the impact of your diet on the environment?



I found this on the BBC news. It's an interesting, interactive activity within an eye-opening article. Worth a read if you have a computer and haven't seen it.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714>

And you might also like to try this -

<https://www.bbcearth.com/news/7-day-no-food-waste-challenge>

Chris Speakman

**We don't sing carols no more
... you 'ave to listen to 'em
off me iPod!**



AMAZED!

Some people like surprises. The pleasant ones, anyway!



When we look at the Christmas story, it is full of surprises. Mary didn't expect to be chosen by God to give birth to His Son. Joseph was surprised and shocked that his fiancée was pregnant. The couple thought they would start married life together in Nazareth, but political circumstances forced them to go to Bethlehem and then into Egypt.

The Bethlehem shepherds were surprised and frightened by the heavenly choir and an angel with a marvellous message. Later, they rejoiced at seeing the Saviour – a new born baby in a manger.

The Wise Men were surprised to see a unique star, and so they followed it all the way to Jerusalem. They thought a royal birth would be in a city and in Herod's Palace. They were surprised again, to be redirected to a remote village called Bethlehem. Herod too was surprised that a new king had come, and felt his position and authority were being threatened.

What is most surprising is that God had planned the coming of Jesus thousands of years before it happened. Prophets had told of His coming and their hearers were waiting for Him to appear. But still they were surprised when the Messiah came, for He did not come as a conquering hero but as a suffering Servant.

Jesus came to save people from their sins. He came to restore a broken relationship and bring His people to a glorious Home. The biggest surprise? It was also done for you and me!



THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Across

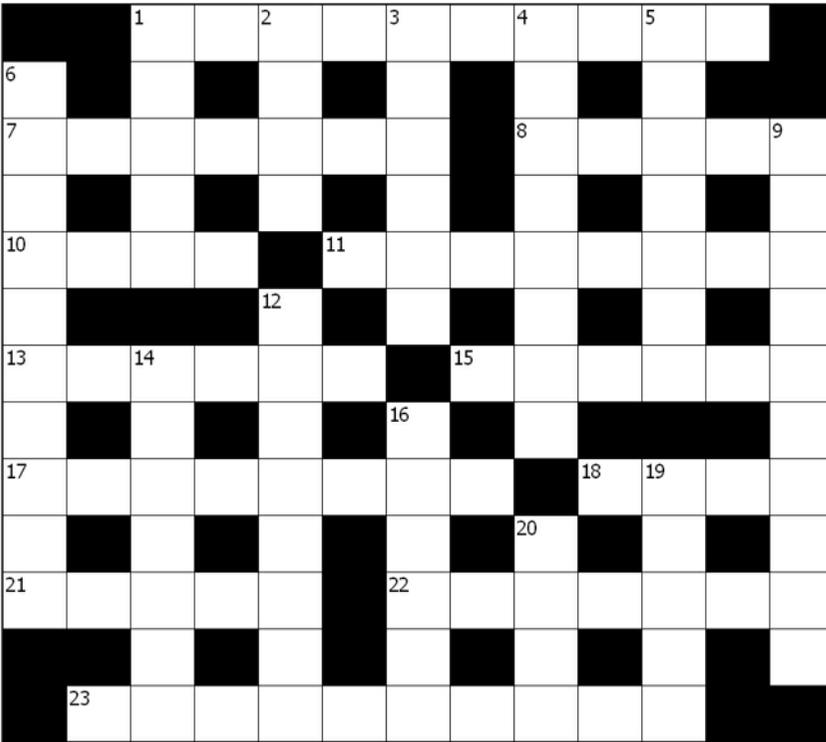
- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith ____ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 ' ____ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ____ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living _____, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ____ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

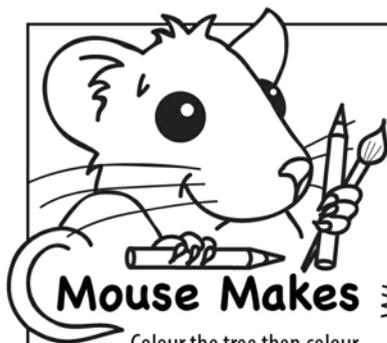


THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



			8	2				
						3		7
	4				3	8	5	
		6	3	5		7		2
5				1				3
1		3		7	9	5		
	2	9	5				6	
6		5						
				9	2			

Answers are on page 27



Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?



A STAR
shows the way
to Jesus

Read
Matthew 2:1-12



ANGELS
bring messages from God

Read about
Gabriel's message in
Luke 1:26-38

Read the
shepherd's story in
Luke 1:26-38

**LIGHTS
AND CANDLES**
remind us that Jesus
lights our way to God

Read *Luke 2:29-32*



PRESENTS
remind us of God's
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**



"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

Presents at Christmas
under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking
waiting for me,
But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible
and you will find out!
It's about **JESUS**
- the best present of all,
JESUS our **Saviour**,
God's gift to us all!

DECEMBER WORDSEARCH

Christmas is nearly here!

Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Answers are on page 27



ASHES
 BEAUTY
 BESTOW
 BROKEN
 COMFORT
 CROWN
 DARKNESS
 FATHER
 FAVOUR
 FREEDOM
 GOD
 HEART
 JESUS
 LONGING
 MESSIAH
 MOURN
 PRISONERS
 SEEN
 SON
 THOUSAND
 WHOEVER

O	R	S	H	O	U	U	G	U	I	S	T
U	E	T	R	O	G	N	N	W	O	R	C
J	I	H	J	T	N	S	E	N	A	B	N
O	E	N	G	H	I	S	W	E	M	E	A
D	K	S	R	O	G	L	H	K	E	A	I
O	A	T	U	U	N	E	O	O	S	U	R
C	P	R	I	S	O	N	E	R	S	T	E
E	R	O	K	A	L	M	V	B	I	Y	H
H	N	F	E	N	S	E	E	N	A	R	T
S	G	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	H	A	A
R	U	O	V	A	F	S	E	H	S	A	F
E	R	C	D	S	B	E	S	T	O	W	M

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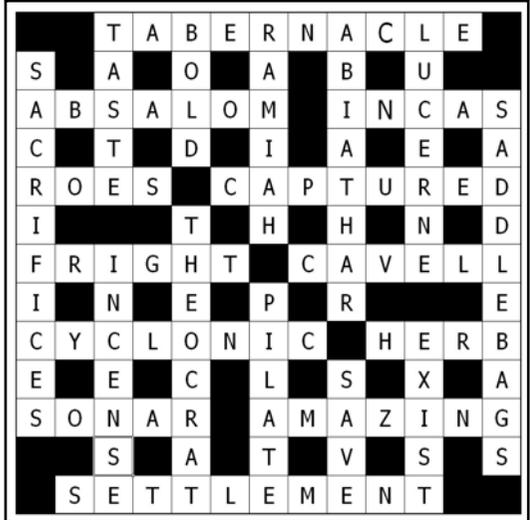
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3	5	1	8	2	7	6	9	4
9	6	8	1	4	5	3	2	7
2	4	7	9	6	3	8	5	1
4	9	6	3	5	8	7	1	2
5	7	2	4	1	6	9	8	3
1	8	3	2	7	9	5	4	6
7	2	9	5	3	1	4	6	8
6	1	5	7	8	4	2	3	9
8	3	4	6	9	2	1	7	5



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I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR

I see the countless Christmas trees
Around the world below,
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars,
Reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular,
Please wipe away that tear.
For I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs,
That people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare,
With the Christmas choir up here.

For I have no words to tell you,
The joy their voices bring.
For it is beyond description,
To hear an angel sing.

I can't tell you of the splendour,
Or the peace here in this place.
Can you just imagine Christmas,
With our Savior, face to face?

I'll ask Him to light your spirit,
As I tell Him of your love;
So then pray for one another,
As you lift your eyes above.

Please let your heart be joyful,
And let your spirit sing.
For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven,
And I'm walking with the King!

I know how much you miss me;
I see the pain inside your heart.
But I'm not so far away,
We really aren't apart.

So be happy for me, dear ones,
You know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

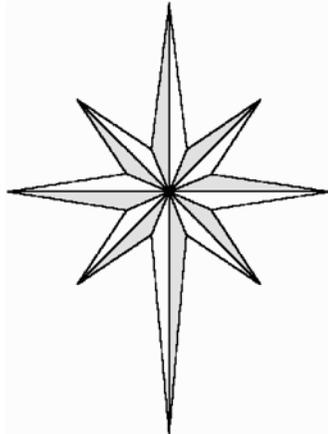
I send you each a special gift
From my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory
Of my undying love.

After all "love" is the gift,
More precious than pure gold.
It was always most important
In the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other
As my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings
Or the love He has for you.

So have a Merry Christmas and
Wipe away that tear.
Remember I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year!

by Wanda Bencke





October Baptisms

- 17th Saskia Arabella Rose Wade-Martin
- 24th Harriet Susan Catherine Hogan
- 24th Alfred Leigh Clifford Hogan
- 24th Hayley Louise Evans
- 24th Lara Esther Sidwell
- 31st Freya Michelle Taylor-Thorne

October Funerals

- 21st Trevor David Gough 79
- 28th Daniel Leonard Preece 91



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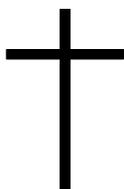
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READERS

Kate Day

email: kate_day@me.com

Tel: 0121 537 9672

Gill Gough

email: g.gough@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0121 603 2636

Sarah Penfold

email: sarahpenfold@blueyonder.co.uk

Tel: 0121 681 1525

Denise Smith

email: deesmith1181@hotmail.com

Tel: 01564 822606

CHURCH WARDENS

Parish Wardens

Margaret Foreshew Tel: 0121 603 9833

email: mhforeshew@gmail.com

Gill Hanton Tel: 0121 733 2347

email: gill.hanton@btinternet.com

Deputy Wardens - St James the Great Church

Kate Crocker

Linda Pitt

Tel: 0121 258 2956

Tel: 0121 744 6777

Deputy Warden - Christ the King Church

Denise Smith

Tel: 01564 822606

Deputy Warden - St John the Divine Church

Linda Alford

Tel: 0121 430 4785

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**FOR ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE PLEASE CONTACT
THE PARISH OFFICE OR THE EDITOR -**

Gill Hanton, 200 Tythe Barn Lane, Dickens Heath B90 1PF

Telephone : 0121 733 2347 or 07973 942145

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