



# THE WORD

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**THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
ST. JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE. PR8 4JP  
Charity Number 1128171**

**St. John, Chapter 1, verses 1 and 14:**

***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...  
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."***

**ISSUE No. 240**

**DECEMBER 2022**

## OUR CHURCH

**God Centred, Relationship Driven and Life Transforming**



Advent Sunday is 27th November and four weeks later it will be Christmas Day. Advent is the season for preparing for Christmas. This has nothing to do with writing cards or wrapping presents, although we shall all probably do some of that. It is everything to do with being ready to receive Christ into our world, into our lives. The Christ-mass, that we celebrate on 25<sup>th</sup> December is the coming of God into the world as a human being. As we prepare for that day we should take time out from our busy lives to reflect that we celebrate God's gift of our Saviour who came into this world to redeem us and who taught that the two most important rules of our lives are that we must love God and love our neighbours as ourselves.

### Interregnum News

We are getting nearer to seeking applications for the position of Vicar of St John's. The Archdeacon is in the process of drafting an advertisement which we hope will attract good candidates to apply. The closing date for applications to be received will be in mid January and interviews will take place on 30th January. Our two parish representatives who will be on the interviewing panel are Clive Morris and Tim Wright, and two of our five patrons, David Jones and Stuart Baker, will join them.

Our readers are asked to pray that we shall attract applicants who can lead us spiritually and pastorally and who will have drive and vision in spreading the Gospel in our parish and throughout Birkdale.

### Thank You...

... to everyone who has contributed material for **THE WORD** this year, and to all who have subscribed to it.

The editor and his entire production staff (Christine!) wish all of our readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

**FOR ALL ENQUIRIES TO OR ABOUT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT US BY EMAIL OR PHONE:  
Email: [info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk](mailto:info@stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk) Phone: 07732 691542**

## WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

Priest (retired) Reader:	Rev. Roy Doran Mrs. Christine Baker	Church of England Children's Society:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent
Churchwardens:	Stuart Baker Clive Morris	Mothers' Union:	Mrs. Linda Caton
Deputy Warden: Wardens' Assistant:	Tim Wright Miss Lucy Wright	Girl Guides St. John's Brownies: Brownie Guiders: St. John's Rainbows:	Mrs. Janette Law Mrs. Helen Jones and Mrs. Lesley Scott Mrs. Lesley Scott
Treasurer:	Mrs. Sylvia Kent	Church Flowers:	Mrs. Cath Whiteside
PCC Secretary:	Alex Vernon	Magazine Editor:	Stuart Baker
Parish Hall Secretary:	Mrs. Jean Morris	Magazine Printer:	Mrs. Christine Baker
Electoral Roll Officer:	Stuart Harris	Notice boards, I.T, Website developer, & biscuits:	Mrs. Sally Wright
Safeguarding:	Stuart Baker and Ms. Michelle Baldeh		



**Visit our new website**  
[stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk](http://stjohnsbirkdale.co.uk)

- Find out about what's going on at St John's
- Check out the calendar for upcoming events
- Listen to the weekly talks
- Find out about booking the hall
- Free on-line bible
- Show it to your friends and family

**God centred, Relationship driven,  
Life transforming**

*We believe in  
the power of  
prayer*

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**PRAYER  
TIME @ ST  
JOHN'S**

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Led by the leadership team

**1st and 3rd Thursdays  
7.30pm**

**SEE WEBSITE FOR ZOOM DETAILS**

## Thursday Evening Prayers

The next prayer meetings by **zoom** and telephone will be at 7.30pm on 1st and 15th December.

If there is anything which you would like to pray about with others contact Sally, Tim or Lucy Wright, or Christine, Clive or Roy.



ST JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE, SOUTHPORT, PR8 4JP

*St John's Church,  
Birkdale*

# Christmas Tree Festival & Fair

ALL DAY CAFE

Christmas Stalls

\*Cakes \*Tombola \*Raffle

Children's activities

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 6PM - 9PM

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 10AM - 3PM



Switch On  
Friday 6pm  
All Welcome

Free  
Entry

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER & SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

Well.... who would believe it is here already! The halls will be decorated on 27th November; the trees will be in place on 30th November and the Team have been busy preparing for the various stalls.

All we need now is for everyone to come along and enjoy the festivities.

Don't forget to sample our delicious home cooked food in the cafe, or maybe treat yourself to some tasty cakes or pies from the cake stall; try your luck on the tombola or see if you can win one of our fabulous raffle prizes.

If you are planning to have some quiet time over the holiday period, have a look amongst the vast assortment of books on the book stall, and then why not relax with a festive fragranced candle or wax melt?

If you are looking for any festive greenery, then our plant stall has you covered.

Our craft stall has a range of stocking fillers and gifts for the big day, and why not get into the Christmas spirit with a mince pie and mulled punch?

Finally, don't forget to bring the children to join in with our children's activities.

We are looking forward to seeing you all and to having a very enjoyable and successful event.

With best wishes. *Sylvia Kent*

## News from Andy and Rose Roberts

**REVIVE INTERNATIONAL**  
**RESTORING LIVES, RENEWING HOPE**

We returned to Brazil over the summer and it was fantastic to be back at Revive and see all the progress the team are making. When we opened the new home three years ago, we knew that we would be eating into our reserves to cover the extra expenses and we promised that one day we would transition this home into a fostering service so that children could be cared for in families rather in institutions. That day is approaching - thanks to Revive's work, fostering is now legal, a service has been launched and the first ever foster families are being trained up. However, the fostering service isn't ready yet to transition the second home and our reserves are beginning to run dry.

Could you **please prayerfully consider supporting the work of Revive** so that we can continue restoring lives and renewing hope amongst children in Olinda and fulfil, with God's help, our promise of providing family-based care for the city? We are so close and, now more than ever, need your help to continue what we do.

**STOP PRESS:** After 4 years of work Revive has now placed their first child into a foster family. Their social worker and their psychologist introduced Dona Claudia to Matthew, a 5-year-old little boy. He is now settling in to foster family life, as the Revive team works with his biological family to work towards a healthy re-integration. The team is also working hard to find more foster families, by visiting schools, churches and medical clinics speaking about this new service and distributing flyers. Our next foster parent training course will start in January. Thank you so much for all your prayers in the last few years.



SUNDAY @ 7

# Christmas

Sunday 4 December 7pm  
St John's Church, Birkdale

Can we encourage you to come to worship and have fellowship together and get into the festive spirit amongst over 20 Christmas trees and join us for an informal service with seasonal refreshments!

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet those from our partner churches and build up our relationships with the other Christians in Birkdale.

As we move towards the goal of appointing new clergy to our parishes it is our responsibility to make sure we are ready. Our new vicars will be working across the three churches and will be encouraged from the start of their ministry to see that we, as three congregations, have prepared the way for that new ministry.

So please make this, and other joint services, your priority as we all embark on this journey.



Farnborough Road Junior School

requests the pleasure of your company

# CHRISTMAS SINGALONG & MINCE PIES

Wednesday 7 December

1.30pm

At St John's Church

St John's Road

Birkdale

Are you free on **Wednesday 7 December**? Well, if the answer is yes, then **please come along to St John's at 1.30pm**. Farnborough Road Junior School children are coming to our church again following on from the successful afternoon tea we had in the summer. This time they want to help us get in the festive mood by sharing a Christmas Singalong. Julie Ann Carr will be accompanying us all on the piano and organ as we share some festive songs. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to build links with the local school and it's lovely that they want to join with us again and provide refreshments for us - Mince pies this time! I'm sure there will be a lovely buzz and happy atmosphere so please come along and support this event, I will certainly be there! I hope you will join me. *Sally Wright*

ST JOHN'S ROAD, BIRKDALE, SOUTHPORT, PR8 4JP

*St John's Church,  
Birkdale*



**Christmas**

**Services 2022**



Sunday 11 December 6pm

**CHRISTINGLE**



Christmas Eve 6pm

**CAROL SERVICE**



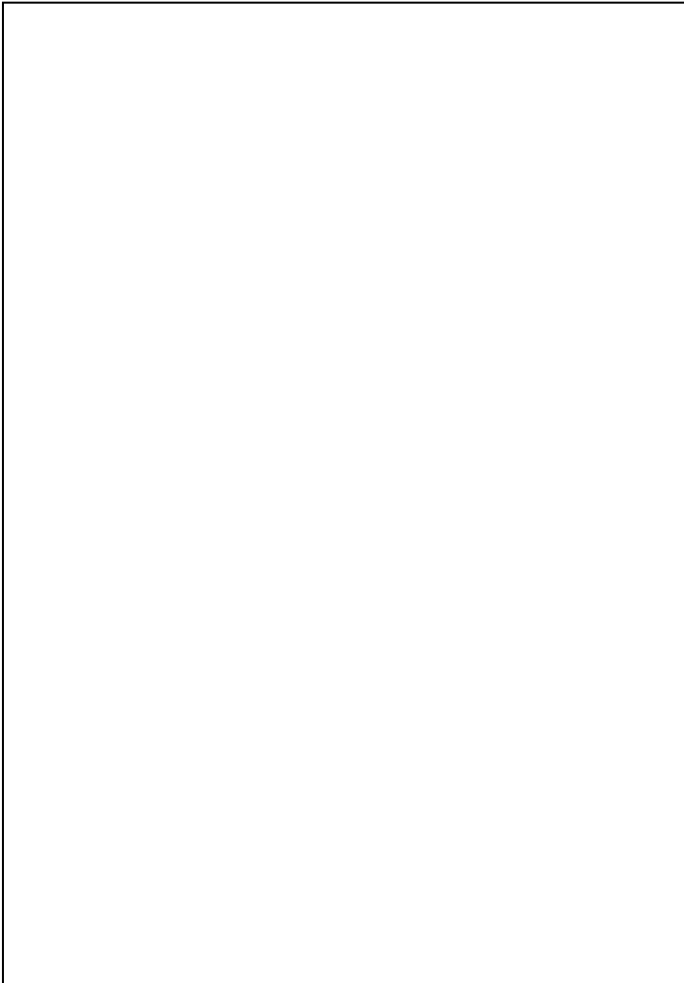
Christmas Day 10am

**CELEBRATION & COMMUNION**



*WE WOULD LOVE TO WELCOME YOU AT  
ST JOHN'S THIS CHRISTMAS*

# WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S



St John's Presents

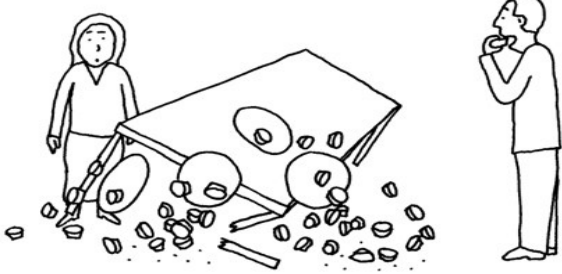
## FILM NIGHTS

Come and join us as we enjoy great films and refreshments @ 6.30pm  
film begins at 7pm

6 January – The Two Popes  
17 February – The Dig  
17 March – Official Secret  
28 April – The Duke  
26 May – The Terminal  
23 June – The One Hundred Foot Journey

## ADVENT

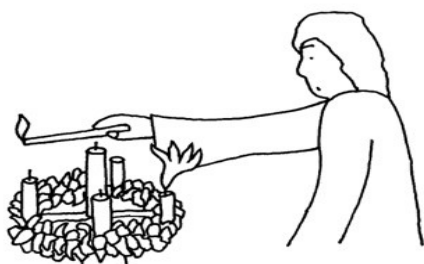
### HAZARDS



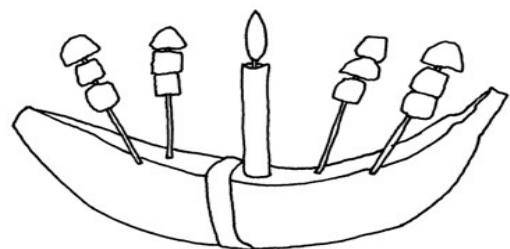
TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT OF ORANGES



Worship on the  
Second Sunday of  
Advent

**SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER**

**10.30am service IN CHURCH and via  
zoom & phone**

**Worshippers in church are invited to remain in  
church after the first part of the service has  
concluded and receive Communion.**

## **Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

**The subject of  
Roy's talk:**

**Shopping for A Saviour:  
I Don't Have Time**

## **The Reading: Luke ch. 2, verses 1-7**

1. At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.
2. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
3. All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.
4. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He travelled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.
5. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.
6. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.
7. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.



**SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER at St John's Church: Sunday@7**  
**THE THREE BIRKDALE ANGLICAN CHURCHES**

**St James' and St Peter's and St John's will join in worship here at St John's  
Church on 4th December at 7pm.**

**Refreshments will be available.**

**Please arrive early and get to know some of our fellow Birkdale Christians.**

Worship on the Third  
Sunday of Advent

**SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER**

**10.30am service IN CHURCH  
and via zoom & phone.**

## Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The subject of  
Sally's Talk:**

**Shopping for A Saviour:  
It's Too Crowded**

## Reading: Luke ch. 2, verses 8-12

8. That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.

9. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified,

10. but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

11. The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

12. And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."



*The Angel appearing to the Shepherds  
Philip James de Loutherbourg (1740–1812)  
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford*



## **Christingle Service at 6.00pm**

**At this year's annual Christingle Service we shall be joined by the Liverpool Road Methodist Church and by St James' and St Peter's.**

**The service will be led by Clive and Lucy.**

**Refreshments will be served, so please do stay afterwards and enjoy some fellowship.**

Worship on the Fourth  
Sunday of Advent

**SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER**

**10.30am service IN CHURCH  
and via zoom & phone**

## Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The subject of  
Clive's talk:**

**Shopping for A Saviour:  
It Doesn't Seem Like Christmas**

## The Reading: Luke ch.2, verses 13-20

13. Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

14. "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

15. When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16. They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.  
17. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

18. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,

19. but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.

20. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.



*The Adoration of the Shepherds  
Guido Reni (circa 1640)  
National Gallery*



**Midweek Book of  
Common Prayer  
Holy Communion**

**WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER  
10.30am service IN CHURCH**



**SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER  
6.00PM service IN CHURCH**

**All at Liverpool Road Methodist Church  
and at St James' and St Peter's are  
invited to join us and everyone will be  
very welcome at this service.**

### **Collect for Christmas Eve**

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT SERVICE  
AT LIVERPOOL ROAD METHODIST CHURCH  
There will be a service commencing at 11.30pm.  
All will be welcome to attend.**

**Worship on  
Christmas Day**



**SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER  
10.00am Holy Communion  
service IN CHURCH**

### **Collect for Christmas Day**

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

**The subject of  
Christine's talk:**

**No Room for Christ**

### **The Reading: Luke ch. 2, verses 1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Dates for your Diary: Coming Soon



### St John's Film Nights

Our next film to be shown on **Friday 6th January** will be the highly acclaimed "The Two Popes." An intimate story of one of the most dramatic transitions of power in the last 2,000 years. Frustrated with the direction of the church, Cardinal Bergoglio (Jonathan Pryce) requests permission to retire in 2012 from Pope Benedict (Anthony Hopkins). Instead, facing scandal and self-doubt, the introspective Pope Benedict summons his harshest critic and future successor to Rome to reveal a secret that would shake the foundations of the Catholic Church. Inspired by true events. Please let Christine know if you will attend (560518). Tea, coffee, homemade cakes are provided. £5.



### An early, early Burns Night Supper

**Friday 13th January 2023 at 7pm** in the church hall.

Haggis, neaps, tatties, cranachan, bagpipe music, and Scottish themed entertainment to celebrate (12 days early!) the 264th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, the Bard of Scotland.



### A late, late Pancake Party

**Friday 24th February 2023** at Tim and Sally's house.

Rather than have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday St John's will have a late, late pancake party three days late. OK, Lent will already have started but just give up chocolates instead of pancakes! Come and enjoy friendship and fun and let Tim cook bespoke pancakes of your choice. Further details closer to the date.

There will be **other friendship events at St John's during 2023** including a Quiz Night with our genial quizmaster Andy Dean and glamorous scorer Cheryl; a right royal Bangers & Mash evening at about the time of the Coronation; a summer fair; a strawberry tea; an Italian themed evening; for those who enjoy puddings, Just Desserts; and an evening of fun playing Beetle and Bingo! Watch this space!!

The England team has made a mixed start at the Football World Cup in Qatar. Rabbi Jonathan Romain has suggested that captain Harry Kane should try to avoid Psalm 139 verse 16 in dealings with the referee: "... In thy book all my members were written."

Psalm 116 verse 13 would be much better: "... I will take the cup."

For supporters of the Wales team it looks like there may be weeping and gnashing of teeth as they prepare for their Exodus when their flight home will bring them across the Red Sea. Their in-flight reading: The Book of Lamentations?



## A Tattyfilarious Evening at St John's

St John's Church Hall was full to capacity on Friday 18th November when 120 members of our church and other churches in Birkdale and friends were wonderfully entertained by Anne, Lady Dodd, who told us about her own professional life and her many years with the legendary Liverpool comic Sir Ken Dodd.



*Every seat was taken It was like the old days!*

provided much material for anecdotes, and of course we heard about her life and work with Ken Dodd.

The hall echoed to the sound of a lot of laughter and at the end of her address Lady Anne received much applause and a bouquet of flowers.



*Lady Anne with her bouquet*

It was great to see the church hall full again after the long quiet period caused by the covid pandemic. The audience sat at tables and the evening started with magnificent selections of cheese and biscuits with wine, and we were all intrigued to know what Lady Anne's talk would be about. She gave a very interesting description of her own working life which commenced when she was a teenager and became a member of the Bluebell Dance troupe. The stage, and working as an airline stewardess



*Enjoying the entertainment!*



*Clive and Jean with Lady Anne at the book-signing*

In addition to being a multi-talented performer in her own right Lady Anne is also an author and at the end of the evening she did a book-signing session from she which she has made a very generous donation to the church. It was a splendid evening which gave us all a lot of pleasure. We all owe our thanks to Roy Doran for inviting her, and to our leadership team who organised the event, and most of all to Lady Anne for making us laugh!



The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'

## On Giving the After Dinner Speech

The Rectory,  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

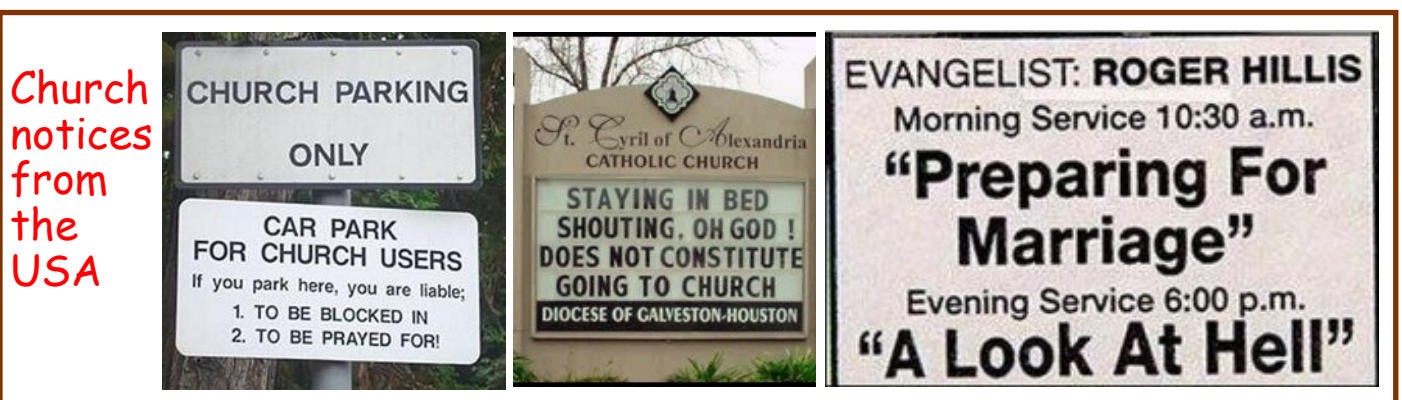
An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying – several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but no thank you. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



## Nigerian Water Project— Where streams of living water flow!

... maybe not streams... but certainly a standpipe, a water tower and a tap!

And fresh water!!



Worshippers at St John's will be very pleased to know that their donations to the appeal to help a Nigerian community sink a borehole in search of fresh water have been rewarded because very soon after the funds were transferred to Nigeria work commenced and it has resulted in fresh water being brought from deep underground.

More than 1,500 people will benefit from this project!

We are so fortunate in the UK to be able to turn a tap and receive clean water without us even having to think about where it comes from, how it is delivered, or why it is immediately drinkable. Imagine what it would be like to have to walk miles to a standpipe and then have to boil water to make it drinkable. That is what millions of people have to do in many parts of the world.

We thank God that by providing £1,000 to a rural community in Nigeria the people of St John's Church have helped them to dig deep enough into the earth to find a source of clean water. Although the people have to carry the water away in buckets, which seems somewhat primitive by Western standards, they now have fresh water near to their homes, on tap! What a change that may make to their lives. Just look at the smiles on the faces of the children as they collect clean water.



The Vicar of St Andrew's church in the Alade Idanre community has written to us:

"The neighbourhood started fetching water today. There is an adage in Africa that he who brings water bring life, thanks for bringing life. The congregation of St Andrew's Anglican Church Alade Idanre is grateful to St John's Birkdale, God bless you all."

So often, when we make a charitable donation, we do not know what happens to our gift or what good it will actually do. But everyone who contributed to this appeal will be pleased to see how their gifts have had such an immediate and beneficial effect.





CHURCH OF NIGERIA - ANGLICAN COMMUNION  
**DIOCESE OF AKURE**  
IDANRE NORTH ARCHDEACONRY  
**ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
OKE IMIKAN QUARTERS, ALADÉ IDANRE, ONDO STATE.

Our Ref: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Ref: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 18/11/2022

Thru: The Parish Church Council  
To: The Members of the Congregation,  
St John's Church,  
Birkdale,  
United Kingdom

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

May the peace and joy of the Lord be yours, now and always. Amen

On behalf of all the members of the congregation of St Andrew's Anglican Church, Alade-Idanre in the Diocese of Akure, Nigeria. We wish to thank the Parish Church Council members and indeed all the Parish members for your generous donation of One Thousand British Pounds Sterling towards our Bore Hole Project.

Idanre is located in a rocky area in Ondo State, Nigeria and portable water is difficult to come by especially during the dry season and when the rain stops. For supporting this project, you have not only brought succor to us as a Church, but the whole neighborhood where the Bore Hole is situated are also beneficiaries.

Our Bishop came around to dedicate the project on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 and it was joy galore.

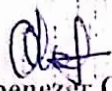
May the good Lord continue to bless you and especially your ministry in the midst of the people of Birkdale.


We deeply appreciate your love for God and for us.


We also through this note appreciate Papa Roy Doran who has been a father and Mentor to our Vicar here. He speaks fondly of him always.

Thanks so much.

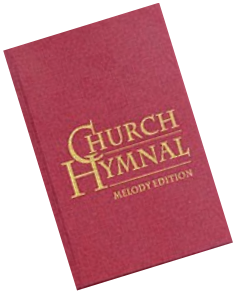
Yours in Christ Jesus

  
Mr Ebenezer Olofinwaka  
Pastor's Warden

  
Mr Samuel Omokinde  
People's Warden

  
Ven John O. Osob, PhD  
Vicar

## Dennis Davis remembers an old Hymn



As we approach Christmas once again our minds go back to family and friends.

When looking through my old Church of Ireland Hymn book I found a Hymn that I remembered from my first Christmas in N Ireland. This short Hymn was sung at the Christmas Carol service and has remained in my mind ever since, indeed I sang it to patients at their Christmas parties on several occasions.

The words are taken from "The Christmas Oratorio" by Bach in 1734. It was sung to a tune called Luther, Wittenburg 1536 and written for the Christmas season. This may have been written by Paul Gerhardt, a famous author of evangelical Hymns. Bach used Lutheran Hymns and tunes from time to time.



*Paul Gerhardt*

May I share the lyrics with you? Should you wish to hear it you could go on "YouTube"

"Beside thy cradle here I stand  
O thou that ever livest  
And bring thee with a willing hand,  
The very gifts thou givest  
Accept me, tis my mind my heart,  
My soul, my strength, my every part,  
That thou from me requirest."

I wish all my friends and fellow worshipers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

## The Meaning of '12 Days of Christmas'

What do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



## From Our Own Correspondent: Doris Brookfield

### Christmas message from Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

I can hardly believe another year has flown by, perhaps it's my age that makes me think the older I get, the years get shorter.

It's been a topsy turvy year for me, some lovely times, but others I would rather forget. But above all my family have been with me every step of the way. How lucky I am to have them either near me or far away, making sure I am alright on a daily basis. So I thank God every day that I've been blessed with them all.

But again listening to Roy's message (On 6th November) it made me think of how the world around us is changing. We are losing our ability to think for ourselves anymore, technology is moving at such a fast rate that I can't keep up with it. I am constantly ringing Paul to guide me through the complexities of it all, and its implications far outdo any knowledge I can understand. Reading a book the other evening which told me about what will be available in the next few years, it is so amazing it frightens me. We will lose our powers to think for ourselves anymore; too easy to let your iPhone do it for you.

One thing I have been grateful for is Zoom. It has kept me in touch with you all over the last few years. I am so pleased I tried hard to keep up with technology as I would have lost my contact with you all.

Although it is lovely here I find it hard to be able to go to a church service, without a car. It is hard as I live at the top of a road which is a mile long and is very steep. I have made enquiries about having a lift to the local church, but very few people go anymore and those who do have a full car. So it's so important for me to be on Zoom with you all. We have a minibus that takes us into Ilkley twice a week, but not on Sundays.

I miss the activities within a church group, although I'm lucky there are plenty of things available to be involved in here each week. The Christmas festivities start at the beginning of December, but unfortunately not involving any religious service. Our retired Vicar usually has an afternoon service with carols and readings which I liked last year, but her lovely husband Brian has dementia and she is finding it hard enough concentrating her time to him, so she has cancelled it this year.

I have made lots of new friends here, and one lady in particular who is lovely, her name is Nora. It's amazing to find out the different reasons for people making this village their home. Over 100 people live here, and I've only met half of them. We are mainly people on our own and most are ladies, and just a few men. The rest are couples mainly in their seventies who have down-sized for their retirement, and to have the comforts of this lovely complex. God brought me here and I am happy.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and, most importantly, a Healthy and Happy New Year. 2023. None of us knows what tomorrow or next year will have in store for us all, but God knows, he has plans for all of us. We just have to keep listening and praying.

God Bless to you all. Have a wonderful Christmas Fair, and just keep up all the good work you do for church and the community. Thank you.

So from Ilkley December 2022, I'll write again in 2023, it will be my 90 birthday in June, I would like you to come to celebrate with me, God willing.

Love from Doris.

The photograph of a deer with magnificent antlers was taken by Doris's son Paul at Wentworth Castle near Barnsley. There are so many visitors to the property (National Trust) that the animals are not alarmed by people approaching quite close. This one looks unmoved: more of a Prancer than a Dasher!



## GOD in the Arts

*The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at the cartoon for 'The Mackintosh Madonna', which normally hangs in the British Museum.*

### Preparing the Way

This month's drawing is 'The Virgin and Child' by Raphael (1483-1520). Raphael was a talented artist from a very early age, but this drawing belongs to a time when he was in Rome from 1510-12. The finished painting is known as the Mackintosh Madonna, after its last owner.

This drawing, or cartoon, was the first stage in creating that work: it is in black chalk with heightening marks of white. When an artist made an initial drawing like this, he would then prick the cartoon with holes and then sprinkle charcoal powder over the drawing to reproduce the design on the canvas below. The pinholes on this drawing are still clearly visible. Sadly the final painting has been damaged through time, but here in the cartoon we see that first stage: a sensitive and balanced picture of mother and child: Mary warm and caring, Jesus laughing and alive.



During Advent we think of the preparations God made for the birth of the Saviour. We celebrate God's work of creation and how He chose a people for His own. Within that people He looked for a holy remnant and then finally a loving heart in the assent of Mary to be the mother of our Lord. These preparatory steps were as vital for our salvation as the artist moving from idea to sketch to the finished work.

Each stage is important; each stage a revelation of life and love. Vasari wrote of Raphael that in his paintings 'the flesh palpitates, the breath comes and goes, every organ lives, and life pulsates everywhere.' Even this preliminary drawing displays that life and vitality. It is a life we celebrate at Christmas in the birth of a child who turns to us, as he does in this work, as a sign of joy and love.



The Romantic poet John Keats, who wrote the despondent poem "Ode on Melancholy" and who died of tuberculosis at the young age 25 may not have been the life and soul of every party but he is recorded as having told a joke. He said to a friend "I take my yellow peas to Chiswick." His friend asked "Why?" Keats replied "It's the way to

Turnham Green." Ho ho.

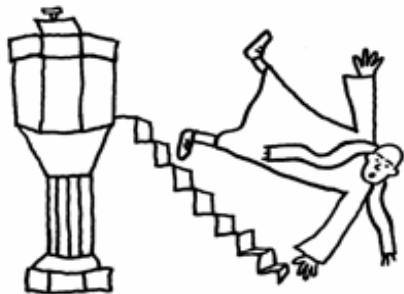
His friend and lugubrious fellow poet William Wordsworth, who clearly did not know geography or who had no sense of humour, was so impressed by the joke that he waited for an occasion to try it out. "I take my yellow peas to Chiswick," he said, and when he was asked "Why?" he replied "It's the way to Hounslow." He should have stuck to Daffodils!

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# CROSSWORD

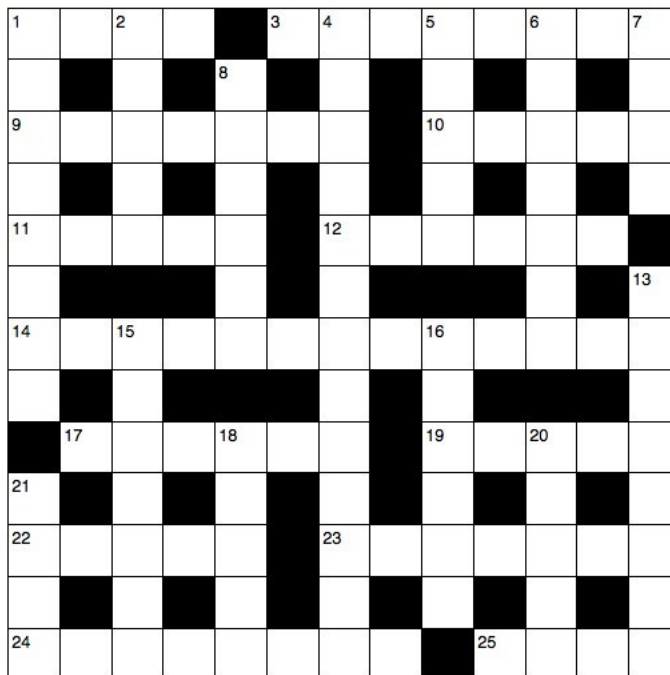
*Solution on page 25*

## Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)  
 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)  
 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)  
 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)  
 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)  
 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)  
 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)  
 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)  
 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)  
 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)  
 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)  
 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)  
 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

## Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)  
 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)  
 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)



- 5 'We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)  
 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)  
 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)  
 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)  
 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)  
 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)  
 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)  
 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)  
 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)  
 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

## In our Book of Remembrance in December

- 2nd Horace Hall (1998)  
 4th Harry Pennington (2004)  
 6th John Jones (2014)  
 7th James Rimmer (1972)  
 9th William Ball (1991)  
 Margaret Foster (2002)  
 10th Harry Allen (1991)  
 12th Thomas Lacy (1989)  
 15th Maud Monk (1984)

- 16th Walter Marshall (1976)  
 Emma Wright (1978)  
 Hilda Banham (2005)  
 18th Jack Greensmith (1982)  
 19th Albert Carr (2014)  
 20th Leonard Carrington (2011)  
 21st John Heap (1956)  
 22nd Blanche Yarwood (1983)  
 Carol Astley (2002)  
 23rd William Ryan (1985)  
 24th Charles Bateman (1965)  
 25th Elsie Hamer (1982)  
 Daniel Randles (1990)

- 27th Mary Wright (1979)  
 May Williams (1985)  
 Ivan Coop (1989)  
 Julie Kershaw (2007)  
 28th Sarah Halsall (1964)  
 29th Mary Ball (1988)  
 30th James Lloyd (1985)

*If any of our readers wish to have the name of a deceased relative inscribed in the Book of Remembrance please contact Stuart Baker.*



I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

## The History of Christmas

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the third century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring equinox, 25<sup>th</sup> March, popularising the belief that He was born nine months later on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day in about 400.

In the early Middle Ages, Christians celebrated a series of midwinter holy days. Epiphany (which recalls the visit to the infant Jesus of the wise men bearing gifts) was the climax of 12 days of Christmas, beginning on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

The Emperor Charlemagne chose 25<sup>th</sup> December for his coronation in 800, and the prominence of Christmas Day rose. In England, William the Conqueror also chose 25<sup>th</sup> December for his coronation in 1066, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting. Cooking a boar was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas feasts, and singing carols accompanied it. Writers of the time lament the fact that the true significance of Christmas was being lost because of partying. They condemn the rise of 'misrule' – drunken dancing and promiscuity. The day was a public holiday, and traditions of bringing evergreen foliage into the house and the exchange of gifts (usually on Epiphany) date from this time.

In the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a rejection of many celebrations that were associated with Catholic Christianity. Christmas was one of them. After the execution of Charles I, England's Puritan rulers made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years. The restoration of Charles II ended the ban, but religious leaders continued to discourage excess, especially in Scotland. In Western Europe (but not worldwide) the day for exchanging gifts changed from Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January) to Christmas Day.

By the 1820s, there was a sense that the significance of Christmas was declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it. His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance. Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26th December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect 'boxes' of money or gifts from their customers.

In Europe Santa Claus is the figure associated with the bringing of gifts. Santa Claus is a shortening of the name of Saint Nicholas, who was a Christian bishop in the fourth century in present-day Turkey. He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor. By the Middle Ages his appearance, in red bishop's robes and a mitre, was adored in the Netherlands and familiar across Europe.

Father Christmas dates from 17th century England, where he was a secular figure of good cheer (more associated with drunkenness than gifts). The transformation of Santa Claus into today's Father Christmas started in New York in the 1880s, where his red robes and white beard became potent advertising symbols. In some countries (such as Latin America and Eastern Europe) the tradition attempts to combine the secular and religious elements by holding that Santa Claus makes children's presents and then gives them to the baby Jesus to distribute.

When Jesus was born does not matter. What matters is why he was born. Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom once said: "If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost."

## God in the Sciences

*Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### The Incarnation: fearfully and wonderfully made

*My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:15-16*

You began life as a single cell. For a few hours you were a miniscule but highly complex blob of jelly, until it began to divide: two cells, four, eight, sixteen, a ball, a hollow ball, and then something more recognisably like a living organism. You were still tiny, but developing a nervous system, a head, a body, arms and legs.

Until recently I hadn't thought much about Jesus being an embryo. Somehow, I find that thought even more shocking than His birth. How could God, who made the universe, have become something so completely and utterly vulnerable? Maybe in the past, when the development of a child happened in 'secret', it was possible just to let that part of the Christmas story go untold.

Today, when we see images of a developing child, or even embryos outside the womb, it is harder to ignore the process of Jesus developing into a baby. The incarnation meant that God's Son went through all the stages in the diagram in my developmental biology textbook: 'zygote', 'morula', 'blastocyst', implantation, and so on.

Jesus was there in the beginning, and all life owes its existence to Him. But instead of remaining aloof, He chose to become one of us. The Son of God shared the same kind of DNA as every other organism on the planet. He knows what it feels like to have a body, to feel hungry and thirsty, pain and pleasure, dark and light.

In Psalm 139, the writer is meditating on God's intimate knowledge of him, which began when he was an embryo. There is nothing God doesn't know about him, and even darkness cannot obscure him from God's sight. The incarnation means that God's intimacy with us now extends even further. He became one of us, lived alongside us, and shared our very fragile material nature.

The transcendent God is also immanent, longing for us to relate to Him as Father. He became as fragile as we are so He could rescue us from the messes we so often find ourselves in. With His help, we can remember what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made.

*Reproduced by permission from [Merry Christmas Everyone: A festive feast of stories, poems and reflection](#), Edited by Wendy H. Jones, Amy Robinson & Jane Clamp (Association of Christian Writers, 2018)*

### United States elections...



Edward Hale, while chaplain of the U.S. Senate, was once asked if he prayed for the senators. He quickly replied, "No. After getting to know the senators, I pray for the people."



# WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 27

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.

Messiah  
Broken  
Heart  
Freedom  
Darkness

Favour  
Prisoners  
Comfort  
Mourn  
Bestow

Crown  
Beauty  
Ashes  
Son  
God  
Jesus

Seen  
Father  
Whoever  
Longing  
Thousand



## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**ACROSS:** 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod.

**DOWN:** 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

## With New Year's Eve approaching...

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. – E K Kruger

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. – Alfred Hitchcock.

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. – Jonathan Swift.

A gentleman is someone who can play the bagpipes... but doesn't. Anon



# PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

by John M. Shakespeare

The meaning of Christmas will have a different meaning to different people, depending on their beliefs. For me personally, love and fellowship, are the important symbols of Christ's coming.

The birth of Jesus Christ gives us the motivation to make the world a better place for all of us.

Peace at first sight, especially at this time of year seems admirable. However, if it leads to inertia in individuals, or lack of ambition nationally, is it such a preferable state to aim for? With the individual, peace of mind can bring a degree of ease that limits an individual's progress. Lack of any safeguards by our government, can lead to us as a country falling behind internationally, and this can lead to domestic and social problems.

To quote A.N. Whitehead (1861-1947) "The deliberate aim of Peace easily passes into its bastard substitute, anaesthesia." This belief or expression that he proposed played upon the benefits of the fighting spirit that is needed for a country to prosper!

The Christian message to all those considering warfare is given in John (Ch 2 verse 4), "He shall judge between nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Christmas is an occasion, I believe, when we celebrate the hope promised to us by the birth of our Saviour. Let us put political and religious differences behind us, and unite together in trying to make our world a better place, for all of us to enjoy.

Setting aside the ideas of War and Peace, we may look at what Peace can mean to us in everyday life, especially over this festive period. I believe that the garden can be seen as a reflection of our lives. It brings Peace of mind to sit in a pleasantly laid out garden, to disregard the weeds or the snails attacking the plants, in the same way that we may put aside life's irritations. Too often in this life we can dwell on things which in reality are of minor importance, so I urge you to look at the positive things around your life, and relish the joys of your family and friends at Christmas.



Taking the benefits of poetry into account, and its influence on Peace, I have always favoured sentiments such as those, well expressed as in the poem "Leisure", by W. H. Davies (1871-1940). I quote an extract from the poem:

"What is this life if full of care  
We have no time to stand and stare"

My prayer of Peace at this time requests a healthy body to go with a good digestion, to enjoy that special content of Christmas fare.

*Continued on next page*



Most of us will avoid physical forms of violence to disturb the Peace, but will we avoid our mental violence towards others, with the curbing of cynicism and sarcasm? By all means, having a point of view is fine, and having a sense of humour, along with the ability to see a joke, is even better. With mental illness we have come a long way forward from Bedlam and Asylums. Let us work for Peace in our relationships, and try to ease any stress and trauma.

Encouragement to those who seek Peace in this world, is given in Philipians (Ch 4 verse 7), "And the Peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus".

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The group meet from 10.30am-noon on the **second Wednesday of every month** at St. John's Church on St. John's Road in

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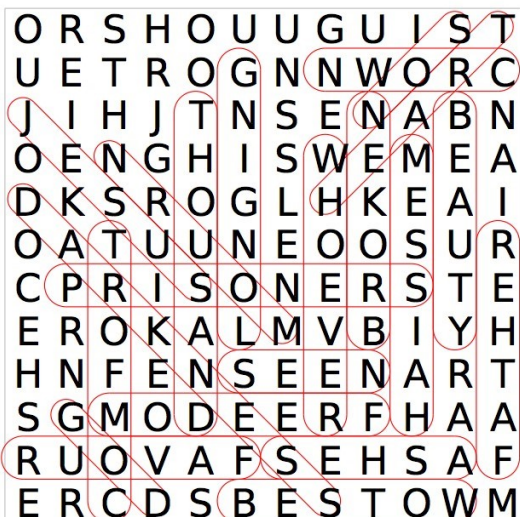
To find out more, email [elderberriesgardening@gmail.com](mailto:elderberriesgardening@gmail.com) or call Shelley Lewis-Lavender on [01704 560690](tel:01704560690).

## A Poem for Christmas Day

**C**arols sound throughout the land  
**H**eralding a special birth  
**R**ejoicing as from Heaven's realm  
**I**mmanuel comes to bless the earth.  
**S**o in the town of Bethlehem  
**T**he Saviour Jesus gently lies,  
**M**ary rocks the tiny child  
**A**s angels serenade the skies.  
**S**hepherds told the awesome story  
**D**ivinity will now reside  
**A**s He who ruled in Heaven above  
**Y**et Lord of all comes as a child.

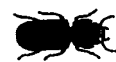
By Megan Carter

## WORD SEARCH solution



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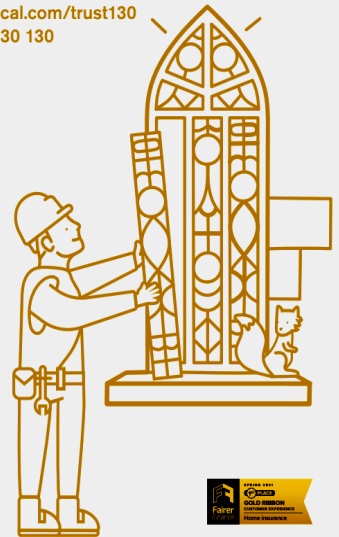
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## Just the thing I need... how nice

The American mathematician and humourist, Tom Lehrer, wrote a song about how Christmas has become commercialised. The lyrics included these lines:

“Relations sparing no expense’ll  
Send some useless old utensil,  
Or a matching pen and pencil.  
Just the thing I need, how nice.  
It doesn’t matter how sincere it  
Is, nor how heart-felt the spirit,  
Sentiment will not endear it  
What’s important is the price!”

Do you expect to like all the presents you will receive this year? Not if last year was anything to go by! In fact, it seems that more than two-thirds of us expect that we will unwrap at least one item that we do not like this Christmas.

What do you do with those weird gifts? An article in Parish Pump asserts that one in four people admit to dumping them – straight into the bin. Yet we are very polite about it – two in five of us pretend delight so that we do not hurt anyone’s feelings. Only one in ten of us is ruthlessly honest and express our disappointment.

**A better way of parting from unwanted presents is to donate them to charity. Charity shops will welcome almost any kind of unwanted Christmas present.**

### Making Donations to St John’s through online banking

The church’s bank details are:

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Sort Code: 60-20-11

Account Number: 86882120

## Moving with the times

It used to be said that “Cash is King.” But since the covid pandemic more use is made of debit and credit cards than before. Many people now rarely pay for anything with cash or carry much money with them.

In common with many other churches and public buildings the PCC has decided to obtain a card-reader machine which will enable visitors to St John’s to make donations, **but only if they so wish**, by using a credit or debit card. There will be no pressure put on anyone to use this machine. Worshippers and visitors will not be made to feel uncomfortable. The card-reader will simply be present for those who wish to make donations but who have come to the church without any spare money.

The PCC hopes to have the card-reader available by the start of the Christmas Tree Festival when we expect that there will be many visitors to the church who are not regular worshippers. At a time when all of our bills are increasing dramatically (**the church’s gas bills are likely to be approximately four times higher than they were last year**) the PCC is taking this action in order to give visitors an opportunity to make card donations which will all be extremely welcome. The machine has the ability to record those donations which are eligible for Gift Aid which can add 25% to the value of donations if the donors are tax-payers.

## Joining the Sunday morning services and Thursday evening prayers by zoom or by telephone

To join the **weekly Sunday morning services** by **ZOOM**:  
The Identification Number every Sunday will be: 827 7997 1592  
The Password every Sunday will be: 860066

To join the **weekly Sunday morning services** by **TELEPHONE**:  
The telephone number you must ring is: 0131 460 1196  
The Meeting Identification Number every Sunday will be: 827 7997 1592  
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)  
The Password every Sunday will be: 860066.  
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)

To join the **twice-monthly Thursday evening prayers** at 7.30pm by **ZOOM**:  
The Identification Number every Thursday will be: 879 8059 1143  
The Password every Thursday will be: 966358

To join the **twice-monthly Thursday evening prayers** at 7.30pm by **TELEPHONE**:  
The telephone number you must ring is: 0131 460 1196  
The Meeting Identification Number every Thursday will be: 879 8059 1143.  
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)  
The Password every Thursday will be 966358.  
When prompted to do so, enter that number and then press HASH (#)

**BUT PLEASE CHECK YOUR CALL PACKAGE CHARGES WITH YOUR PROVIDER**  
**IF YOU NEED ANY HELP:** Please contact Clive (564206) or Sally (553977) or Lucy (553977) for any further details you require.

## Hearing the Word by telephone

If you would like to hear a recording of the Sunday morning talks telephone **0151-329-2184** at any hour of the day or night.

The calls are **free**. Each talk lasts about 15 minutes and is available for a week.

Each recording becomes available during the afternoon of the Sunday on which it is given.

### Prayer for Christmas

Father,  
Thank you for creating us and for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only You can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect Your light and love in this dark world to bring glory to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



www.southportorchestra.co.uk

# SOUTHPORT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Jeff Rimmer

## ANOTHER NIGHT TO REMEMBER

WEBER

Der Freischutz Overture

GREIG

Piano Concerto

(Soloist: Tom Kimmance)

SIBELIUS

Symphony No.2

SATURDAY,  
3rd December 2022  
7-30 pm

EMMANUEL PARISH CHURCH  
Cambridge Road, Southport,  
PR9 9PR

TICKETS: Adults £10 U18's £5  
available from Orchestra Members,  
Via [admin@southportorchestra.co.uk](mailto:admin@southportorchestra.co.uk)  
Or on the door (payment by cash or card)

SO22

★HAPPY★ To  
BIRTHDAY!

If there are any birthdays, anniversaries or other reasons to celebrate which our readers would like to share with others **DURING JANUARY** please let the Editor know by email to [stjohnbirkdaletheword@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbirkdaletheword@gmail.com)

## The Last Laughs



His coach told him to keep an eye on the ball!



Round the twist: Liberty Barros, 14, from Leicester, celebrates walking 20 metres in backbend knee lock in 22.53 seconds, a certified world record.

Safety Warning: **DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!**



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



With Health and Safety in mind (see page 21) this is something else you should not try at home and which has been banned by St John's H&S Officer even for those with ladder training!

It is part of a painting, rather unimaginatively entitled "Man on a Ladder," by Luca Signorelli, painted in about 1504.