

InSpire Issue 10 December 2017

JESUS: *Love*

I N P E R S O N

Wishing you all a
Very Happy Christmas



The monthly publication for St John the Baptist, Chapel

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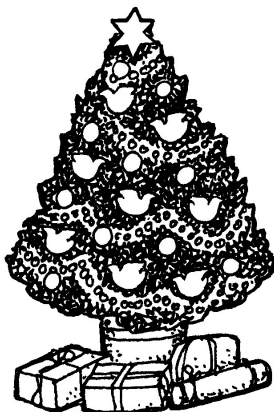
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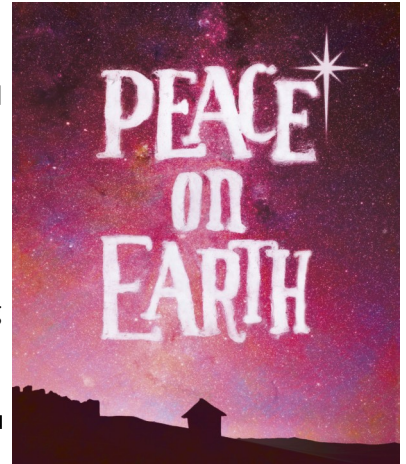
As we come to the close of 2017 and our 10th Edition of InSpire, we very much hope that you have found it interesting, helpful, informative and spiritually uplifting.

Our very best wishes to all our readers for 2018.

Suzanne & Rev Liz

Dear all,

Last month I wrote about our mutual belonging both as members of this wonderful community and that of the wider community and family as God's church in this place. This month we once again look forward and celebrate the coming of God into our world through the birth of his son Jesus all those years ago into a small town to an ordinary young couple who were to become extraordinary in God's plan for humankind. Named as 'Emmanuel' in Matthew's gospel, through earlier prophecy, this means 'God is with us'. This is truly the ultimate in mutual belonging isn't it?



Well this month there is much to help us prepare for Christmas and beyond. As you read this the Christmas trees will be lighting the way up to church once again this year and I hope many of you will come and join us at one of our many Christmas services. You will see the lighted Christmas trees illustrating our Christmas card which you should receive early this month outlining all the details. Please do also study the calendar of church services and events in this magazine though too!

We are hoping to deliver some Christmas hampers to any who are in need in the village so if you know of anyone who might enjoy a few Christmas treats please do let me know as soon as possible. For many, Christmas is a difficult time of year especially for those undergoing financial hardship and bereavement and it is lovely to know that others are thinking of you. The Christmas prayer tree will also be placed in church near the front, where you can write a prayer for yourself, for others or in remembrance of someone.

We once again welcome our donkeys to Capel as they help us act out the Nativity along with I hope lots of children. Costumes are supplied but do come ready dressed up if you wish! You can never have too many angels or shepherds or anything else for that matter! This will also be our gift service where we welcome wrapped gifts for those in need in the Brixton area. We have been sending gifts to them for many years now and they are so grateful for them so do drop them into church beforehand if it's more convenient or on the day!

For our traditional Carol service this year we are following a slightly different format with a narrator helping the story along, but there will be the usual selection of traditional carols and choir pieces to enjoy. Norman's mulled wine and Joy's mince pies will help us on our way after the service. This year Christmas Eve is on a Sunday so I have four services to do that day! Come and help me, either at 8 or 10am, the lovely Crib service at 4pm and the first communion of Christmas at 11pm. By midnight we will be ready to light candles and sing Silent Night as Christmas Day dawns. Then the big day when there will be one service only at 10 o'clock, to which children and adults for that matter can share one of their Christmas presents with us and help us celebrate the birth of Jesus. And don't forget that on New Year's Eve you can put the past behind you and welcome in the New Year with our informal service of Café Church!

As we look forward to the beginning of 2018 you may recall that I have previously written that our church parish of Capel is planning to unite with St Margaret's Ockley, becoming a united parish but within the overarching care of The Surrey Weald Team. That process has now reached the time of public consultation and you will be able to see a copy of the draft Pastoral Scheme in the church porch. There is also a copy of a Notice about the scheme on the Notice board by the Lychgate. Anyone may make representations for or against all or any part or parts of the draft scheme and you will see how to do that on the displayed notices. In the meantime I am of course happy to talk to anyone about the proposed scheme. If there are no representations then we hopefully will be united early in the New Year which is a very exciting prospect and we wish our friends at Ockley peace and joy this Christmastime too!

Rev Liz's letter continues on page 4

Rev Liz's Letter continued from page 3

So, God chose seemingly ordinary people to be the parents of his son entrusting Jesus to their care and as I said earlier, through that event they became extraordinary. The truth is through Jesus' birth we all have the potential to become extraordinary to God. We are all loved and cherished by him and he will never leave us. I do hope this Christmas will bring you the peace of the Christ child, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men and the obedience of Joseph and Mary in whichever way you find yourself celebrating Christmas this year. I pray that you will find some quiet and solace as you are reminded of what Christmas is really all about and that is welcoming the Saviour of the world 'Emmanuel' into our midst. With my love and prayers and wishing you and your families a Happy Christmas!

Revd Liz



"The vicar's still miffed that one of the parents got £250 from You've Been Framed for their video of last year's nativity play."



A wonderful month of fundraising in church



The **Children's Society Coffee Morning** has now raised in excess of £600.00 which included £272.00 worth of Christmas card sales. This is a wonderful amount and a testament to the generosity of those who came to the coffee morning and bought cards and other items after church the following weekend. At the same event, Sue Partridge sold £130.00 of **Traidcraft** products.

Collection for **The Royal British Legion** on Sunday 12th November raised £276.00 which is the highest it's ever been!



Church Mission Society - Special day of fundraising Sunday 26th November

A wonderful day of fundraising for CMS on the final Sunday in November brought this year's church teas to a close. The money raised was as follows:- Soup lunches - £100.40, Teas - £112.40, Christmas puddings, jams and crafts - £159.05 making a grand total of £371.85. There may well be more money raised as the Christmas puddings will be out again after Sunday services.

These are wonderful amounts raised in just one month, so thank you to everyone who has helped make these collections/events such a success!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2017

SATURDAY 2nd

Christmas tree decorating and grand switch on of the lights in the churchyard – we set up in the morning from 9am enjoying mulled seasonal refreshments while we work along with live music. Then we return later when it's dark for the 'GRAND SWITCH ON' at 5.00pm! Carol singing and refreshments set us up to begin this festive month!

SUNDAY 3rd

8.00 am

10.00 am

6.00 pm

Advent Sunday

Holy Communion BCP

Family Communion

Weald Advent Team service at St Mary Magdalene, South Holmwood. Everyone is welcome!

TUESDAY 5th

Christmas Messy Church! Starts at 3.15pm in Capel Memorial Hall

Entrance free but donations welcome. ALL children must be accompanied by a parent/ carer. There will be songs, praise, arts and crafts and a party tea! So come along and enjoy a Messy Christmas!

SUNDAY 10th

8.00 am

10.00 am

2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion BCP

All Age Nativity and Gift Service *Children come and join in our nativity play where we will be joined by our donkeys. Costumes provided. We will also be collecting gifts which we give annually to Christ Church Brixton. Please wrap and label with gender and age as appropriate.*

SUNDAY 17th

8.00 am

10.00 am

6.00 pm

3rd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion BCP

Family Communion

Nine lessons and carols *A traditional service of readings and carols; seasonal refreshments will follow!*

SUNDAY 24th

8.00 am

10.00 am

4.00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent - CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy Communion (BCP)

Family Communion

Crib Service *Christmas really begins we place the Holy family along with shepherds, sheep, wise men in our Christmas Crib with all the usual favourite carols.*

11.00 pm

Midnight Communion (please note start time is 11pm)

The first communion of Christmas on this holy night.

MONDAY 25th

10.00 am

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Family Communion service to celebrate the day!

Children bring a toy to show as we share the joy of Jesus' birth

SUNDAY 31st

10.00 am

First Sunday of Christmas (NB: no 8.00am service today *)

New Year's Eve Café Church – reflect on 2017 with café style informal service

* Please note that there MAY be an 8.30am BCP at St Peter's Newdigate, but please check!

JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY 7th

8.00 am

10.00 am

The Epiphany

Holy Communion BCP

Family Communion

Most Wednesdays at 9.45am in church we pray the Church of England's Daily Office. All are welcome to join us as we intercede for the church, the world and all those in need who have asked for our prayers....



INTERCESSOR VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We are currently down to just four people who are on the rota for Intercessions. This puts a huge pressure on so few people to deliver intercessions at regular intervals. If you think you could help but wonder what is involved, please speak to Rev Liz.

The more people we can get on the rota, the less often everyone would have to prepare the Intercessions! Please do think about whether you could help with this valuable contribution to our Sunday services. Thank you.

Join us for a very
Messy Christmas
on **Tuesday 5th**
December
from **3.15pm**
in **Capel Memorial**
Hall.



Come along and join in
the fun

*** Art & Crafts * Praise * Celebration* Stories ***

*** Fun * Food!**

Entrance is FREE but children must be accompanied
by a Parent/carer.

Charities we support

Presents for our sister church in Brixton

**Please help by giving presents if you
can! They will be gathered in on
Sunday 10th December at our
Nativity service, ready for delivery
to Brixton.**

*Please wrap and label presents
according to the recipient's age and
gender? This will help greatly with
the distribution of the gifts!*

Thank you all for your generosity in
the past. It really does make a
difference for some people who
would otherwise receive nothing.

Make a note in your Diary!

CURRY AND COMEDY NIGHT

8TH FEBRUARY 2018
in aid of **Compassion UK**

Tickets available soon.



NEWS from the Pews

Friends of St Mary Magdalene, South Holmwood
are proud to host

A Christmas Concert by Serendipity

On Sunday 10th December at 3.00 pm
In St Mary Magdalene Church

Interval with refreshments and raffle

Tickets: £12.00

NB: Entrance for children under 12 is FREE
Contact: Virginia Smith for more information
on 01306 885349.

This is a wonderful group of eight semi-professional singers who have been delighting audiences at South Holmwood for a number of years with their vivacious singing and delightfully chosen programmes. So do come and find out for yourselves just how good they are and return home full

Art Exhibition



There was a very good turnout for the second Art exhibition with visitors buying art and greeting cards made from the local artists' paintings. Joy and Betty worked hard all day to provide refreshments for the visitors and their cream teas were enjoyed by many!

It was lovely to see so much local talent on display with other crafts to see too, including pottery and glass painting. What a lot of talent there is in our village!

Thanks must go to Julia Horrox and the Artists for putting on a wonderful exhibition for us all to enjoy and we very much hope there will be another one next year!

From the Registers

We celebrate the marriage of

Clare Wigham and Nathan Palmer
28th October 2017

We mourn the loss of

Brian Sidney Cowlin
21st October 2017

Frederick John Clive Voice
(*Fred/Sonnie*)
12th November 2017

Muriel Edith Dale
21st November 2017 (aged 108)



Christmas cards for the Parish

Our thanks to Dineke for organising this year's Christmas cards for delivery to everyone in the parish from the congregation at St John the Baptist.

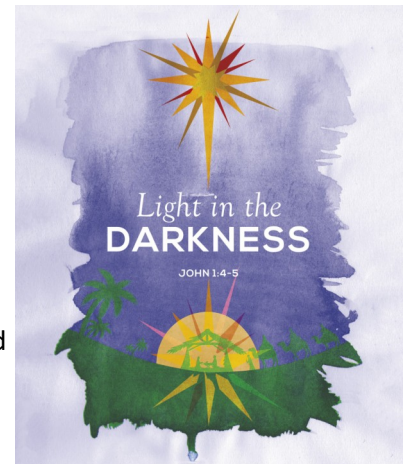
They feature a wraparound photo of the Christmas trees in the churchyard all lit up and have details of our Christmas services.

If you can help deliver some, please do speak to Rev Liz or Dineke. We are hoping to get them out as early as possible! Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY see page 7 for Events & Services

Dear Readers,

Well here we are at the end of the first year of producing InSpire each month! I hope very much that you are continuing to enjoy it. I try to fill it with a mix of information—both local and global, together with puzzles and humour! If there is anything you would like to see more of, please let me know on the feedback information form on page 23 of this issue. It can then either be emailed back to me or detached and left in a box which I shall put on the table just inside church? We very much want it to remain Free of charge if possible as it is an outreach resource both for ourselves, our friends at St Margaret's in Ockley and anyone that we all choose to give a copy to! Our dilemma is that it is currently costing approximately £40.00 a month for about 40-50 copies. Many have signed up to receive it electronically so that they can then print it out themselves and this of course DOES save us some money! Initially, I was able to print it off at the Weald School where I had worked, but the copying was not of the best quality and with staff changes at the school, I no longer feel this is feasible. Our Treasurer Debbie has a suggestion which she outlines later in the magazine, whereby we might feel we could sponsor the cost of the printing of InSpire in the month of our birthday or that of a loved one? If you have any further thoughts on how we might fund this initiative, please do let either myself, Rev Liz or Debbie von Bergen know?



We are approaching Advent and the Season of Goodwill and I am warmed by the wonderful news that we are able to share with you of the fundraising that took place in November alone. We raised over £600.00 for The Children's Society who we support as a church, £130.00 for Traidcraft, £276.00 at the Remembrance Service for the Royal British Legion and over £371.00 for the Church Mission Society. This is not withstanding our weekly collections in church, the Art exhibition, the donations to the Foodbank and Leatherhead hostel. People are remarkably generous, especially when you consider that in the current financial climate many people around us even in our own village are suffering. I have no doubt that we will follow suit again in December, when it comes to donating presents to our friends in Brixton, donations to create hampers for local friends and neighbours that Rev Liz would like to give a hamper to and much more! Christ taught us about the importance of giving and just this one snapshot of our life in Capel and the fundraising in November alone, shows us that not only do we truly believe it but we embrace it too!

I went with Rev Liz to the Christian Resources Exhibition in Sandown Park recently and we both wanted to explore the exhibit by 'Compassion UK' whilst there. It was very moving as we followed the story of one young man's journey from childhood to becoming an adult with the benefit of sponsorship via Compassion UK. Liz and I were so moved by it that we both immediately sponsored a child. We have since received our Welcome Packs and I have today written to 'our child' Mayra in Mexico. I feel very privileged and honoured to be able to play just a small part in this little girl's life. Her life will be so different to mine growing up in leafy Surrey, and that of my own two sons', but my faith and that of Compassion UK encouraging us 'To Release children from poverty in Jesus' name' has brought Mayra and us together. We may never meet (I very much hope that somehow we do one day!), but I shall follow our sponsored child's life avidly over the next few years and have no doubt at all that giving to Mayra will bring me and the family, more pleasure than receiving a gift ever will. So as we all prepare for Christmas with the hectic card writing and posting, the wrapping of presents and the feasting on (far too much!) food and drink with our loved ones, I'm sure that we can reflect on others less fortunate than ourselves, both on our doorstep and abroad, and know that the act of giving, as Jesus taught us, brings far more lasting pleasure than the brief excitement and pleasure of a gift received.

It would only be right to reflect on those who have died this year too. We remember all those in our local community who have died in this last year and we remember their families and friends as they face their first Christmas without them. We hold them all in our prayers.

I wish you all a happy Christmas, spent with those you love and every blessing for 2018.

Suzanne

Visiting St John the Baptist, Capel

By Margaret Zandona

On Sunday 15th October the congregation of St Margaret's Ockley headed off over the road to St John the Baptist Church in Capel. The church was built in the 12th Century and it is a grand presence on the main road through Capel which cannot be missed by the passer by!



We had enjoyed welcoming the congregation of Capel to St Margaret's on the 6th August, and now as we entered the church we too were warmly welcomed by familiar and friendly faces. The choir processed through the church at the start of the service up to the choir stalls which was a rather magnificent and uplifting sight. The Holy Communion service was taken by Rev. Liz Richardson who embraced both congregations as one with fervour. She gave a lovely, inspiring sermon and together with the choir we all sang heartily, accompanied by some beautiful organ playing.

It was a pleasure to see so many of the St Margaret's congregation sharing such a warm service with the large, friendly congregation of Capel. When the service was over we were invited to partake in tea, coffee and biscuits which encouraged lots of enjoyable conversations. The church was alive with happy voices! We continue to look forward to sharing more services together in the future!

NEW SONGS at The Cottage

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow - or so the saying goes. On 16th November, Judy & I had the opportunity to put that cliché to the test! Having had the opportunity to lead the music at Café Church in November it was decided that an evening be set aside where we could introduce some of the newer songs currently popular in the church to members of St. John's. After much thought, prayer and careful consideration a 'plan' emerged. I would select songs (old and new) that reflected the theme of Community, Church and Congregation - a chance to focus on our place as members of St. John's and the church's presence in the centre of our community. Rehearsals were arranged with the band; a programme for the evening prepared; Powerpoint slides were prepared to project the words; scriptures selected; invitations made to come and sing. So far - so good.....



The reality of the evening was that four friends from Merstham Baptist Church came along (following the music workshop I ran for them recently) - and they outnumbered the members of St. John's who were able to attend!!! So, was the evening a failure? Absolutely not! As musicians we had the opportunity to play together "in public" and start to build that bond that is essential in creating a solid foundation for others to sing along with; we received a lovely email afterwards from the Merstham folk who, among other things, said, "...an amazing evening. Thank you, we were all blessed." and we all had the chance to spend an hour in the middle of our busy lives focusing on God and singing and praying together.

Have we started with something like an acorn? No - I think it's more akin to a mustard seed! But, as Matthew 4 v30 & 31 reminds us, God is able to take the smallest of what we have to offer and, by His grace, bring a harvest in the future.

Bob Cranham

01306 713349 bobcranham@gmail.com

Not your usual Nativity Play!

By Diana Hawkes, ex-Headteacher of Capel school

If there is one thing I dislike, it's your usual primary school 'paper-winged angel' nativity play where the children stumble through adult words that they have learned parrot fashion and that contains no meaning for them. It's just a show for the parents. I was lucky enough to be Head of two C of E schools and each year we did a Christmas service. In my last school, we did it twice, once on Friday afternoon for an invited congregation of local senior citizens and then they came back into school to be served tea by the children and the second time in place of the usual Sunday morning service and then the congregation came back into school to be served coffee and mince pies by the PTA. Some weeks beforehand, I discussed with the top class how we would tell the story. One year we took the theme of Christmas customs showing what part of the Christmas story they represented. From all the children's written work I chose the best ones for them to read in the service. The readings were interspersed with carols sung by the school choir while children processed from different parts of the church to form a tableaux below the choir stalls. For example, Mary and Joseph would come first whilst the choir were singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" or "Away in a Manger". Having to wait, unsupervised in a far corner of the church until it was their turn to move, was a very good lesson in self-discipline which was as important as the English they had learned in the writing! The children took the service entirely whilst the staff sat with the rest of the children not taking part. Everyone sang the first and last carols and our Vicar gave the blessing.

One year when I talked to the children to ask them if they had any ideas for the annual service, one of the girls said "Why don't we do it from the point of view of the animals who were present?" which I thought was a very good idea. The girl concerned wrote a delightful piece from the point of view of a mouse in the stable. The other children chose an animal and one boy wrote as if he were a camel talking to one of the other camels as they plodded along day after day. I cannot remember it word for word after many years but it was something along the lines of "What's all this about a star? Why do we have to follow it day after day? When are we going to stop? I'm so tired and my feet are killing me!". Yes, the congregation laughed, just as you have done reading this, but not unkindly; for that earthy "unexpected in a church service" remark made people think. When the congregation came out of church, that remark was still being discussed and made many realise that this was not just another story out of a book, but something real. They realised that the camel's innocent remark made them think about just how tired poor Mary must have been when she finally arrived, nine months pregnant and truly tired from all the journeying to get there.



Yes, it was definitely not your usual Nativity!

For Advent & Christmas

Shout for joy
the whole earth,
and everything within.
Rejoice!
For Light has come into the world



The mountains sing,
the seas resound
to the praise of your name.
Salvation
once promised is here on earth

The angels' song
rings in the air,
a child has been born.
Hallelujah!
The Saviour of the world is here!

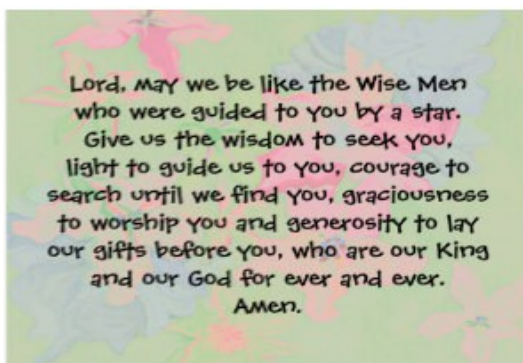
A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over
the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good
desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the
blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry
with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy
children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus'
sake.

Amen.



We pray for everyone gathering together with their families that they may enjoy a wonderful time together and amongst all the chaos of celebration, remember the true meaning of Christmas. We also pray for those who have no-one and we give thanks for shelters for the homeless, organisations such as Dorking Foodbank and Leatherhead Hostel and the many people who work on Christmas day to ensure that others are able to enjoy Christmas.

For those who are ill or suffering and those who are lonely. Please be with them in their times of pain and anxiety. We remember any that are known to you individually and all those who ask for our prayers on the prayer board.



We pray for our local community and pray that the Christmas cards delivered to every household are met with an open heart and the desire to join us at one or more of the services leading up to Christmas. We pray that we will make any newcomers that join us over the festive season feel welcome.

For Bob's daughter Sally Cranham working in the USA for Source and for the valuable work the charity does. We ask for God's blessing on Sally and all the people who work with her. We remember Compassion UK who work in Jesus' name to free children around the world from poverty. We remember all who work for the Church Mission Society around the world and remember our own Chris and Gwyneth who worked for them in the past and we give thanks for their Ministry on behalf of CMS.

We give thanks for our friends at St Margaret's, Ockley as we move towards unifying our two churches. We pray for God's guidance and blessing over the process and thank God for the joy of worshipping together in fellowship as we begin to get to know one another.



We give thanks for Joy and her team for another wonderful year of fundraising with the Church Teas. We pray that God will replenish their energy over the winter period before they begin another season of church teas.

For those mourning the loss of a loved one recently or marking the anniversary of their passing. At this time, we remember particularly Brian Cowlin, Fred Voice, Muriel Dale and all those who mourn their loss. We also remember our friend Duncan Jennings who died this year. We give thanks for all of their lives. Be with their families and friends Lord, and comfort them in their time of sorrow.



Christmas is all about giving and I have been heartened by the generosity of our congregation not only in money but in time as well. Without your regular donations of both St John the Baptist would not be able to function. Many people give the gift of time, whether it's baking cakes for the church teas, creating beautiful crafts, acting as churchwardens, writing articles for Inspire, singing in the choir, sitting on the PCC, the list goes on and on – to everyone a huge thank you. As a new member, I have been greatly impressed by the community spirit that this church embodies.

On behalf of the PCC and Reverend Liz I would also like to say a particular thank you to all those regular givers who support us either by standing order or the new Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which you will have heard all about in church at the end of November. Please do come and talk to me if you would like to know more. Regular giving allows us to plan ahead, buy the supplies for all the services, and maintain the church building and its environs. All of which inevitably costs more year on year. We currently operate at a deficit and whilst there are some reserves to cover it this year I am hoping to move to a position within two years where we will have a small surplus that we can apply to good causes. Your continuing support is all that is needed!

Have a lovely Christmas!

Debbie von Bergen

TWO APPEALS FROM DEBBIE!

Sponsorship for Inspire

I think it's generally agreed that everyone loves Inspire so a big thank you to Suzanne Cole who edits it each month. We would like to keep the magazine free and available to everyone who comes into church, but it does cost around £40 a month to produce.

Would you be able to sponsor a month? Perhaps yours or a loved one's birthday month? We can put a thank you and birthday wishes for the person concerned in large letters on the front page. Do contact Debbie or Suzanne if you would like to 'sponsor a month'.

APPEAL FOR OLD £1.00 COINS!

If you are anything like me you will have a pile of the now defunct £1 coins sitting at home waiting to take to the bank. Can I suggest a second use for them? Bring them to church and deposit them in our £1 coins for the Wall Fund jar. I will take them into the bank and let you know the total raised at the end of January 2018. This money will go towards the wall.

Just a thought ...

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a sunhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it."

by C.S.Lewis

Traidcraft in our Church

By Sue Partridge

I have been selling Traidcraft items in our church at regular intervals since July 2014. Traidcraft® is an organisation that helps to promote farmers in Africa and Asia by selling their products. Amongst their many products are beverages and edible items such as tea, coffee, chocolate, biscuits, dried fruit and rice. Not everyone may be aware that Traidcraft also sell household items 'Clean & Fair' which includes rubber gloves, kitchen rolls, toilet rolls and cleaning products. There are also beautifully crafted clothing items and bedding. The cotton duvets and garments are extremely soft and hardwearing.

I receive catalogues at Spring, Autumn and Christmas time. If any one would like one to browse through I can happily supply one. The farmers who produce the products are operating at subsistence levels, often in remote parts of their country and by supporting them it helps alleviate poverty and builds communities. I buy stock and sell it at a ten per cent mark up price. The profit I make goes back into our church. Currently I sell approximately £1,000 of Traidcraft items each year and this therefore means that I can give £100 to church. In the supermarkets such as Marks and Spencer, Waitrose and I think Tesco's Fairtrade products can be seen. These are not the same as **Traidcraft®**. Sainsburys is now trying to produce their own label of 'fairly traded' goods. This undermines the work of Traidcraft. Sadly, it supports power at the top of such large organisations and takes control away from the local farmer. Traidcraft is a charity but is involved in the political campaign to bring fairer trade and justice in the world. I would like to thank everyone in Capel who buys their Traidcraft products from me!

For more information:- [www.traidcraft.co.uk/contact us.](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/contact-us) OR find them on Facebook and Twitter.

Below is a small selection of items in the Christmas brochure available to buy! Please see Sue if you wish to order anything in time for Christmas—thank you.



From Left to right:

Mini Nativity made in Peru £7.50

Christmas Cake in tin £12.99

Ladies Christmas novelty socks
£5.90 Mix of organic cotton and bamboo.



More Traidcraft items

Ladies Kimono
made by Creative Handcrafts based in Mumbai

£25.00



Thank you for your continued prayers.

This month saw the anniversary of 30 years of Source and we celebrated by hosting our annual Gala. It was a night of memories and looking forward with new vision, especially for the anti-trafficking Purple Light Project coming up around the Super Bowl next February. The night was also a difficult one for many who have been long time supporters of Source and know the director and his family. Peter has stage 4 cancer and the prognosis is not getting any better. I know that I have mentioned this before and I ask you to please continue in prayers for them as a family and for the wider community. I wrote a song for the gala and was able to minister through music into all that was going on in the room that night. It was an honour to be able to do this. There is a video of me singing at the Gala here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSUINSsxs-Y>

Last week I attended a very intense training day around the language and fundamentals of sex trafficking. The stories shared were very deep and sensitive and I was left feeling very open and compassionate in the midst of a few tears. I was glad to have some in-depth training and to join with others who would like to volunteer at Source.

We are still praying for our first resident since the big renovation and trust God's timing and hand in this.

I am working for Source in their social media output and am working on getting their blogs up and running. I have been enjoying this work.

I would appreciate your prayers as winter sets in here. We have already had temperatures as low as -11c and a couple of snow flurries. I am so thankful for the apartment I am living in, it is warm and on the 1st floor. Temperatures will dip to as low as -30c and the nights are getting darker too. I'm praying for good health and ways of learning how to make the most of these winter months. I continue to pray for a car and I am thankful to be able to borrow a friend's while she is away for 10 days.

Soon I will be starting to lead a small bible study after our community meals on Wednesday nights. Please pray that as I work with other members of the team that this work will be fruitful and encouraging.

Thank you again for your prayer filled support. Many blessings to you all there.

Sally Cranham

Something to make you smile

Where's the baby?

For weeks, as Christmas approached, a six-year old lad kept telling his nursery teacher about the baby brother that was also soon expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he immediately stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

As the school was about to close for Christmas, the teacher finally sat the boy down and gently asked, 'Whatever has become of that baby brother you were expecting at home?' The child burst into tears and confessed, 'I think Mummy ate it!'



My thanks to Jessie Sutcliffe for bringing this marvellous letter to my attention. It seems fitting to share it with you in the month when we celebrate our Father's great gift to us of his Son at Christmas.

An intimate message from God to you.

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you

would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20

For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that

I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15 My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

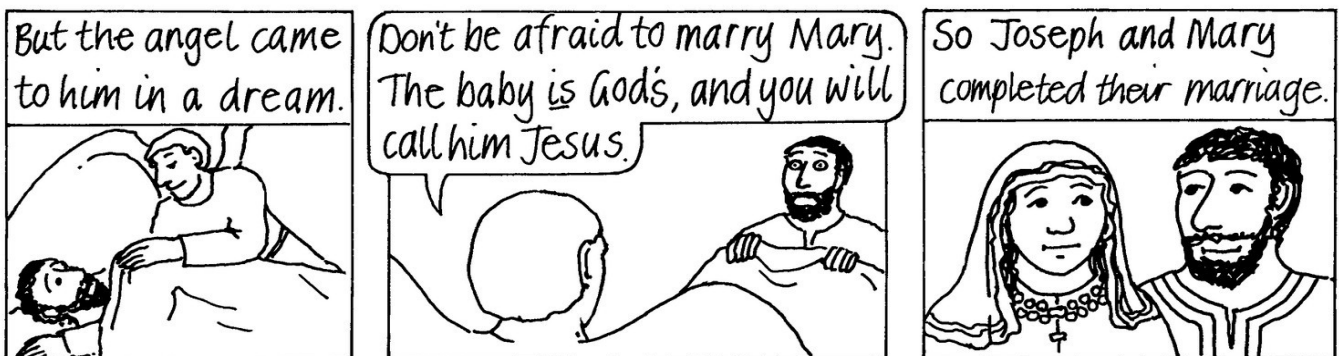
InSpire for our Younger Readers

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 1:26-56 & Matthew 1:18-25

In Israel, about 2000 years ago, a young woman, Mary, was going to marry Joseph. The weddings were in two stages.



A Saviour is born!

Colour in one star
a day as you
countdown to
Christmas

Read the
Christmas
story in
Luke 1 and 2



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

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
 HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
 SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
 GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
 PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

We are delighted to be able to advertise the following events in Ockley, to which we are all warmly invited.



The Pavilion Café at Ockley

In September, we celebrated 5 years since opening and we are delighted that the café is as popular as ever! Although the core team has changed over the years, we still have a very dedicated group who spend time baking cakes, biscuits, buns and savouries. For this reason we are very grateful for the generous support of all who come to the café, whether it's every week or just every now and then.

Coffee Fellowship

This year we have donated to Macmillan, The Children's Trust at Tadworth, Ockley and Forest Green Village Halls, the Wasp Bus, Christian Aid, Embrace the Middle East and our parish churches.

So do keep coming, bring your friends and don't forget that we serve bacon butties on the last Wednesday of every month.

The Kindred Spirits Women's Ministry

Kindred Spirits Women's Ministry warmly invite you to

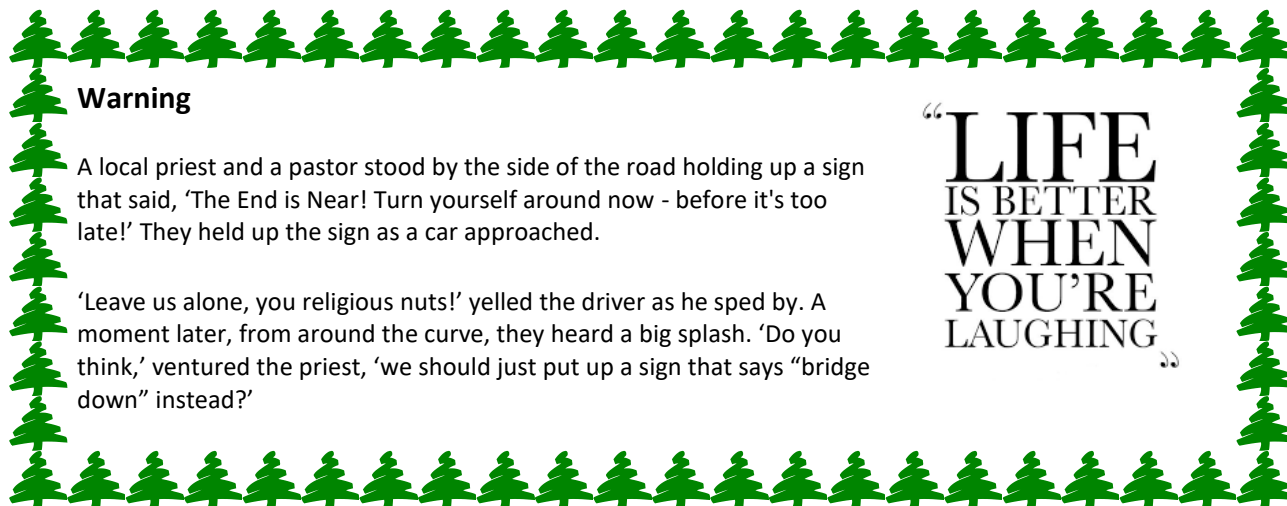
Women's Breakfasts

Dates for 2018
 Saturday 6th January
 Saturday 2nd June
 Saturday 4th August
 Saturday 3rd November



All starting at 8.45am in the Cricket Pavilion, Ockley.

There will be a joint breakfast with the men's group in March, date tbc



Warning

A local priest and a pastor stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, 'The End is Near! Turn yourself around now - before it's too late!' They held up the sign as a car approached.

'Leave us alone, you religious nuts!' yelled the driver as he sped by. A moment later, from around the curve, they heard a big splash. 'Do you think,' ventured the priest, 'we should just put up a sign that says "bridge down" instead?'

“LIFE IS BETTER WHEN YOU'RE LAUGHING”

Coming to Capel on 8th February 2018!



This will be an excellent night of fun and fundraising! Good food accompanied by comedy and at the heart of it, Compassion UK will be telling everyone about what they do ...

"We're passionate about protecting and empowering every child left vulnerable by poverty. Our world-class one-to-one model means we can't do it without you."

Independent research shows that if you sponsor a child with Compassion, they are more likely to be employed and be a community leader when they grow up."

To learn more about Compassion UK logon to <https://www.compassionuk.org/>

Editor's Note: You will see from my letter on Page 6 that Rev Liz and I were inspired at Sandown Park to sponsor a child each. We learned a lot about Compassion UK's work to release children from poverty around the world in Jesus' name.

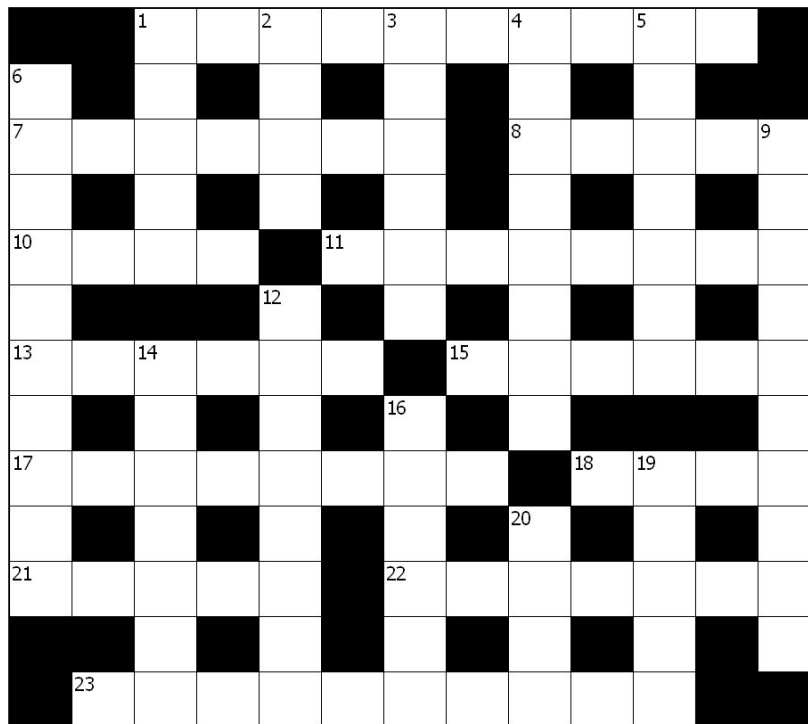
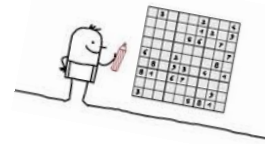


Christmas presents

Catching her in the act, I confronted our three-year-old granddaughter. 'Are you opening your little sister's presents?' I demanded. 'No,' she innocently replied, 'I'm just helping her learn to share.'

Camels

In a little girl's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a huge star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. 'Why is the third man going in a different direction?' her mother asked. She replied, 'Oh, he's looking for a place to park.'



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

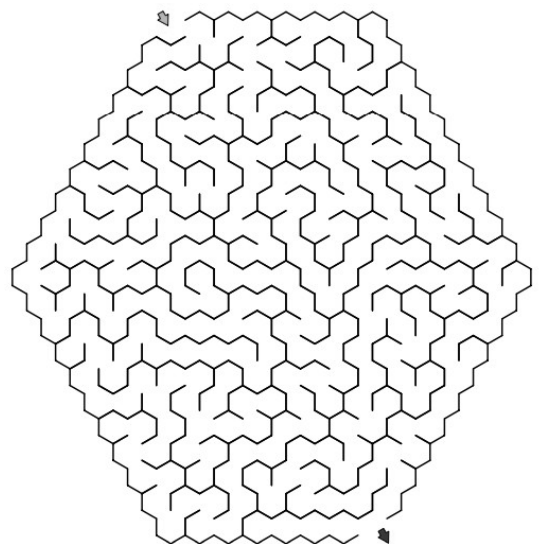
- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of 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)

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

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SUDOKU
Solution on back page

Can you make your way out of the maze, starting at the top left corner? Good luck!



6 December How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time, and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone. In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas. It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets. So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt. These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



Christmas: Was Jesus really born on 25th December?

Almost certainly not. But the story of how that date came to be chosen as his 'birthday' is one that stretches back long before his birth. It seems to have started on the Greek island of Rhodes in 283 BC. That year the solstice fell on 25th December, and it was also the year that the Ancient World's largest Sun God stature – the 34 metre, 200 tonne Colossus of Rhodes, was consecrated. By 46 BC, Julius Caesar had made 25th December the official winter solstice. In AD 274, the Roman Emperor Aureilian chose the winter solstice to be the birthday of the Sun God. He also decreed that *Sol Invictus* (the unconquered sun) was 'Lord of the Roman Empire'.

Fifty years after that, and Constantine had become the first pro-Christian Roman Emperor. He wanted the Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on 25th December. Perhaps it was that to him, Jesus was more or less the same person as the mighty Sun God. Or perhaps he felt that the ancient sun god's association with goodness, light, warmth and life would help ease the people's transition from paganism to Christianity. Whatever the reason, the Church went along with it, and chose 25th December to be the date of Christmas. And in an ancient mosaic in the crypt of St Peter's Cathedral, Jesus is portrayed as adorned with sun rays and riding in a chariot – just like *Sol Invictus*. As for the huge, bronze 200 tonne *Sol Invictus*? He fell over during an earthquake, and was sold off for scrap metal in 654AD by an enterprising Arab scrap merchant. Meanwhile, Jesus lives on...

As we come to the end of the first year of producing **InSpire**, our monthly church publication, we would like to know more about whether we are getting it right or if there are more things you would like to see? Rev Liz and I want the publication to remain Free of charge as it is used as an outreach tool. Also, this is to remain a faith based publication, not a general community one currently, as it could potentially clash with our local magazine which already serves to give us lots of local information about our community.

Cost: This month's colour edition is the Editor's Christmas present to you! The difference in printing costs has been met by the Editor this month as a 'colourful' gift to the Readers and we hope you enjoy it! The normal format of 'auto colour' is colour on the front cover only. Current costs for 40-50 copies are approximately £40-£50. We are keen to avoid advertising if we can, unless it fitted in with our faith based ethos? Can you think of a way to fund InSpire as we go forwards into 2018? Debbie our Treasurer has a good suggestion of sponsoring an issue each year—either for your own birthday month or for a loved one's birthday or maybe another special occasion? We would happily mention the generous sponsor (if they wished) and mark the occasion with a suitable greeting in the magazine! However, if they wished to remain anonymous, we would of course respect their wishes.

Monthly? Are you enjoying it as a monthly format? There is enough to fill a magazine every month with our notices for church services, events that are happening etc. Also, the website used for a lot of the content produces it as a monthly format, which is very helpful. We are subscribed to them for a year currently at a cost of £40.00, which is very reasonable considering the amount of content on offer.

Please circle the following as appropriate:-

Do you like the content?	Yes	No	Don't mind
Do you enjoy the puzzles?	Yes	No	Don't mind
Would you like more contributors? (This is dependent on more volunteers wishing to contribute!)	Yes	No	Don't mind
Do you want more or less news from The Diocese and/or The Church of England? * Currently it is an occasional feature	Occasional (currently)	More often	Don't mind
Do you like it as a monthly format or would you prefer it bi-monthly or quarterly?	Monthly	Bi-monthly	Quarterly
Would you be prepared to contribute occasionally or regularly?	Yes	No	Don't know
Would you like to sponsor a month's edition of InSpire at an approximate cost of £40/£50?	Yes	No	

Any other comments? (including possible alternative funding of InSpire)

Name: **Tel:** **Email:**

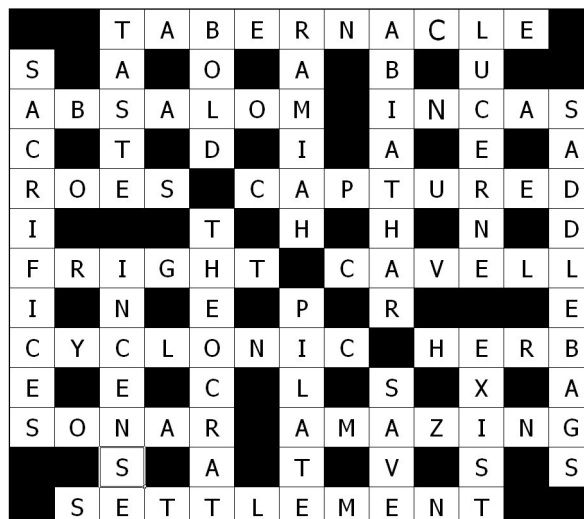
Once you have completed this form, please either email it to Suzanne at slc@ansford.me.uk or pop your completed form in a box that I will place on the table just inside church where all the leaflets are. Thank you for taking the time to read this and pass on your thoughts. We will try and incorporate everyone's thoughts and wishes wherever possible. THANK YOU! **Suzanne, The Editor** **December 2017**

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar.

22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.



Sudoku Solution Puzzle on page 21

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



The Church roof was a matter of urgent concern

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole
editor@stjohnthebaptistcapel.org.uk **By 20th of each month please.**

If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, you can subscribe to InSpire via the church website:-
www.capel-church.org.uk

Any queries, please do contact me either by email or phone: 01306 711449. Thank you The Editor