

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley
Free of charge - donations welcome



Wishing our
readers a very
Happy Christmas

INSPIRE

Issue 67
December 2022

*Sunday
11th Dec
10.30am*

Café Church

St. John the Baptist
The Street
Capel

Instant Nativity!

*The Christmas Story ~
told as never before.....*

A Band ~ Coffee ~ Fun ~ Mince pies ~ CHAOS!
A Special Family Service ~ everyone is welcome









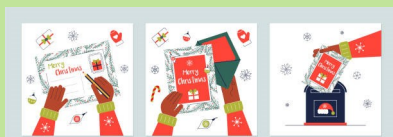
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Issue 67 December 2022

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Post those cards on time! Final posting dates for the UK this Christmas are as follows:

Monday 19th December: 2nd Class

Wednesday 21st December: 1st Class

Thursday 22nd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed & Royal Mail Tracked 24

Friday 23rd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed with Saturday Guarantee

Don't forget to take into account the strikes planned by Royal Mail.

Don't want a paper copy ...

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www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

This issue is kindly sponsored by

Anthea & Alan Smallwood

We thank them both for their support of this magazine and for all the roles they play in the life of our church and community.

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Dear Friends,

Is it really December again? So soon!! Winter is here. Did you know that in Finland they begin preparing for winter in July. Winter arrives very suddenly and nearly half the year is spent below zero getting down to minus 10. Summer temperatures can shoot up towards 30. Very extreme then so you need to prepare for that kind of winter. I have been reading a beautiful book called 'Wintering' by Katherine May which explores the power and rest of retreat during difficult times. I thought it might be useful as we continue to live through difficult times economically which can affect all our lives at one level or another. Katherine May explains in her book that 'wintering' can happen at any time of the year though and describes it as a season in the cold, a fallow period in life when you're cut off from the world, feeling rejected, sidelined, blocked from progress or cast into the role of an outsider. It can result from illness, a life event, a period of transition or anything which feels like you have temporarily fallen between two worlds. Wintering can creep up slowly or come upon us suddenly. Interesting stuff! When we know winter is coming we can prepare like the people of Finland and no doubt all the others countries in the top of the Northern hemisphere. I guess we know winter is coming and is here, although outside temperatures as I write are pretty mild still. So I wonder how can we prepare? My son recently alarmed me by going through our outgoings at home and has already saved us a considerable amount of money on things we can certainly do without. It was a bit like one of those money saving programmes or like 'Eat Well for Less', but more painful as I faced the realisation that I have wasted money! I am so aware though that for some in our community there isn't even that option - that there is no money to waste....



Luke 2:14

To that end at church we try to assist those in need through various means and not just at Christmas. I am an agent for Dorking Foodbank and so can authorise vouchers - just give me a ring 01306 711260 or email me on liz@hostmyserver.co.uk. If you have never used a food bank they are amazing places and will provide you with much needed stores for your cupboards. Likewise those who are better off can and do donate goods to the Foodbank and you will find a collection box inside Capel Church for this and for the Leatherhead Start scheme. Donations are currently down which is of course a sign of the times, but lets hope we can do something about this.

At church this month we prepare for the birth of Jesus the Saviour of the world. Named Emmanuel, God with us. God with us, literally, as we travel through the seasons of our lives whether it be spring, summer, autumn, or winter. That first Christmas was full of such seasons - joy but sorrow too. You may think you know the story inside out, but why not come along to one of our Advent and Christmas services to discover something new! In the meantime I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

As always my love and prayers,

Revd Liz



Revd Liz Richardson

liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

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Vicar St John the Baptist Capel and St Margaret's Ockley

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley **DECEMBER 2022**

December

Saturday	3rd	Community Christmas Trees and Carol Singing Events
	9.00am	Decorating of Capel Christmas Trees
	5.00pm	CAPEL Grand switch on of lights with carol singing
	5.30pm	OCKLEY Carols on the Green, lighting of the tree and Father Christmas
SUNDAY	4th	Second Sunday of Advent
	9.30am	Matins at Ockley St Margaret's
	10.30am	Family Communion at Capel St John's
	4.00pm	Christingle service in Ockley Cricket Pavilion
SUNDAY	11th	Third Sunday of Advent
	9.30am	Holy Communion CW at Ockley
	10.30am	Christmas Cafe Church with Instant Nativity at Capel
		For all the family, the Band will play, songs and carols will be sung, and all are welcome to take part in our 'Instant Nativity'!
SUNDAY	18th	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	9.30am	Matins with Holy Baptism at Ockley St Margaret's
	10.30am	Family Communion at Capel St John's
	6.00pm	Traditional Nine lessons and carols at St John the Baptist Capel
SATURDAY	24th	Christmas Eve at St John the Baptist Capel
	4.00pm	Crib Service - Christmas begins...
	<u>11.00pm</u>	Holy Communion - the 1st of Christmas - <i>please note start time.</i>
SUNDAY	25th	Christmas Day
	9.30am	Christmas Day Celebration with Holy Communion
	10.30am	Christmas Day celebration with Holy Communion

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	1st	New Years Day and Second Sunday of Christmas
	9.30am	Matins at Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion at Capel

Please note: CW - service is from Common Worship 2005

Guidelines for your safety and comfort in church

At both churches the wearing of masks inside places of worship is encouraged.

Hand sanitiser will be available for use by the entrance door.

Holy Communion is given in both kinds and the consecrated wine will be served in individual glasses whilst we are still at risk from the pandemic.



Don't forget up to date on all Services and events can be found on our Parish website

Services & Events on website: <https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/>



What's all this Christmas thing about, then?

Ho, Ho, Humbug! What's all this Christmas thing about, then? Has it ever occurred to you that Churches the world over will be full this December with people celebrating something that isn't in the bible? That's right, Christmas isn't mentioned once in the bible. And it gets worse! Jesus was not actually born on 25th December and not exactly 2022 years ago. And if Jesus was born in December then there would not have been shepherds out "tending their flocks by night" because it would have been too cold!

The 25th December was chosen because it was the date that had been used for years for the pagan feast for the birthday of the sun, Saturnalia during which work and business came to a halt. Schools and courts of law closed, and the normal social patterns were suspended. People decorated their homes with wreaths and other greenery, and shed their traditional togas in favour of colourful clothes. Instead of working, Romans spent Saturnalia singing, playing music, feasting, socializing and giving each other gifts. Hmmm....not so different from the Christmas celebrations that replaced it!

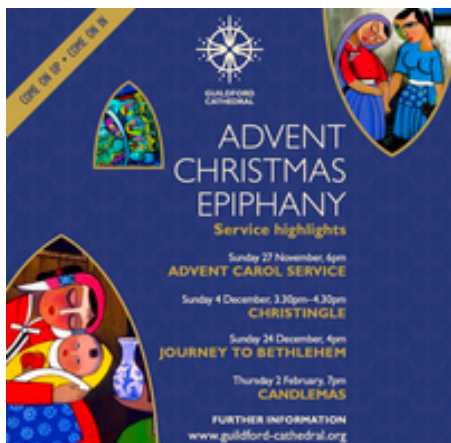
It might surprise you to know that the first celebration of Christmas was not recorded until 336AD in Rome - and it doesn't get a mention in England until 1038! In fact, many of the traditions that we associate with Christmas (trees, turkey, cards, Father Christmas in a bright red coat) only date back a couple of hundred years at most - not 2,000 years to the birth of Christ. To summarise, our traditional English Christmas is based on the wrong date for a thing that isn't in the bible that wasn't celebrated until 300 years after the date it didn't happen on and then replaced a debauched pagan feast with something that looked exactly the same which the British got hold of 700 years after the Romans (yes, and what else have the Romans ever done for us?) which has come to include the dressing of a tree just like the pagans did and the annual visit of a flying fat man who is largely the invention of the American advertising industry!

So, I come back to my original statement. What's all this Christmas thing about, then?!?!?!

I'll tell you - it's *brilliant*! "How can all that be brilliant?", I hear you say. Because, in spite of everything that mankind has done over the years to mess around with dates and divert attention away from the incarnation of Christ, we *still* make it an absolute priority every year to remember that God made good on the His promises and prophecies throughout the Old Testament to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to be born as a baby; to live as a man; to show the world what God the father is like; to be the human embodiment of God's grace; to die in disgrace so that He could be raised again in glory; to go back to the Father who sent him in order to intercede for us when we come to God in prayer and confession and finally to leave behind His Holy Spirit who is active to this day as our guide and comforter. That's what Christmas is all about! It's the biggest, most important thing that ever happened - just not on 25th December.....

Café Church meets at St. John's, Capel on Sunday Dec 11th at 10.30am for a special **Instant Nativity**. Expect free coffee and mince pies, a band, plenty of noisy carols, the Christmas story told in an utterly unique and somewhat chaotic way! Fun for all the family.....

Bob Cranham



Advent at Guildford Cathedral

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 27 November, and our special Christmas Art Exhibition: The Prince of Peace opens. Running until the 2 February, this amazing artwork created by Diocesan Schools, references Jesus as we await his arrival during Advent, celebrates his birth at Christmas and marks his presentation in the temple on Candlemas, is a lovely way to begin Advent.

Also, at 6pm is our Advent Carol Service. In this service, we look forward to the coming of Jesus as Saviour of the world in music and readings.

For information on all our Christmas services, please visit our [website](https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/)

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/>

The Pavilion Café

We are open every Wednesday morning from 9am to 12 o'clock in the Cricket Pavilion on the green in Ockley.

We serve homemade cakes and savouries and offer a range of teas and fresh coffee. On the last Wednesday of the month we also serve bacon butties which are very popular.

We ask for donations and, after expenses, the money goes to charity. We like to donate to our local churches, local amenities and charities and also national ones.

We have become very popular over the years and there is plenty of parking and disabled access to the building.



NEWS from the Pews

Thank you to everyone who came!

A BIG thank you to our wonderful volunteers, many of whom gave up their entire Saturday to help! We had a wonderful day and raised approximately £1,600 after expenses. This means we will be donating approximately £800 to The Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND) and £800 to our Parish Churches. This figure is approximately half of what was raised last year, but I think it is a clear sign of the current economic climate and the need for many people to be careful how and where they spend their money.



Thank you for your support!
Suzanne Cole

Donations for Hampers

Thanks to Leigh de Souza and Eric & Jessie Sutcliffe for sorting the hampers from church for local families this year. I believe that most of the hampers are covered but whatever comes in over and above will go to children's social service in Redhill. So if you are able to give any of the following they will be put to good use: Christmas cakes and crackers, chocolates, sweets, biscuits, cordial, puddings, shelf cream, custards.

Also, there is still a great need for donations to our local Foodbank. There are suggested goods in church which include: tinned food, pasta, rice, longlife goods, laundry powder/capsules, pet food, sanitary goods and toiletries.

I'm sorry I don't have the comprehensive list as I write this!

The Editor

Church Mailing List

Do you know of anyone who would like to be added to the Church mailing list? This would ensure they received the weekly notice sheets and readings, amongst other things.

If so, please get in touch with **Dineke van den Bogerd:**

editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

We must have their permission before adding them to the list. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding Officer:

Leigh Smith 07732825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260
liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

This notice will appear each month in InSpire and the contact details for our Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor Jackie Broadfoot will be published in our weekly pew sheets as well as in the Church Contacts section in each issue of Inspire.

Don't forget to recycle your

STAMPS AND OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Don't forget that you can drop off your used printer cartridges in the box in the church porch at Capel. These are sent to a recycling firm who give a small amount towards our church funds.

Also, don't forget to keep bringing your used stamps to church - again a box is in the porch at Capel.

Thank you

Book Reviews

The Money Mentor – getting to grips with your finances

By Ash Carter, 10Publishing, £3.99

Have you ever wished that you could manage your money better? This book looks at our daily financial decisions and shows us how such decisions can best serve God's greater purposes.

The book offers a godly yet simple model of Christian money management that you can adapt for your own purposes, an accessible, step-by-step guide to establishing good practices. Whether you have lots of money, or lots of debt, this book may help you.

Bethlehem Bound – journeying with the characters of Christmas

By Andrew Nunn, Canterbury Press, £10.99

This is a daily spiritual travel companion for the season, beginning with the great Advent antiphons that herald the feast, and ending with the Presentation in the Temple. Each day it travels with a different character from scripture and the Christian tradition - Jesse, Anna, Gabriel, the donkey, the innkeeper and his wife, the shepherds, the martyrs we commemorate at Christmas and many more.

The journey had its challenges for the original characters, and it will for us, but at its end is a wondrous gift from God - God's own self in a baby laid in a manger. *Bethlehem Bound* invites us to embrace that gift afresh.

Companions on the Bethlehem Road

By Rachel Boulding, BRF, £14.99

This book of daily Bible readings and reflections for Advent and Christmas is based around spiritual insights gleaned from some of the best-loved poets of the past – T.S. Eliot, George Herbert, Tennyson and Auden, among others.

While they come from different ages and backgrounds, these writers wrestled with the same questions that we do, about God, love, hope, and suffering. This book is not a literary study of their work, but a quest to see what they can tell us about life and faith today.

The poems are quoted in short sections, with suggestions about what they might mean for us now. While we can glimpse only part of the picture of God's love for us, it often seems that, in poetry, our deepest yearnings can come to the surface.

As we travel the road to Christmas in the company of these great poets, we may find our minds enlarged and our hearts touched with something of the wonder and joy of this special season.

Act Justly – practices to reshape the world

By Samuel Wells, Canterbury Press, £14.99

Act Justly is the final book in the trilogy begun by *Walk Humbly* and *Love Mercy*, together forming an introduction to Christian faith and life.

Taking their inspiration from a question posed in the Old Testament, 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God', each book in the series offers a practical ethic for living that is rooted in timeless wisdom.

Focusing on two of the most outstanding justice issues of our day - racial and climate injustice - as well as individual stories of injustice, *Act Justly* offers practical ways of thinking about justice and cultivating habits of justice to foster the life of God, so that injustice can be challenged and the world can be changed.



NEWS

New £15 million fund to help churches with energy bills

The Church of England is to provide £15 million for dioceses to help churches struggling to pay their energy costs.

The Energy Costs Grant will be distributed to dioceses to enable them to help Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) cover the increased cost of heating and lighting church buildings this winter.

Dioceses will also be able to use some of their fund allocation to make additional targeted hardship payments for clergy and other employed ministers to cover household bills, in particular energy costs.

The new funding comes after £3 million was made available earlier this year by the Church of England for dioceses to distribute to clergy and lay ministers who are facing a particular hardship because of the cost-of-living crisis.

The Energy Costs Grant is accompanied by information aimed at helping churches to become more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

John Spence, Chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, said: "The Government has announced welcome support for non-domestic energy users including voluntary sector organisations such as PCCs.

"But, in spite of this, our churches still face the challenge of significant rises in their energy bills over this winter, and that is why we are announcing the Energy Costs Grant which will be in addition to Government support. We will keep the situation under close review throughout the winter."

Call for benefits to rise in line with prices

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Canon Graham Thompson, has joined a call for the Government to affirm its commitment to ensuring benefits rise in line with inflation.

Along with the Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church, and the Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain, he points out:

"The social security system should prevent families from being pushed into hardship, yet foodbanks are facing rapidly rising demand and almost half of claimants receiving Universal Credit report skipping meals to make ends meet.

"The value of benefits has declined for the last decade and already an average family of four relying on Universal Credit will be £1,400 worse off this winter than last – despite the interventions already put in place. Against this background it would be outrageous to erode benefits further."

Youthscape charity to work with parishes on reaching young people

The Church of England is to work with a youth charity to equip parishes to reach more young people with the Christian message.

A £1.29 million grant from the Archbishops' Council will fund work led by Youthscape to help parishes connect with young people and recruit and train church volunteers for youth work.

The Launchpad scheme, run by Youthscape, has already been successfully piloted in the Dioceses of Blackburn, London and St Albans. So far, the scheme has helped 140 Church of England priests to formulate plans to work with young people in their parishes.

Under the new funding arrangements, the scheme will be expanded to 450 churches across 18 dioceses over the next three years with the potential to engage with up to 4,000 young people.

The grant will also fund training produced by Youthscape for up to 2,500 church volunteers to do youth work and resources to support youth work in up to 2,000 churches or groups.

Church leaders in Ukraine continue to protest against Russia

The leaders of Churches in Ukraine have urged Christian leaders in the West to help to try and persuade Russia to comply with humanitarian standards of behaviour, and to stop indiscriminately attacking civilians and torturing prisoners and deportees.

The All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations has said “the Russian Federation has significantly stepped-up acts of terror and genocide, using a wide arsenal of missile armaments.” They go on: “Russian officials do not hide their criminal desire to destroy the vital infrastructure of Ukrainian cities on the eve of cold winter in order to destabilise the socio-political situation, to sow fear and panic...”

The Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I has told a Roman Catholic news agency that he has made “heated and fraternal appeal” to Russia’s Patriarch Kirill to distance himself from Moscow’s aggression and “unjustified bloodshed”.

However, preaching recently in Nizhny Novgorod, Patriarch Kirill assured Russian troops that they would be protected by the Virgin Mary and St Seraphim of Sarov (1754-1833) in vanquishing “forces of evil” and those who had “taken up arms against Holy Russia.”

The Primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk and the head of Ukraine’s independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko) have also voiced their opposition to the Russian Orthodox Church’s position.

Russia’s suspension of Black Sea grain deal a “body blow” to world’s poorest, Christian Aid says

International development agency Christian Aid has urged all parties to the Black Sea grain deal, which would allow the export of Ukrainian agricultural products to world markets, to persuade Russia to end its unilateral suspension.

Elizabeth Hallinan, Christian Aid's Global Crisis Contexts Lead, said:

“Any interruption to grain exports is a body blow to countries already reeling from spiralling energy and food prices. Russia's unilateral suspension will only push more people to starvation. It is critical that all parties keep talking to find a way for grain to reach countries desperate to feed their people.”

First sermon in British Sign Language at St Paul’s Cathedral

A Baptist minister, the Revd Sue Whalley, has recently delivered the first ever known sermon in British Sign Language (BSL) at St Paul's Cathedral.

The invitation grew out of a meeting in London between Deaf Church Leaders and Church of England Clergy. Building on the momentum of the BSL Act last April (when British Sign Language was accepted as an official language in England and Wales), it was suggested that a Deaf person preach at St Paul’s Cathedral.

A maximum of 30 Deaf people were expected to attend alongside the hearing visitors to the cathedral. But instead, 60-70 Deaf people turned up, “highlighting the importance and significance of the event.”



Prayer

Editor: Rev Liz wanted to share this with you all following a special Deanery synod meeting recently. The objective of the evening was to encourage one another in the prayer life of our churches. Three reflections were given (as summarised below), with each being followed by a time of discussion in small groups.

Liturgical prayer (Peter Nevins)

Liturgical prayer has been a part of the prayer life of the Church since its deepest foundations even beyond Pentecost and even all the way back to the Exodus. From the hymns in St. Paul's letters, to the Lord's Prayer, to the Psalms, God's People have joined their hearts, minds and mouths to those of our spiritual family for millennia.

Today, when we do the same, our participation in liturgical prayer accomplishes several things.

First, as mentioned above, it unites our own hearts, minds and mouths to the whole Communion of Saints, with whom we belong.

Secondly, it equips us when we are not sure exactly how to pray or what to pray. It gives us words when we have none of our own.

In so doing, thirdly, it teaches and trains us in how to pray. It gives us rhythms and vocabulary that help and resource us as we venture into extemporaneous prayer, sharing own thoughts, praises, cares and feelings with God and each other in prayer.

Lastly, it holds us accountable. It gives us rhythms and truth within which we might be able to understand and perhaps even correct our own lives of personal and corporate prayer. It protects us from personalising our personal and shared faith.

Extemporaneous prayer (Graham Everness)

The dictionary definition of the word 'extemporaneous' ("on the spur of the moment, without preparation, suddenly") might not seem to portray a very attractive view of 'extemporaneous prayer'. But if we were to describe this type of prayer (by way of contrast with 'liturgical prayer') as "words put together in the moment", what are its particular 'benefits'?

First, it captures the precise (sometimes urgent) circumstances – a good example being the prayer of Abraham's servant in Genesis 24:12-14. Such specific, 'in the moment' prayers can be very simple, but can also be richly-worded and become the basis for future liturgical prayers – for example, the Magnificat (which, while 'extemporaneous', itself drew on an Old Testament prayer, that of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2).

Secondly, we would not normally feel the need to script our conversations with family and friends! And God is our Father and our Friend, even if we must also acknowledge him as 'other'. (Exodus 33:18 and Genesis 18:22-33 are two good illustrations of this.)

What, though, makes it difficult for us to pray in this 'one-to-one' manner? It's because it's contrary to our sinful human nature (John 3:6), and only possible through the Holy Spirit (John 4:24). But that doesn't mean it is only for the 'super-spiritual' – *all* Christians have been given the Holy Spirit, and so we can all participate with Him as we "pray with both our spirit and our mind" (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Contemplative prayer (Kia Pakenham)

The practice of contemplation is simply the desire to sit in the presence of God, to meet with Jesus at a deep level, to connect with the Holy Spirit and to dwell among the Trinity. To let it mould and shape us into the people we are designed to be. It is an act of deep and profound surrender to a power greater than us. It is offering up our wills and our lives so that they may be brought into line with that of God. It is experience.

An experience of knowing that we are completely loved, completely accepted and pursued by our loving Father.

Contd on page 13

The previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams told the Synod of Catholic Bishops in Rome:

“Contemplation is very far from being just one kind of thing that Christians do: it is the key to prayer, liturgy, art and ethics, the key to the essence of a renewed humanity that is capable of seeing the world and other subjects in the world with freedom – freedom from self-orientated, acquisitive habits and the distorted understanding that comes from them. To put it boldly, contemplation is the only ultimate answer to the unreal and insane world that our financial systems and our advertising culture and our chaotic and unexamined emotions encourage us to inhabit. To learn contemplative practice is to learn to live truthfully and honestly and lovingly. It is a deeply revolutionary matter.”

So that’s the background. But how does it work (I hear you ask)? What do I have to **do**?

Contemplation means being silent. And that can initially be daunting, scary and feel like a waste of time. But bear with it!

Being still, being silent, means stopping. Being busy isn’t just an act of physical exertion – rushing from one demand to another – being mentally busy can be even more exhausting.

In this sacred space I can remember who I am in Christ. I can look at my life, count my blessings and be grateful.

I find it a relief not to have to find the words to communicate with God. The relief of just sitting in his presence can be overwhelming. This place of rest is where I long to operate from. It is a place without expectation. Without expectation of me or God. I don’t come to gain wisdom or receive grand visions, it is a place to come as I am – with all that I am and with all that I am not. It is a place of humble access, where paradoxically, I can be and know that I am nothing but yet I am everything.

There is much written about different types of silence by, amongst others, Richard Rohr, Thomas Keating, Thomas Merton and Cynthia Bourgeault, and there is much to learn and practise, but ultimately in its essence it is simple:

Be still and know that I am God.

Conclusion

Peter Nevins briefly summarised the evening, stressing that “we pray in order to pray, not for some other purpose” and that “we learn by doing”.



Laurence Binyon

Again on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday this year we heard Laurence Binyon's words recited from 'For the Fallen'. The Great War started on 28th July 1914 and Binyon wrote his poem on the Cornish coast at either Polzeath or Portreath later that year reflecting the high number of casualties from the British Expeditionary Force. It was published in The Times on 21st September following the Battle of the Marne where Britain had suffered approximately 15 thousand casualties.

He was born on 10th August 1869 in Lancaster and was the second of nine children born to priest Frederick and Mary Binyon. His family were Quakers, and he attended St. Paul's School, London, and Trinity College, Oxford. He studied Classics and was awarded the Newdigate Prize for poetry. Art and poetry became his life.

He worked most of his life at the British Museum where he worked with books, prints and drawings. He published his first book of poetry in 1894 followed by two books on painting by 1897. He moved between departments at the museum as his career progressed and later he concentrated on Japanese, Indian and Chinese art and culture, and was considered by Esra Pound to be a pioneer in the Western appreciation of such art.

In 1904 he married fellow historian Cicely Powell, and they had three daughters. Prior to the First World War his reputation as a poet grew that on the death of the Poet Laureate Alfred Austin in 1913, Binyon was thought likely to succeed. Eventually the post was taken by Robert Bridges.

Binyon was too old to be called up to serve, and to do so would have conflicted with his Quaker roots, but in 1915 he volunteered to serve at a British hospital for French soldiers in France. He returned the following year caring for soldiers taken from the Verdun battlefield. He later wrote about his experiences in For Dauntless France (1918) and his poems, "Fetching the Wounded" and "The Distant Guns".

For the Fallen's message is about the sacrifice that the men are making for England. The 'Flesh of her flesh', in the first verse is an illusion to Adam in Genesis saying: 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' And is similar to Rupert Brooke in 'The Soldier' saying that the men are 'forever England'. In the second verse the 'immortal spheres' and 'music in the midst of desolation' suggest a solar system moving in harmony on a metaphysical plane, whilst the famous line 'Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn', harks back to Shakespeare's description of Cleopatra: 'Age shall not wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety.' 'For the Fallen' was set with two of his other poems by Sir Edward Elgar in his choral work, 'The Spirit of England'.

In 1933, Binyon retired from the British Museum and was appointed Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard, and then as Byron Professor of English Literature at University of Athens. With Esra Pound he translated Dante's Divine Comedy into English and it became the standard translation for over 40 years. He continued to write poetry during the Second World War, and was working on an Arthurian trilogy when he died in Reading, on 10th March 1943 at the age of 73, after an operation.

He is commemorated among 16 Great War poets in Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner.

Written by Stuart Cole

For the Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

High Days & Holy Days

3rd December: Birinus, an apostle to the English

Thousands of our churches are currently involved in various mission initiatives across the UK. If it is tough going at times, we should spare a thought for poor Birinus, a priest from Lombard, who was sent here on his own 14 centuries ago. Pope Honorius I gave him the daunting task of being the apostle to Wessex.

It was about 635 that Birinus first sailed across the Channel. He planned to convert all of Wessex, and then press on into the Midlands, where no Christian preacher had ever yet been. But once he began ministry in Wessex, Birinus found the West Saxons so pagan that he decided he better just stay and concentrate on them.

So Birinus began his ministry, endlessly travelling around Wessex, and preaching to whomever he encountered. Gradually he became known, and his message began to seep through.

Then a great breakthrough occurred: the King of Wessex, Cynegils, asked Birinus for instruction in the Christian faith. His daughter was going to marry Oswald, the Christian king of Northumbria, and for political reasons Cynegils now wanted to convert. So Birinus taught and baptised Cynegils and his family, and in return they gave him the Romano-British town of Dorchester as his see, and Birinus became the first bishop of Dorchester.

It was an excellent strategic move: Dorchester was on a main road and river in the centre of an area of dense Anglo-Saxon settlement. From his new 'headquarters', Birinus spent his last 15 years going on to build many churches around Wessex, and to baptise many people. Towards the end of his life Birinus dedicated a church at Winchester, which later became the ecclesiastical centre of the kingdom. (There is no record of Wessex bishops at Dorchester after 660.)

Any lesson in all this? Bloom where God plants you, and be faithful to your calling, however tough things may look at first, and however obscure the place. Birinus' obedience and faith planted Christianity in a key part of Britain, and so helped shape British history for centuries to come.

24th December: Christmas Eve

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

26th December: Look out for Wenceslas

Most of us probably know that on 26th December (the Feast of Stephen) 'Good king Wenceslas' looked out....' We probably also know that the snow lay round about, 'deep and crisp and even'. Beyond that, he's just someone in a carol that's not often sung nowadays.

However, Wenceslas was a real person, a duke, and effectively king of Bohemia in the 10th century. In modern terms, he was Czechoslovakian. He was known as a generous and kind monarch, deeply Christian and given to good works. So, the story in the carol by the Victorian hymn-writer J.M. Neale, while possibly fictitious, is at least in line with his recognised character. 'Page and monarch' braved the 'bitter weather' and the 'cruel wind's wild lament' to take food and fuel to a poor man living rough.

Neale's carol was enormously popular in the 19th century, because it perfectly expressed Victorian Christian ideals of benevolence and almsgiving. Christian men of 'wealth and rank' are urged to help the poor, and so 'find blessing'. Ignoring the 'wealth and rank and men' bit, it's still good advice, at Christmas or any other time.

Reflections on Christmas

by Canon Paul Hardingham

Mary's Christmas

As Jesus' mother, Mary plays a crucial part in the Christmas story. It begins with Gabriel's visit to her: *'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.'* (Luke 1:30,31). This conversation takes us straight to the heart of what Christmas is all about. God was doing something unique, that had never happened before! *'God was beginning, at this divine and human point, the New Creation of all things. The whole soiled and weary universe quivered at this direct injection of essential life.'* (CS Lewis).

This child unites heaven and earth: the eternal God entered time and space and became a baby, both a real human being and fully divine. It reminds me of the sci-fi film *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) in which a team of surgeons are shrunk to the size of blood cells and injected into the veins of a patient to perform lifesaving surgery. The Christmas message affirms that God has entered the bloodstream of humanity to put things right with Him on the inside. We can know Him personally and make sense of His world.

God chose an unknown, frightened teenage girl to bring about this new beginning for the world. Her response is the pattern for us, as we welcome God's special gift into our lives this Christmas: *"I am the Lord's servant" Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:38).

Mary gave an unqualified Yes to all that God wanted to do in her life. It was a costly decision, which risked both shame and scandal. Yet she was ready to obey God and trust His plans for her life, despite her many questions. Is the same true for us this Christmas?

Who is the Baby?

A little girl was examining a Christmas crib with her grandmother and commented, *'Grannie, it's really nice, but there's one thing that bothers me: is the baby Jesus ever going to grow up? He's the same size He was last year!!'* The birth of Jesus must be the most well-known birth in the world, but are we really growing in our understanding of this story?

The angels announced, *'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.'* (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of a baby is a time of great joy and excitement and Jesus' birth is good news for *all* people! He is none other than the king of the universe, who has come as our Saviour. To experience this joy, we must let go self-centredness and living as our own saviour. His deliverance and wholeness *is* a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace with God, ourselves, or even with those closest to us at Christmas. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine be the source of peace between God and man in the 21st century? Jesus came to establish such peace through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace in our lives brings peace with God. If we ignore this message of Christmas, we won't benefit from it. As the carol says, *'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'*



6th December: How Father Christmas got where he is today



One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. 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 AD 260 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 AD 343, 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 lifework 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: 'T'was 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 around 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.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

This issue is a little later than usual as I was somewhat busy with the Capel Christmas Fair! I'm delighted to say we had a very happy and successful day with some lovely stalls and lots on offer to eat and drink! It turned out to be a day of friends gathering together again over a cuppa and cake and for some visitors, there was the opportunity to do some of their Christmas shopping. The vast majority of our stalls were Surrey based, and some were from our immediate surroundings in local villages. It is great, in the current economic climate, to be able to support our small, independent businesses, many of whom are crafters and artists. Someone did say to me that they were delighted to be able to buy direct from the makers and at prices that were the same, or less than they would pay in the High Street. That was music to my ears! We had overwhelmingly positive feedback from all of our stallholders once more and we do try hard to look after them very well when they are with us, in the hope that they may wish to join us again and recommend our Fair to other stallholders. The takings were half of what they were last year and we are able to donate approximately £800 to each charity ie. The parish churches of Capel & Ockley and The Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND).



There is much on offer in Capel & Ockley in our villages in the lead up to Christmas. The first weekend in December saw the annual decorating of the Community Christmas Trees in Capel churchyard and in Ockley there was Carols on the Green, with the lighting of the tree and Father Christmas. The festivities continue in both our churches and our communities throughout Advent and leading up to Christmas, where we once more celebrate the birth of Christ in the humble surroundings of the stable. In our very busy lives, let us hope that we can stop and take a few moments to recall the wonder of that night as we journey into the New Year and Epiphany.

Clearly, this winter is going to be especially tough for many people, not least some of our own neighbours in our local communities. We have a chance to help by way of donations to the hampers that some of our church team are organising for local families. Please do look at the list in church of donations that are required to make up these much needed and much appreciated gifts from our church community. Thank you.

There is much to read in this issue and puzzles to keep you entertained! On pages 12 & 13 there is a summary of a recent Deanery synod meeting where the attendees were exploring our prayer life in church. On page 14, there is an interesting article on **Laurence Binyon who wrote 'For the Fallen'** which is regularly used in Remembrance day services and events. On the festive theme, there are several articles and items including one on a hospital which is run by The Nazareth Trust **'160 years of healing in Nazareth'** on page 26 and others looking at some of our traditions on page 25.

Do have a go at the **'Christmas Quiz 2022'** on page 23 and see how many answers you can get right! Sadly I can't offer any prizes, but I do hope you (and maybe your Christmas guests) will have fun with it! In the meantime, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and leave you with the final verse of 'In the Bleak Midwinter', the words of which I love. We may not be shepherds, or wealthy Kings arriving to worship the Christ Child, but as always, our God loves us for who we are and for offering up our hearts in adoration and service to Him.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

Wishing you and those you love every blessing this Christmas time.

Suzanne

Some observations on Christmas ...

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*

If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost. - *Corrie ten Boom*

We must not have Christ Jesus, the Lord of Life, put any more in the stable amongst the horses and asses, but He must now have the best chamber. - *George Fox*

The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable. - *R Sockman*

Christ has outlasted the empire that crucified Him 19 centuries ago. He will outlast the nations who deny Him now. - *Anon*

As the print of the seal on the wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image – the perfect representation – of God. - *Ambrose*

The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but ... reject it and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the history of our race is satisfactorily explained. - *Napoleon Bonaparte*

We know how God would act if He were in our place – He has been in our place. - *A W Tozer*

Christ is the great central fact in the world's history. To Him everything looks forward or backward. All the lines of history converge upon Him. - *C H Spurgeon*

There were only a few shepherds at the first Bethlehem. The ox and the ass understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem. And it is the same today. - *Thomas Merton*

When Jesus came to earth, it was not His Godhead He laid aside, but His glory. - *Anon*

God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. - *C S Lewis*

The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding. - *Martin Luther*

Some thoughts to ponder at this 'giving' and family time of the year...

Our children await Christmas presents like politicians getting election returns - *M Cox*

Charity gives itself rich; covetousness hoards itself poor. - *Anon*

A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve. - *J Joubert*

The word 'alms' has no singular, as if to teach us that a solitary act of charity scarcely deserves the name. - *Anon*

He who is not liberal with what he has, does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more. - *W S Plumer*

Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian - *G K Chesterton*

Kindness is a hard thing to give away. It keeps coming back to the giver. - *Ralph Scott*

Shake your family tree this Christmas - and watch the nuts fall. - *Anon*

Silence: the art of conversation most appreciated when the Christmas Day feature film is on... - *W Hazlitt paraphrased*

Friends are God's apology for relations. - *Hugh Kingsmill*

Every large family has its angel and its demon. - *Joseph Roux*

All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. - *Leo Tolstoy*



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the very fundamentals of Christianity.

Christian Basics - No 12: the Return of Jesus

'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people... while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ' (Titus 2:11,13-14).

Advent is the time when we focus on the first and second coming of Jesus. He first came as a baby in Bethlehem as our Saviour, *'to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own.'* (14), through His cross and resurrection. Now we wait for His return to judge the world and finally put an end to sin and death.

We can understand the relationship of these two events by considering D Day and VE Day in World War 2. D Day marked the allied invasion at the beaches of Normandy on 6th June 1944. It was not the end of the war, but it was a decisive turning point in which victory was assured, although not finally achieved until VE Day on 8th May 1945.

For us, Jesus' death and resurrection marks our D Day, when He secured victory over sin and death. However, only when He returns, will Jesus finally end sin and death and all who have put their trust in Him can share the great victory celebration in heaven.

In Advent we reflect on what it means to live in the time between these key events. Paul says, we need to *'to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age'* (12). More troops died in the period between D Day and VE Day than during the rest of the war. Although we live under Christ's victory, we will still struggle with sin and suffering.

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Editor: The Rev Dr Jo White continues her series.

Reflecting faith - To the Glory of God

Everything about the church building is intended to tell us something about God.

But it doesn't end there. We put into the building things that are important to us and again reflect not just our specific denomination but our ways of worship.

Imagine visiting someone in their home whom you are just getting to know and have a look around at the decorations, photos, wall hangings, books, music etc. What are their hobbies? How do they enjoy spending their time? Who is important to them? Well our church interiors are like that.

In most church buildings each week there will be a display of flowers. Venues vary from being large and elaborate to simple and homely and so do such arrangements. Of course, much depends upon finance and the availability of flowers as well as the interest and skills of the arranger.

Flower arrangements 'should' be in keeping with the church season or the occasion that is being celebrated. During Advent (Latin meaning 'coming') while we anticipate the birth of Christ at the Feast of Christmas most places of worship show restraint in their arrangements and often decline to use any coloured flowers using only evergreen leaves.

Then nearer to Christmas itself everything changes and either flowers are added to the original evergreens or they start completely new. Colours change to red for love and Christ's death and passion, white and gold for importance, royalty and celebration: with green alongside for the hope of new birth and spring.

This month: Have a look at the flowers used in a church near you. What do they 'say'? Perhaps there will be poinsettias, lilies or even irises. Each has a different story to tell of the glory of God.

Editor: The Ven. John Barton considers that first Christmas night...and how it might guide us in our proper reaction to Jesus' birth...



The 'wonder' of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem

Shepherds in first century Palestine would have been attuned to the wonders and ravages of nature: star-lit nights, cold and heat, storm and calm, and the unwelcome attention of predators, both animal and human. They would have been more aware than we of human dependency on the seasons, and more respectful than us of the precarious nature of existence. Fear, as well as appreciation, would have shaped their religious sensitivities.

Some think the shepherds near Bethlehem may have been guarding sheep for the Jerusalem Temple, which used them as part of the sacrificial ritual of Judaism in those days. Yet the kind of work shepherds did and the hours they had to keep barred them from orthodox religious observance; they were regarded as uncouth and untrustworthy and were not allowed to give testimony in law courts.

It was typical of St Luke (the only New Testament writer to refer to the shepherds) to put them in the forefront of his narrative. Luke is the writer who favours the underdog: tax collectors, sinners, women, old and poor people and non-Jews all figure favourably in his account. Deliberately he sets before us shepherds as the first Christmas worshippers. They already knew how to *wonder*.

William of St Thierry wrote: "A man who has lost his sense of wonder is a man dead." The 19th Century scientist Michael Faraday wrote: "Let us consider... how wonderfully we stand upon this world. Here it is that we are born, bred and live, and yet we view these things with an almost entire absence of wonder..." This is no plea for anti-intellectual faith, but rather for the discovery of an extra dimension. Wonder is the prime ingredient of worship, and we need to recover it and use it. It takes practice.

William Blake encouraged us to look into the ordinary and see the extraordinary:

"To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower:
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour..."

The late Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster wrote, "A sense of the sublime leads to a sense of awe, which is I suppose that combination of wonder and fearfulness you may feel in the presence of what takes your breath away. It is not afraid in the sense of feeling scared, but rather an awe-struck sense of amazement that the ordinary is rather more extraordinary than the extraordinary... it is not the rabbit out of the hat but the rabbit out of the rabbit that is so surprising..."

So, in the astonishing story of heaven-come-to-earth in Bethlehem, of divinity in a cowshed, it is *shepherds* who receive the revelation. Not priests, not presidents, not philosophers. "An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." For all they knew it might have been bad news. "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord'."

The response of the shepherds was to go and see. Not to question or even to reason. The main constituent of their belief was already *wonder*. They were accustomed to marvelling, for they were surrounded by a world of marvels. So, they went to look. And as they looked, they marvelled. Later, they were to return "glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard."

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Junior InSpire

Happy Christmas to all our young readers!



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?



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

ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

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Christmas Quiz 2022

- ◆ How did No Vac Novak become No Match Novak?
- ◆ 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. What did they choose?
- ◆ Which rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that?
- ◆ What unexpected occurrence at the Winter Olympics caused problems in the icy setting?
- ◆ He would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote The hippopotamus song mud, mud, glorious mud
- ◆ What was the career of the President of Ukraine before he entered politics?
- ◆ At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock, What film did Smith go on to get an Oscar for?
- ◆ What were the following "gates"? Why are they called "gates"? Partygate - Tractorgate - Beergate
- ◆ In May a footballer's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million. Whose was it?
- ◆ What were two places outside the UK that gained city status?
- ◆ There was a television series this year called *Infamy*. Which film features the line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me."?
- ◆ A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the Platinum Jubilee was Paddington Bear. Who voiced Paddington in the Ukrainian language version of the film?
- ◆ The actor who played the Revd Timothy Farthing passed away this year. What comedy series did he appear in?
- ◆ At the age of nearly 90, he published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years Of Doing Absolutely Everything* - and its advice was simple. "Do your best and be grateful for every single job". Who was he?
- ◆ Which actress was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King?
- ◆ Where did Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge?

Answers on page 29



Editor: Are there people in your church with family members who suffer from dementia? This article may be of some help to them.

The special gift of Christmas for people living with dementia

Christmas time, with its music and traditions, offers “a special gift” to people living with dementia. Christmas can act as a powerful reminiscence therapy, especially for Christian believers, who will have long term memories of past Christmases, even though their short-term memory (working memory) has faded.

So says Louise Morse, a cognitive behavioural therapist and author of several books about dementia (Lion Monarch and SPCK) and old age. So, this Christmas she is urging families who have someone with dementia to use those long-term memories and help a loved one who is suffering memory loss.

Louise Morse explains: “Reminiscence therapy helps us recall the past as a means of owning it, and strengthens a sense of self. Grandma may have only a tenuous grasp of herself in the present, but in the past, she knew who she was – and therefore, still is.”

The effect of music on the brain is well known, and so Louise Morse urges that traditional Christmas music can play a big part here. She quotes a line from the hymn ‘O Holy Night’, when ‘the soul knows its worth.’ She says: “And bound up in Grandma’s memories of Christmas will be worship. Worship unites us with God, and we enter into His peace.”

Louise Morse also advises other music. “There are also the popular songs Grandma would have heard in her day, like Bing Crosby’s ‘White Christmas’. Perhaps record a selection and play them through wearable earphones. Also, don’t be surprised if she ‘time-travels’ temporarily to a familiar place in the past!

If this happens, “don’t ask them, ‘do you remember?’ or even say, ‘I remember when,’ because it will challenge and disturb your loved one. Instead, when showing family photographs or memorabilia to them, simply frame the memory with enthusiasm and warmth by saying, ‘that was the day our Kevin’ Or ‘this came from Aunt Mabel when ...’

“Let the rhythms and music of Christmas do their work.”

Louise Morse is a writer and speaker for Pilgrims’ Friend Society (www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk)

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Church of England commits £2m to helping house vulnerable people

The Church of England’s Social Impact Investment Programme has committed £2m towards the second Social and Sustainable Housing Fund (SASH II) managed by Social and Sustainable Capital.

SASH II seeks to enable charities and social sector organisations to acquire portfolios of property that provide a combination of high quality housing and targeted support to vulnerable people.

SASH II has a target size of £125m, and the fund aims to help over 30 organisations purchase 1,000 properties, providing homes for 10,000 people over the life of the fund.

It is estimated that up to 200,000 people in the UK are currently living in housing on a transitional basis before they can return to independent living without the need for additional support.

This £2m commitment will enable charities across the UK to support a wide range of vulnerable adults, including people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, experiencing mental health issues, with drug or alcohol addiction, or who are ex-offenders or asylum seekers or young people leaving the care system.

The Church of England’s Social Impact Investment Programme will focus on investments that strengthen communities, particularly through access to housing and affordable finance.

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Christmas Traditions

90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

by Tim Lenton

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

The mysterious ways of mistletoe

Mistletoe has long been used as part of our Christmas decorations. It is not your usual kind of plant.

Instead, it is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients.

Mistletoe loves living in apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak trees. You may spot it high up, as a large globe, on the bare trees in winter. There is one spectacular example in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the Thames.

Mistletoe's berries are almost translucent, fleshy and sticky. They form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds, who wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch, which of course helps the plant to spread.

For some reason, Romans thought mistletoe represented Peace, Love and Understanding. Perhaps that is how it got into our Christmas celebrations? The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century, but we don't know who got kissed first.



Both articles ©Parish Pump

Lord Reith – running the BBC 100 years ago

One hundred years ago, on 14th December 1922, John Reith (later Lord Reith) was appointed general manager of the newly formed BBC. He was its first director general when it became a public corporation in 1927.

Born in Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, Reith was educated in Glasgow and Norfolk. An engineer by profession, he had fought in the first world war, where he was wounded by a sniper. He was 6ft 6in tall and a Scottish Presbyterian whose Christian faith was both real and strict.



When taking control of the BBC he was, in his own words, "confronted with problems of which I had no experience". These included copyright and performing rights, as well as dealing with – among others – music publishers, playwrights, associations of concert artists and wireless manufacturers.

He was at the BBC for only 16 years, but he created long-lasting templates for public service broadcasting in Britain and elsewhere. He largely fought off politicians' attempts to influence the BBC – although he had to comply with Government strictures during the General Strike of 1926 – while offering programmes to "educate, inform and entertain".

During his time at the BBC it had a firm Christian perspective, broadcasting to what was a Christian country. It did not start programmes on a Sunday until 12.30pm, to give people time to go to church first. Critics nowadays see the BBC as fostering the new fundamentalist religion of secular humanism.

Reith left the BBC in 1938 to become chairman of Imperial Airways. During the war he was appointed Minister of Information and became an MP for Southampton. He was later transferred to the House of Lords. The annual BBC Reith Lectures were inaugurated in 1948 in his honour.

by Tim Lenton

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As Christmas approaches, and we think of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, it is worth noting the work of this well-respected hospital in Nazareth...

160 years of healing in Nazareth

Jesus brought healing to Galilee, and nowadays the Nazareth Trust carries on this work through running one of the oldest hospitals in the Middle East.

The Nazareth Trust traces its roots back to 1861 and is now one of the largest Christian organisations in Israel. Located in Nazareth, the Trust engages with around 400,000 people a year, including patients and their families, nursing students, international volunteers, pilgrims, and tourists, as well as their staff.

In fact, the Nazareth Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in the Middle East, and the largest in Nazareth. The hospital is run by the Nazareth Trust and began in 1861, when a young Christian doctor, Dr Kaloost Vartan, made the journey from Edinburgh to Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, to establish a small four-bed clinic.

At the time, it was the only medical facility in the town, and as far as Damascus and Beirut in the north, and Jerusalem in the south. Dr Vartan carried out pioneering medical work, reaching out to a population with a very low life expectancy.

Today the Nazareth Hospital is a general hospital with Nazareth's main Emergency Room that works 24/7, ICU, a recently refurbished Path Lab, Orthopaedic Surgical department, General Surgical department, a Paediatric surgical unit, Urology Unit and Esthetic Clinic. There is also an extensive Medical department and Psychiatry department.

The Nazareth Hospital is one of the area's biggest employers. It is affiliated with Bar-Ilan University and is committed to developing medical education and research. Each year it welcomes many students of medicine, nursing and other medical fields from universities and colleges around the world. The Trust would welcome your support.

Please visit: <https://nazarethtrust.org>

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PRAYERS & POEMS

Christmas Prayer

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

Editor: For those who like a traditional poem, here is a famous one by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written in 1863.

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Christ born for us,
Son of God, given for us,
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve
you.
Amen.

Christmas Day

Carols sound throughout the land
Heralding a special birth
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.

So in the town of Bethlehem
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
Mary rocks the tiny child
As angels serenade the skies.

Shepherds told the awesome story
Divinity will now reside
As He who ruled in Heaven above
Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

By Megan Carter

Look to this day,
For it is life,
The very life of life.
In its brief course lie all
The realities and verities of existence,
The bliss of growth,
The Splendour of action,
The glory of power -

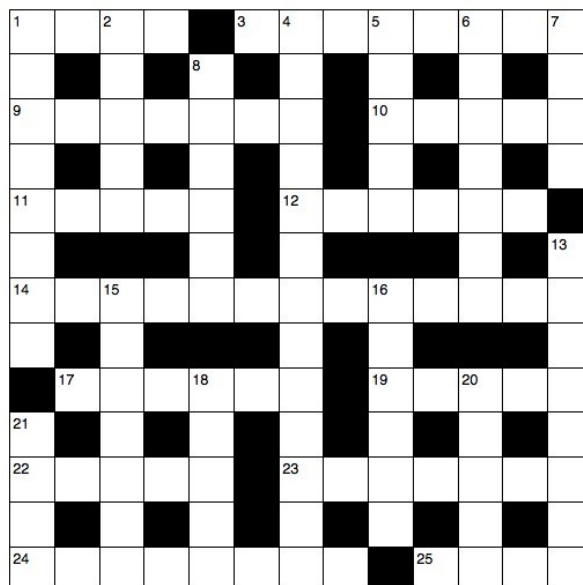
For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today, well lived,
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Sanskrit Proverb

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our
hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.

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 firstfruits 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)

Easy Soduko

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

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Medium Soduko

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

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Christmas Quiz 2022 answers

- ◇ No Vac Novak became No Match Novak because Novak Djokovic was due to play at the Australian Open but prevented because he had declined a covid vaccination.
- ◇ 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. They choose to the Morse stories.
- ◇ Meatloaf was the rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that.
- ◇ It snowed at the Winter Olympics caused problems as the organisers had not expected it.
- ◇ Actor and singer Michael Flanders would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote the hippopotamus song *Mud, mud, and glorious mud*.
- ◇ Before he entered politics the President of Ukraine was a comedian.
- ◇ At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock. Smith went on to get an Oscar for the film called *King Richard*
- ◇ Partygate was the furore about parties held in Downing Street.
- ◇ Tractorgate was the alleged incident when an MP looked at inappropriate material online during a session of the House of Commons.
- ◇ Beergate was a political controversy concerning allegations that an event in Durham in April 2021 could have been in breach of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The police, after investigating, cleared the attendees.
- ◇ Controversies are often named "gates" after the Watergate scandal.
- ◇ In May footballer Diego Maradona's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million.
- ◇ The two places outside the UK that gained city status this year were Ramsey on the Isle of Man and Stanley in the Falklands. Before you google it the Isle of Man is not part of the UK.
- ◇ There was a television series this year called *Infamy*. The line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me!" comes from *Carry on Cleo* 1964 and was spoken by Kenneth Williams.
- ◇ A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the jubilee was Paddington Bear. Paddington was played by Ukrainian President in the Ukrainian language version of the film.
- ◇ The actor who played Rev Timothy Farthing passed away this year. He was Frank Williams in the BBC television sitcom *Dad's Army*. He became a prominent lay leader in the Church of England.
- ◇ At the age of nearly 90, Bernard Cribbins published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years of Doing Absolutely Everything*.
- ◇ Nichelle Nichols who played Uhura in the Star Trek franchise was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King.
- ◇ Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit Durham instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge.
- ◇

Hope you enjoyed the quiz and remembered some of these events and people from 2022!

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Puzzle Solutions

Easy Soduko solution

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

Medium Soduko solution

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

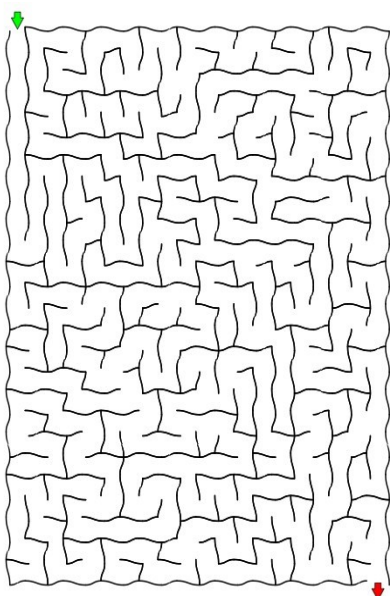
Crossword Solution

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

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.

Can you find your way around the maze?



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...



A great day of fundraising at our second Capel Christmas Fair on 19th November 2022.
Thank you to all who helped to make the day a success!



*Capel
Choral
Society*



invites you to join them for their

Christmas Concert

to include a selection from

Handel's Messiah

Plus carols for Choir and Audience

Monday 12th December at 7pm

St John the Baptist, Capel

Choir and string ensemble

Conducted by Stuart Longley

Accompanist Anthea Smallwood, spinet & organ

Tickets are £10, including mulled wine & mince pies,

available from Rosemary Goddard, 01306 711259

or email, rosemary.goddard25@gmail.com,

also from Choir members, or on the door

Wishing our Readers a Very Happy Christmas

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Suzanne Cole editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk By 20th of each month please.
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