

St Andrew

Chilton Moor

Parish Magazine December 2024/January 2025

*Please join us for our
Christmas Services*

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

50p



Welcome to St Andrew's magazine. We are the Church of England in Chilton Moor & Fence Houses in the Diocese of Durham

Our mission is to serve Jesus in Fence Houses and Chilton Moor and to grow so that St Andrew shines as a beacon of hope in the community

Vicar's Letter December 2024

Rev John



I'm writing this on the first snowy day we've had this winter. And for some that will make it feel really Christmassy, though it mainly makes me feel a little damp and cold. But for those who get the opportunity being warm inside with decorations up and being able to look out on snow covered trees feels great. There are some really beautiful carols at this time of year, in the Bleak Midwinter, and one of my favourites See

Amid the Winters Snow. Listening to the choir of Kings College sing them they are truly beautiful. We don't know of course but I suspect it wouldn't actually have been snowy at Jesus' birth. Cold and draughty quite possibly but snow, not likely. But yet there is something really important about imagining Jesus coming to us, to where we are at winter, the things which we experience, and the lives we know. Because while Jesus was born in a stable in the Middle East, while he was born in that one place. He came for us all, at all times and in all places, that is what Immanuel means God with us. The joy of Christmas isn't that this one off event happened it's what it means for the rest of time. Whoever we are and wherever we live Christmas is a reminder that God loves us, that God came to live with us. That in that small baby the fullness of God was there. That as another great carol Hark! The Herald Angels sing puts it, "Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel."

We've got some wonderful services coming up this year, on 22nd December at 4pm we have a really joyful family carol service as we tell the story of Christmas, and on Christmas eve at 4:30 we have our first Holy Communion of Christmas, do join us for those times of Joy. For many though there will be some sadness mixed in with Christmas, a chair that will remain empty, a card that won't arrive, we have a service we call Blue Christmas which reflects something of that, and is an opportunity to remember those we are separated from, through miles, or loss, or for any other reason. It's on 8th December at 2pm. Wherever you go and whatever you do I hope as you sing your favourite carols something of the deep joy of Christmas touches your life.

Rev John

Welcome to our last issue of for 2024!

What a year it has been, with world events going from bad to worse.

As well as the escalating war in Ukraine and the Middle East, we have had unprecedented wildfires, storms and floods across the world. Millions are displaced, millions are homeless and hungry. Meanwhile, the cost-of-living crisis continues, and food banks in the UK look set to be overwhelmed. Many of us now are facing a hard winter, with seemingly little to be cheerful about.

And yet, and yet – the message of Christmas is just as real for us today as it was 2000 years ago, and it can still bring us hope and joy for our long-term future. Emmanuel has come, the Prince of Peace, the Son of Righteousness. God IS with us. And HIS kingdom will have no end.

Our Church community can still witness that in our neighbourhood this Christmas. Perhaps you can join us for our services or perhaps through outdoors Christmas carol singing. You can still witness to the love of God, even by simply showing some kindness and love to your neighbours. Our Church magazine is more important than ever – especially when we can get them out into our community.

So – with that in mind, we have a vast array of Christmas themed material for you this month and rejoice in the love of a God who sends His only Son to be our Saviour. Peace on earth, goodwill towards men!



We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With warm wishes The Magazine Team

Christmas Geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''*. Matthew 1:23.



Pawz For Thought rescue, rehabilitation, rehoming

Pawz for Thought is a small but very active animal charity operating throughout the North East of England. It was formed as a positive response to the distressingly high number of animal welfare issues in the region.

The Charity always has many cats for adoption. There are fewer dogs for adoption as we spend many weeks with each animal getting to know them to ensure their next home is a 'forever home'. Rabbits available for adoption are always plentiful either as singles or in pairs. Help can be given bonding a new rabbit with your existing bunnies. Rev Christine's daughter is a volunteer here.

If you would like to donate anything, Whiskers in Jelly is good for cats and hedgehogs alike, bird seed, newspapers, old sheets and towels all very useful.

Christmas

Quiz



- This year was a Leap Year. Were 1900 and 2000 Leap Years?
- What is Whamaggedon?
- Alan Bates hit the headlines in January? He shares his name with a famous actor but why is he well known?
- HRH Duke of Edinburgh met a special resident at S Helena in January who had also met his

grandparents. Who is he?

- A young actor, fresh out of drama school, was told by Arthur Lowe, “don’t worry if there’s not a lot of lines. They’ll come. In the meantime get yourself a funny costume and stand near me”. Who was the actor who passed away this year and starred in this classic sitcom?
- Why did a family photo taken for Mothering Sunday lead to a lot of media speculation?
- Why did North Korean television object to Alan Titchmarsh and his trousers?
- How did a black cat called Matins get into trouble on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey
- Where was the Carnation Revolution fifty years ago?
- What product manufacturer (a byword in usefulness) announced in 2024 they would introduce the first bladeless version?
- Which Oxford Don applied unsuccessfully to be a code breaker in the 1940s? there was a note by his name “keen”
- Where is the Elephant and Bear Line?
- What is Election purdah?
- What was Gamblegate?
- 17th July was National Emoji Day. One of the most popular is known as ROTFL. What does that mean?
- In this year’s Olympics the Philippines gold medallist Carlos Yulo got an unusual reward as well as the medal. What was it?
- In August a north Italian city advertised for people to learn an ancient skill. The job requirements include being 18 or over, having a high school-level education, knowing how to swim, and possessing a medical certificate that proves “a healthy and robust constitution”. What job was this for?
- What music celebrated its 200th anniversary? Liked by many and Karl Marx though “it a solemn mass of earthly joy”?
- Why might you be looking forward to not looking back in anger?
- What types of special judges were cancelled after 147 years’ service and replaced electronically?

Answers on page 20

THAT COIN IN YOUR CHRISTMAS PUDDING

There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny. After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding.

We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile telephone. In future, will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? Hope not.

Other coins 'appear' at this time of year. Chocolate coins are traditionally given to children at Christmas time, and in Jewish tradition during Hanukkah. It is said that one night Saint Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw!



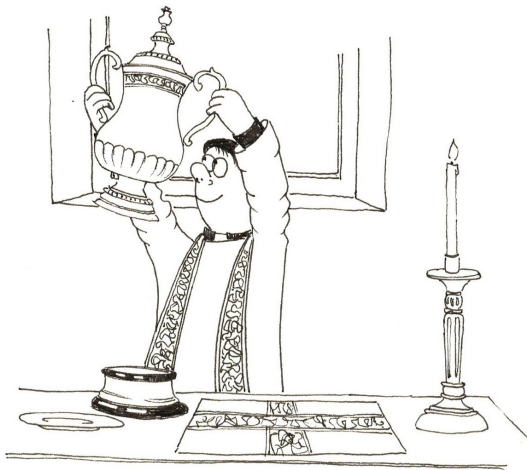
What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!



The special silverware only came out once a year



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

HOW TO COOK A TURKEY

- Step 1. Buy a turkey
- Step 2. Have a glass of wine
- Step 3. Stuff turkey
- Step 4. Have a glass of wine
- Step 5. Put turkey in oven
- Step 6. Relax and have a glass of wine
- Step 7. Turk the bastey
- Step 8. Wine of glass another get
- Step 9. Hunt for meat thermometer
- Step 10. Glass yourself another pour of wine
- Step 11. Bake the wine for 4 hours
- Step 12. Take the oven out of the turkey
- Step 13. Tet the sable
- Step 14. Grab another wottle of bine
- Step 15. Turk the carvey!



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

The most beautiful story

*T*hat 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

Probably the best-known statue in the world is 'Christ the Redeemer', towering over the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough.

His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, it is 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.



25th December Christmas Throughout the Christian World

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at His 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.

Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for 12 days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6th January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25th December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7th January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6th January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The significance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells, and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God.

And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.

The Rainton Meadows

Known as " THE MEDDIS "by locals and Pitmen

By John Harvey

My childhood playground, and where two family members from our house worked. Tin bath it front of fire, twice daily. Nee modesty then, Nivver washed their backs, said it wakened them, And now nearly 80 years later I can still to this day , smell damp pit clothes drying and warming in front of the fire ,that was our only source of heat, and cooking. And hot watta.

Mining in Rainton pre dates the mid 14 century a Norman date is probable, but even older dates are likely.(from the Londonderry Papers) According to The Londonderry Papers the monks of Durham are recorded as owners of Rainton coal pits in 1361 and 1443, With reference to a horse driven winch pump in 1544. And in 1670 the first mention of "Rainton Staiths"

Rainton mine itself can be dated to 1662; it also states that mining around Rainton took place in 1559 with leases running 21 years In 1683 John Duck, (a Durham alderman) took out the Rainton lease from The Dean and Chapter of Durham for the whole area, hence on old maps the pit is called Rainton Old Ducks. In 1688 Wharton took over the lease,, It was then passed on to John Tempest in 1710 and in 1794 it was again passed on to Sir Henry Vane (Vane Tempest) and later on was passed to Lord Londonderry who worked the mine until 1896, It then had a 40 year rest until reopened by the Lambton, Hetton & Joicey Collieries Ltd in April 23th 1936... And it then came under Houghton management and continued under Houghton management after Nationalisation in 1947 until final closure on 25th March 1960.

By 1815 the Rainton Mines (not stated which) were becoming unproductive. So John Buddle decided to close them down, He then started removing the support columns of coal, and allowing the mines to collapse behind, working back towards the shafts. And leaving as little coal as possible. By 1820 this was still in progress .But then in 1822 The Hetton Mining Company proved the feasibility of deep mining coal. Buddle then had a change of plan.

He (John Buddle) then on the behalf of Lord Londonderry decided to concentrate on three new deep shaft mines. The Adventure already sunk in 1817 The Alexandrina sunk in 1824 and The Meadows sunk in 1824 the last to form the centre of the new group. This work was overseen By Buddles agent John Robson who was in charge of the sinking of all three colliery's (from John Robison's Diary)

And so the Rainton collieries passed from John Tempest to Lord Londonderry. To provide accommodation for the miners and their families, Buddle bought a triangular freehold piece of land from Mr. Heaviside, Mid way between West and East Rainton, and had Middle Rainton built on this site in approx 1822 Middle Rainton had either 7 or 8 streets. I cannot remember all the names, but Front Street on the main road had 28 houses, then there was Back Row, about the same, West Row, Cross Street, and Lewis Street and Slate Row. A total of approximately 125 houses with a population of 500 plus inhabitants. There were 3 pubs. Fox & hounds, Rose & Crown and The Foresters Arms.

And was surrounded on all sides by allotments for the miners. The Meadows was Centre to the group with a fine glazed brick shaft and its own coke works. The pit continued in production, under lord Londonderry's ownership until closed in 1896. And had a quiet rest for the next 40 years. And now the Meadows passed from Lord Londonderry to become part of the Lambton, Hetton & Joicey Collieries Ltd under a Houghton Manager and Union Lodge. Rainton Meadows Colliery. The shaft of which is to be reopened, is one of the old Londonderry group. The shaft is now connected by an underground drift with



Houghton Colliery and the purpose of reopening is to enable men working at Houghton to ride at The Meadows and thus save time in getting to their working places as Meadows coal is now being raised from Houghton.

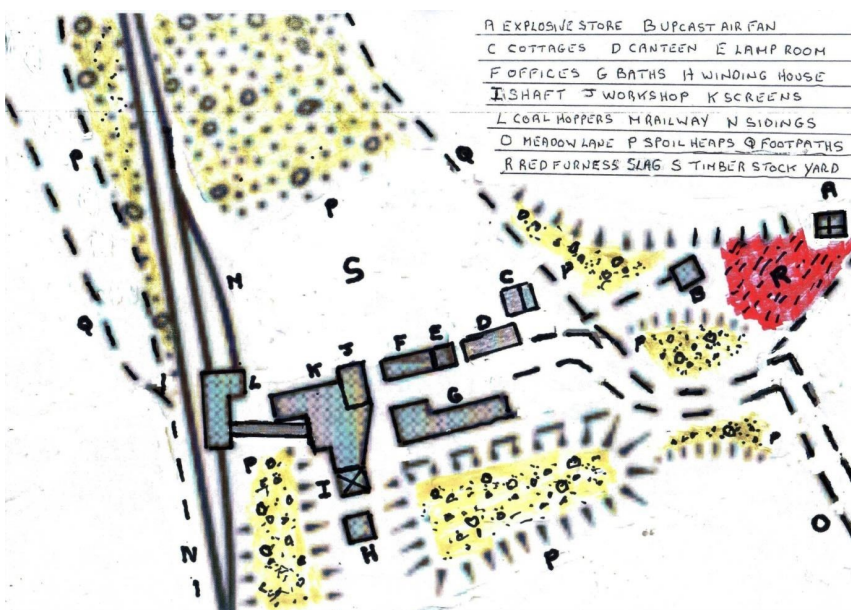
This may have been true at first, about raising coal worked from The Meadows from Houghton. A long way underground but only for a short while until facilities were got working again at The Meadows and new rail lines, and coal hopper were installed and working. Coal was brought up at the Meadows, and most was transported by rail direct to Fence houses, and Lambton Coke Works.

Coming on now to 1947 and the Nationisation of the coal industry so the Rainton Meadows was taken over from Lambton, Hetton & Joicey Collieries Ltd. By the state and a new sign erected Rainton Meadows N.C. B. But it still retained the same Houghton manager and links. We are now in 1952 and lot of activity for us kids to watch. Very large earth moving machines. They were digging up the old pit heap on the side directly across from the canteen s, going around in a circle and dumping it on the other side. This went on for weeks until they had a large flat area where part of the tip had been. This we were told was to build Pit Head Baths. Building commenced, and on completion invites were sent to visit for the opening ceremony and have a look around. The speeches were not of much interest to us me being 13yrs then. This took place on Saturday 20th February 1954

But the high vertical steam boiler painted bright red certainly caught my interest (in later life I was taught about steam boilers, and later took apprentices on the same subject) well the building was a revelation to me, It was all heated and had changing rooms with separate lockers, sinks to wash your clothes, heated drying rooms, showers, and even a machine with rotating brushes to clean your work boots.

So now you could go to work in decent clothes, change into work clothes, and after work shower and change into clean clothes. But not all the pitmen were that impressed and many refused to use the facility at first. But as time went on most did only the odd few still went home in pit clothes. I suppose it was the older men who after say 40 years washing at home did not want to change old habits

Five years only after the new baths in were opened there was talk of closure this would have been about 1959, Mr Thomas Newton of Houghton Miners Lodge successfully had this rescinded but later that year it was finally decided to close the pit. The Meadows finally



closed in March 3rd 1960. The shafts could have been kept for ventilation or safety purposes. The closed colliery in stood empty for a number of years. It was only in Margaret Thatcher's time that all of the remains were totally removed. This records that that 322 men were employed at The Meadows at this time 88 of whom would simply be made redundant ,the majority of the other 324 men would be found work at either Houghton or other local pits, Also 53 of the men due to be transferred to Houghton would be retained at The meadows doing salvage work. And the final

tragedy, in 1962 like my home, in Middle Rainton, the very village built in 1822 to provide accommodation for the miners and their families working at the pit, also suffered the same fate. Being totally demolished and like the pit apart from memories lost forever.

The royalties from John's books all go to St Cuthberts Hospice Durham.

John Harvey 



Beetle

The Beetle Drive is on the second Thursday of the month in Churchill Square Community Centre from 2-4pm for an afternoon of fun and games. New members are more than welcome to come along and join in.

Jean Campbell

Mother's Union St Andrew's

We meet at 2pm on the third Thursday of the month. We welcome new members.



Group Bible Reflection
2nd Tuesday of each month, 6.30pm—7.45pm
with Compline

A Prayer for Our Community. Dear Heavenly Father, As we gather in this season of joy and reflection, we lift our hearts to You with gratitude. Thank You for the gift of community, where we find friendship, support, and love. In this time of celebration, we ask for Your blessings upon each person in our community.

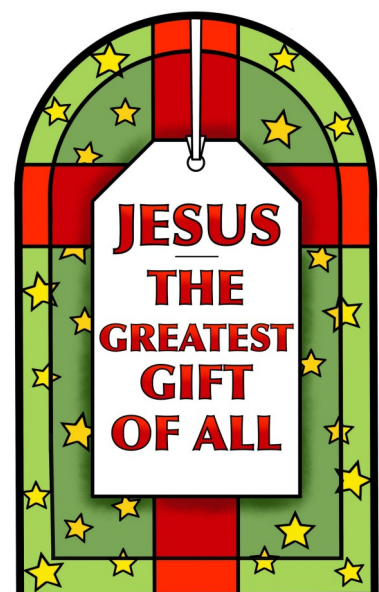
Grant us the spirit of unity, that we may come together in harmony despite our differences. May our words and actions reflect kindness, compassion, and generosity, especially toward those who are lonely, struggling, or in need.

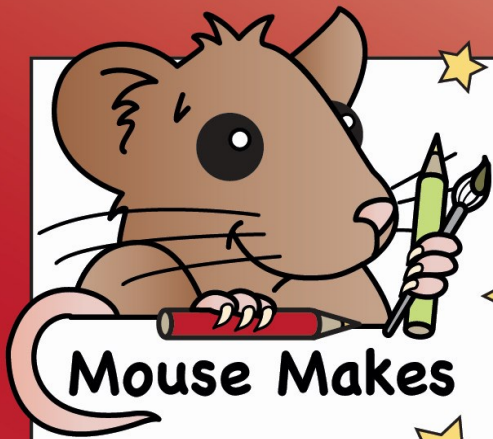
Lord, as we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, let His light shine in our hearts and homes. Help us to be instruments of peace, bringing comfort to those who grieve, hope to those in despair, and joy to all we encounter.

Bless our community with health, safety, and prosperity in the year ahead. May we always be mindful of the true meaning of Christmas: the gift of Your love made manifest.

With thankful hearts, we pray this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.





Mouse Makes

"Jesus said,
I am the ____ Y
and the ____ U ____
and the ____ I ____.

No one comes to the Father
except through me."

John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H ____ , the
____ of ____"
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a

S ____ who is
____ R ____
the ____ R ____"

Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

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

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

JESUS
—
THE
GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!

P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

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Please join us at
St Andrew's Church, Chilton Moor
For Our Christmas Services

8th December at 2pm

Blue Christmas, which
reflects something of that & is
an opportunity to remember
those we are separated from

22nd December at 4pm

we have a really joyful ★
family service Nine Lessons & Carols
as we tell the story of Christmas,

Christmas eve at 4.30pm

we have our first
Holy Communion of Christmas

It Must Be Christmas.

I think it must be Christmas, there are lights everywhere
The shops are full of tinsel
where the shoppers stand and stare
Come and get a bargain, the gifts are in the sale
Santa is in His grotto, just follow the excited trail
Buy a stocking filler, only twenty pound
And can you hear the Christmas songs playing all around
A trip to Fenwick's window or Marks and Spencer's store
We have to get the turkey and the shops cry,
'buy more, buy more'
The sales are starting early,
Buy one get one free
And don't forget the Christmas lights
to light the Christmas tree
But what have we forgotten?
Surely there must be more
Christmas can't be just for getting
the bargains at the store
Where are the kings and shepherds?
And the stable cold and bare.
And shouldn't there be angels, singing in the air?
The star is surely missing, shining brightly up above
And where is baby Jesus who was sent to earth in love?
Emmanuel - God with us,
Surely you must agree
That as we prepare for Christmas
We have replaced Christ with a shopping spree.

Rev Christine's Licensing

On Monday, November 11, members from all four churches came together at St. Andrew's Church in Chilton Moor to celebrate a significant occasion—the licensing of our curate, Christine Britcliffe.

The service was well attended, with parishioners and clergy joining in the celebration, including Father Tony. The event was led by the Archdeacon of Sunderland, the Venerable Bob Cooper, who presided over the proceedings.

This gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for the four churches to unite in support of Christine and her family on this special day. The celebration continued with a buffet, which added to the joy of the occasion.



Christmas Tree Decorations

Over the decades the decorations on home Christmas trees have come and gone. From an eclectic colourful mix of baubles and home-made items when the children were young, to a radical change to 'contemporary' and 'sophisticated'. It didn't last long, as quite frankly they seemed a bit dull, lifeless and lacking real meaning.

We quite rapidly added mementoes from holiday places to the mix to jazz it up a bit.

In more recent years we've been receiving and proudly displaying creations from the next family generation – so we come back to the start.

How about your tree?

And what about the tree decorations you have in your church? What is the story behind those? Are they identical or very different?

In 1957 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Danville, USA, Frances Kipps Spencer thought that the traditional, brightly coloured Christmas ornaments were not fitting for a worship setting, so she started thinking about a way to reflect the Christian faith through ornaments.

The first ornament was the name of Jesus and His title: Christ. The Greek *Chi* (X) *Rho* (P) is the monogram for the Greek word *Christos* (Christ).

There followed over the years a whole collection symbolising the life of Jesus and his ministry.

These ornaments even have their own name: 'Chrismons,' which comes from the words *Christ* and *monogram*.

Just as wall paintings and stained glass in churches tell the Christian story these Chrismons are a clever way to communicate the same key ideas of the Christian faith particularly to annual church visitors.

Chrismons are white and gold, representing purity and value. When used with an evergreen Christmas tree, symbolising eternal life, and white lights covering the tree, symbolising Jesus as the light of the world the whole gives a story just in its use of colour with no words required.

This month: Have a look at the tree decorations in a church near you. What does the overall effect say? and are there any 'Chrismons' on it?



A Christmas tree dubbed the "most humble in the world" has sold at auction for £2,600.

The 103-year-old tree, which is only 31 inches tall with 25 branches and 12 fake berries, fetched well above initial estimations of £60-80.

Originally brought in 1920, the artificial tree was gifted to Loughborough resident Dorothy Grant in the aftermath of the First World War.

It served as her Christmas tree from when she was eight-years-old until she died in 2014, at the age of 101.



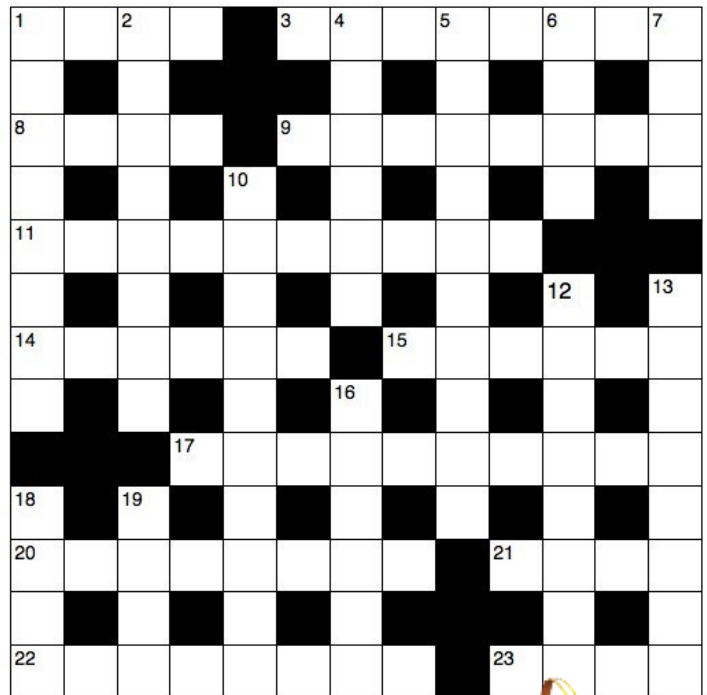
December Crossword

Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have



- mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)



Prayer for December 2024

Father, the days are short; darkness deepens in December and this year it seems to reflect the darkness in so many parts of the world. We think especially of the land You came to, all those years ago, and other nearby lands where so many are suffering.

Father, thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.

Thank you that, in Jesus, You have conquered death and darkness; that one day, everyone will bow before Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, whose Kingdom shall never end.

Help us, in thankfulness and love, to share Your Christmas Light and Hope and Joy. Hallelujah! In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Church Finances

Michael Baxter, Treasurer

I set out below the income and expenditure of the church during October 2024.

OCTOBER			
(to the nearest £)			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Regular giving	£716	Parish share	£1,000
Donations to church funds	£141	Cleaner	£132
Collections	£115	Gas/Electricity bills	£117
Hire of hall	£240	Service sheets/wafers/wine etc	£7
Fundraising	£21	Magazine printing etc	£103
PCC fees for occasional services	£317	Visiting clergy fees	£33
		Flowers	£38
		Youth club expenses	£23
		Other sundry items	£10
OCTOBER TOTAL	£1,550		£1,463
YEAR TOTALS TO END OCTOBER	£19,221		£18,061

Christmas is Coming



As we start thinking about Christmas maybe we could think about all the terrible things that have happened over the last year throughout the world. Have you watched the children, particularly in war-torn Gaza, crowding round with all sorts of containers desperately trying to get food never mind the extras that Christmas brings in normal situations.

In Gaza, where more than 42,000 have already been killed, people are dying of hunger, disease and injuries caused by the conflict. Over 1.9 million people have been displaced, over 2 million people are facing acute food insecurity and the healthcare system close to collapse. The situation in Lebanon, whilst not as desperate, has resulted in over a million people having to leave their homes, over 2,000 being killed and many thousands injured resulting in the healthcare system being stretched to the limit. We are fortunate that this is not happening in our country.

Maybe this year we could stop and think about these families and make a donation to the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) Middle East Humanitarian Appeal. Every donation no matter how small will help deliver urgent aid, including emergency food, clean water, shelter, vital medicines and so much more to wherever the need is greatest. The address to send a donation is:

DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal
PO Box 999
London
EC3A 3AA

Alternatively, if you would prefer to make a donation through the church then it should be handed to the church treasurer either directly or via any church member.

Thank you, wishing everyone a joyous healthy Christmas.

God Bless All

C Baxter



**DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE**

Quiz solutions

- This year was a Leap Year. Were 1900 and 2000 Leap Years? *The year 2000 was a leap year. But 1900 was not. Every 4 years is a leap year.*
- What is Whamaggedon? *Whamageddon is a game played during the 24 days before Christmas in which players try to go from 1 December to the end of Christmas Eve (24 December) without hearing "Last Christmas" by Wham!.*
- Alan Bates hit the headlines earlier this year. He shares his name with a famous actor but why is he well known? *Sir Alan Bates has been very active in trying to address the Post Office scandal.*
- HRH Duke of Edinburgh met a special resident at S Helena in January who had also met his grandparents. Who is he? *A giant tortoise.*
- A young actor, fresh out of drama school, was told by Arthur Lowe, "don't worry if there's not a lot of lines. They'll come. In the meantime get yourself a funny costume and stand near me". Who was the actor who passed away this year and starred in this classic sitcom? *Ian Lavender, who played Pike.*
- Why did a family photo taken for Mothering Sunday lead to a lot of media speculation? *The photo taken by HRH Princess of Wales had been not very successfully altered.*
- Why did North Korean television object to Alan Titchmarsh and his trousers? *He was wearing American style jeans.*
- How did a black cat called Matins get into trouble on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey. *The cat fell asleep on the Coronation throne.*
- Where was the Carnation Revolution fifty years ago?
- What product manufacturer (a byword in usefulness) announced in 2024 they would introduce the first bladeless version? *Swiss Army knife.*
- Which Oxford Don applied unsuccessfully to be a code breaker in the 1940s? There was a note by his name "keen". *JRR Tolkein. The word "keen" may have been a misspelling of his surname.*
- Where is the Elephant and Bear Line? *Near Coventry from Nuneaton down to Royal Leamington Spa.*
- What is Election purdah? *The rule that civil servants and others will normally observe discretion about making new announcements or decisions that could influence voters.*
- What was Gamblegate? *The allegations that some politicians took bets on when the general election would be when they had insider information.*
- 17th July was National Emoji Day. One of the most popular is known as ROTFL. What does that mean? *Roll on the floor laughing.*
- In this year's Olympics the Philippines gold medallist Carlos Yulo got an unusual reward as well as the medal. What was it? *A lifetime of free colonoscopies.*
- In August a north Italian city advertised for people to learn an ancient skill. The job requirements include being 18 or over, having a high school-level education, knowing how to swim, and possessing a medical certificate that proves "a healthy an robust constitution". What job was this for?
- What music celebrated its 200th anniversary? Liked by many and Karl Marx though "it a solemn mass of earthly joy"? *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.*
- Why might you be looking forward to not looking back in anger? *The news that the group Oasis are performing again.*
- What types of special judges were cancelled after 147 years' service and replaced electronically? *Line judges at Wimbledon.*

Some Prayers from Rev Christine

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King; keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning; help us so to hear them, to read, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



In Memory Of Dad's, Mam's,
Grans, Grandad's & Nana
From Graeme, Christine,
Sam, Luke & Karen

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CHRIST CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

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10.00am - 11.30am**

**Refreshments & Home Baked Cakes, Scones
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**Saturday 9th November
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**Please come along and support
your Parish Church**



**We look forward
to seeing you**



Christ Church Knit & Natter, Craft Group
**Come and join
our Knit & Natter Craft Group.**

**Bring your knitting, crochet or sewing,
or come and learn
to knit or how to do
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December which will be the 4th**

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Church Warden Stephen Forster
M: 07831156120
E: wardenstephen@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

Secretary Barbara Hall
secretary@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

Treasurer Michael Baxter
treasurer@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

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For information concerning Weddings, Funerals and
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Items for submission can be left at St Andrew or
E: info@standrews-chiltonmoor.church

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Please visit our website

www.standrews-chiltonmoor.church

We hope that this system will help to meet our visit requests and visiting in general. If you would like a visit or know anyone who would like one, please fill in the slip opposite.

Cut out the slip and hand it into Church or, if you are unable to get to Church give it to someone to bring for you.



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