



St Andrew Chilton Moor

Merry Christmas
&
A Peaceful &
Happy New Year

Parish Magazine December 2023/January 2024

50p

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Next Issue The deadline for material to be submitted to the
Editor for consideration for inclusion in the next month
magazine is the 10th of the previous month. Items for
submission can be left at St Andrew or

E: www.standrews-chiltonmoor.church



Cover photo from St Andrew Christmas Tree Festival 2012 by Graeme

Vicar's Letter December 2023 January 2024

From Rev Christine



Dear Sisters and Brothers

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2b

As December begins and the darkness around us grows longer each day, we find ourselves in the season of Advent, a time of hope and anticipation of what is to come. We are waiting for the arrival of the Saviour of the world and the joy of

Christmas, and we could argue that never before has the world needed a Saviour like it does now. Though I suspect each generation might well have said the same.

Following on from the celebration of Christmas we begin a New Year and many people will be hoping for a better one, it is often the case that people are glad to say goodbye to the old year which may have held personal difficulties and tragedies that they want to leave behind them. And the world around all of us is filled with suffering, war, and chaos – we pray for change, and we pray for peace when the New Year starts.

In our times of difficulty and darkness it can be easy to forget that the Saviour we long for, the change we need to happen, is already with us. The great light came into the world over 2000 years ago, dwelt among us and then died for us so that we could be free to live our lives under the protection of his love. This doesn't mean we won't ever live through times of pain and suffering because these are part of the spectrum of human experience, but it does mean he will accompany us and indeed carry us through.

Perhaps in those times of deep despair we might sense that comforting presence as we pray for some relief. Perhaps when we reflect on that awful time, we will realize that a person or a phone call came at just the right moment. God works through us and through others to bring light into the darkness.

Advent, Christmas and the turn of the year are times of



journey and reflection as we see where we have been this past year and where we want to be in the next. We can spend time in quiet personal reflection, and we can come together with others. There are plenty of opportunities over this period to come along to church to prepare and reflect as a community beginning with the service of Advent Carols on 3rd December at 4pm where the theme is 'looking for light'. Details of all the other services over the period can be found in this magazine, on our Facebook page and the website.

Let us travel together through this time of anticipation and when we arrive at the joy of Christmas I wish you every blessing and hope that your time is spent in contentment and peace.

Revd Christine



Welcome to the last issue of our magazine for 2023 and the first for January 2024.

What a year it has been, with world events and the war in Ukraine, we have had unprecedented wild fires, storms and floods across the world, and now we have the war in Israel and Gaza.

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 to that in our neighbourhood this Christmas. 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 if we can get them out into our community. They are probably the ONLY Christian literature any of your non-Christian neighbours will even see this Christmas. If you don't remind them of the true Christmas message this year, who will?

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

The Magazine Team

The first-ever nativity scene

This Christmas, thousands of Nativity plays will be held around the UK. Ever wonder who staged the very first one?

It was St Francis of Assisi, and it was 800 years ago, in Greccio, Italy, on 25th December 1223.

Francis had been born into a wealthy family, but abandoned his noble inheritance when he became a Christian. Instead, he had turned to a life of great simplicity, in service to Christ's church.



Francis spent many hours meditating on the stories of the life of Christ, and even travelled to the Holy Land in 1219 and 1220, to see the various holy sites of Jesus's life. The sites deeply moved him, as they brought the Bible stories to vibrant life.

Back in Italy, in November of 1223, Francis was in Rome, and he had an idea. Why not share something of the inspiration of the Holy Land with his people here in Italy?

Barely 50 miles to the north, in Greccio, he knew many people to whom he had been ministering for years. He could at least show them something of the simplicity of the birth of Jesus. And so it was that, two weeks before Christmas, Francis asked his friend, the Lord of Greccio, Giovanni Velita, to prepare a nearby cave with live animals and a hay-filled manger.

That cave, beside some rocky crags, became the venue of the very first ever Nativity scene. On Christmas 1223, when the people of Greccio attended Christmas Mass as usual, they were invited to 'come and see' the simple scene.

According to his biographer, Brother Thomas of Celano, Francis wanted people to see what Jesus had "suffered for lack of the necessities of a new-born babe, and how He lay in the manger between the ox and ass."

According to eyewitness accounts of the moment, fires lit the dark scene while crowds arrived at the spot carrying candles and torches. There were also accounts of miracles happening that night. Some people had a vision of a real infant in the empty manger, and others reported miraculous healings.

All in all, the Nativity scene was an instant success, and soon other communities were staging their own.

Today, you can still visit the cave and rocks where the first Nativity was staged. It is now a Franciscan hermitage and sanctuary. Every year at Christmas, the people of Greccio stage a live, historical re-enactment of St Francis and the first Nativity scene.

Pope Francis has visited the spot two times: in 2016 and then in 2019, when he signed an apostolic letter on the importance of Nativity scenes.

It was lovely to welcome e Bishop Paul and Archbishop Stephen to Lumley during their pilgrimage walk on their way to Finchale Abbey.



Christmas Across Our Group Of Churches

St. Andrew's Chilton Moor

Blue Christmas Service

Sun 10th Dec ~ 2.00pm

Crib & Carol Service

Tue 19th Dec ~ 6.00pm

Christmas Eve

Sun 24th Dec ~ 4:30pm Christmas Communion

Christ Church Lumley

Advent Carols

Sun 3rd Dec ~ 4.00pm

Blue Christmas

Sun 10th Dec ~ 4.00pm

Christmas Eve

Sun 24th Dec ~ 6.00pm

Traditional Family Carol Service

Christmas Day

Sat 25th Dec ~ 9.30am Sung Eucharist

St Mary's West Rainton

Village Carol Service

Mon 11th Dec ~ 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

Sun 24th Dec ~ 7.00pm Traditional Family Carol Service

Christmas Day

Mon 25th Dec ~ 10.00am Christmas Communion

St Cuthbert's East Rainton

Village Family Carol Service

Mon 4th Dec ~ 5.00pm

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

People from all four of our congregations

A special opportunity to join together as a whole group

Sun 17th Dec ~ 4.00pm

Christmas Eve Traditional Family Carol Service

Sun 24th Dec ~ 5.30pm



NATIVITY QUIZ IN 20 QUESTIONS

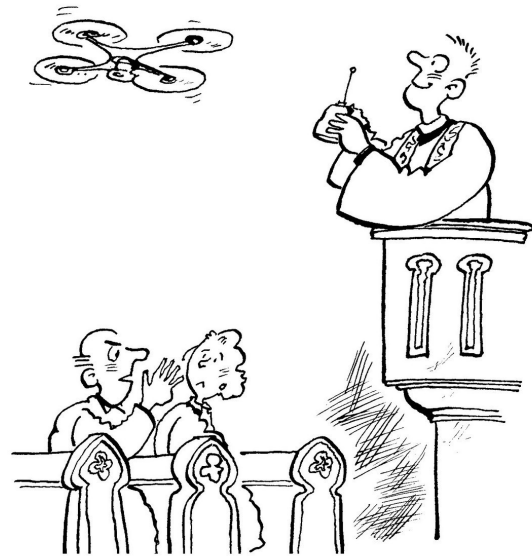
1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born? a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?
3. What did Joseph do for a living?
4. Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
5. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
6. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
8. Where does the Bible say Jesus was born? a) In a stable b) In hay c) In a manger
9. According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born? a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) None
10. What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?
11. The wise men travelled to Jerusalem. a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) westward
12. What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?
13. How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
14. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
15. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
16. What is the City of David also known as in the bible?
17. Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
18. What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean? a) God with us b) Son of God c) He who is God d) Chosen One
19. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
20. Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?

Answers on page 20





Rev John got a little carried away with the Church's new state of the art PA system



...his constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!

New overalls can cause a lot of stains when not first washed!



Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "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!"



IKEA is now selling Christmas trees. It's gonna be a long night...



What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas. The little girl gasped and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"



Church Finances

Michael Baxter , Treasurer

I set out below the income and expenditure of the Church during October 2023.

OCTOBER			
(to the nearest £)			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Regular giving	£555	Parish share	£1,000
Donations to church funds	£145	Cleaner	£139
Collections	£139	Gas/Electricity bills	£96
Hire of hall	£395	Service sheets/wafers/wine etc	£12
Fundraising	£3	Magazine printing etc	£122
PCC fees for occasional services	£200	Giving Envelopes	£78
Donations to charities	£12	Other sundry items	£60
OCTOBER TOTAL			£1,507
YEAR TOTALS TO END OCTOBER			£18,992

Michael Baxter
Treasurer

Christmas Prayer 2023

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred – and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will *always* shine in the darkness and the darkness will *never* be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always. In Jesus' saving and powerful name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Bracelets and Peace

by Anne Robinson

Born in Houghton-le-Spring, I discovered my love of languages while I was a student at Houghton Grammar School. At eighteen, I headed off to university to study French and German. On finishing, I intended to go into banking or marketing, but first, I decided to go to Spain for a year to learn a bit of Spanish.

Nearly 40 years later, and I'm still in Spain! After teaching in Madrid, then running a large language school here in Santander, where I live now, I started writing books for students of English for Cambridge University Press. I also train teachers of English for Cambridge University. Thanks to this, I have had the fortune to travel to many countries.



Anne and Anna in Vinnytsia school

friends with several of the people I met in Ukraine in 2019 as well as others I've never met.

So, on February 24th 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine, I felt very personally involved. I messaging friends to see where and how they were. There was a lot of confusion. People were either getting out or hiding in their basements (or apartments if they didn't have a basement). One evening, chatting to Anna Duchenko, who was in Vinnytsia, I showed Anna that bracelet we'd bought in Independence Square. About thirty minutes later, Anna sent a photo of a bracelet she'd just made, saying it was the first time that she had found herself able to think of something else than the awful ongoing situation in Ukraine.

We came up with an idea: to ask students from Vinnytsia Primary School #25 to teach us how to make bracelets. (The idea was for them to have their minds on something positive and creative.)

We chose a name: Bracelets and Peace and created a webpage, a Facebook and Instagram account. We had people in basements and

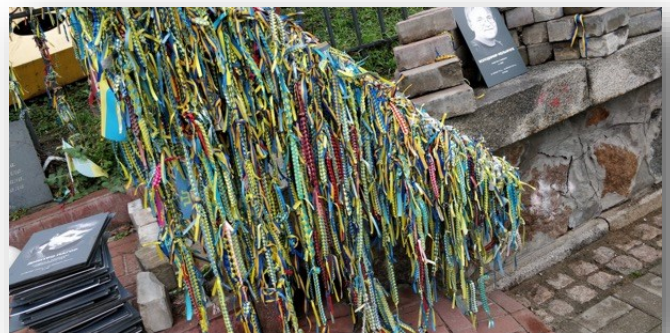


In 2019, I went twice to Ukraine. It was on my second visit, in November 2019, when two things happened that have since had an effect on me:

1 I went to a primary school in the city of Vinnytsia to train teachers. I met Anna Duchenko, Vice-Principal at the school.

2 My husband Jose Ramon and I visited Independence Square in Kyiv and bought a bracelet.

Since 2019, I've adapted and written books for Ukrainian primary and secondary students and I become real



Bracelets in Independence Square



shelters in Ukraine, making blue and yellow bracelets with whatever they could lay their hands on – string, paper serviettes, pieces of material. Sending us photos and telling us their stories. It was very touching and emotional.

As the months went by, classes were almost always online. Students stuck at home. In August 2022, the local authorities in Vinnytsia started work on the basement in Vinnytsia Primary School #25. To convert it into a shelter so that students could get back to face to face lessons. The problem was that there was no money for the contents. That was when our first major project began. We started raising money by making and selling bracelets. Schools in Spain and Portugal joined in. In Greece, Italy, Canada too. We bought tiles for the floor, bean bags, blankets and many more things. In November 2022, 660 students were able to return to Vinnytsia Primary School #25. It was a very proud moment. We have since helped Vinnytsia Lyceum #1 and Barnivok Dance School with their basements.



Primary school basement now

in the Mukachevo area (near Hungary). Three of the orphanages used to be in Dnipro, but had to move when the city was bombarded. Some of the children were already orphaned. Others have become orphans during this conflict. Every month, we send money to buy medicines for a special needs orphanage and nappies for three of the orphanages. We receive specific requests like boots, painting by numbers, etc. We are currently raising money to buy 13 pairs of headphones for teenage orphans who have to study online in the same room.

The next phase of the project involves Safety Classrooms. As from September, all schools in Ukraine should have a Safety Classroom where students will learn about things like fire and mine safety. Dealing with the terrible reality in the country.

We have applied for charity status in Ukraine. What began with one ribbon bracelet has grown into an international organisation. We work very closely with Sunderland for Ukraine and Durham Ukrainian Cultural Group. Both these groups are doing wonderful work to help schools, hospitals and orphanages across in Ukraine. The wonderful connections continue to be made and grow.

Bracelets and Peace has evolved a lot and, looking back, we are very proud of how far we've come and the difference we've made.

We will have some Bracelets for sale in St Andrew's.



Some morning & evening prayers for you to use from Rev Christine



Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray; and in your mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The night has passed and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind: Eternal God,, early in the morning before we begin our work, we praise your glory. Renew our bodies as fresh as the morning flowers. Open our inner eyes, as the sun casts new light upon the darkness which prevailed over the night. Deliver us from captivity. give us wings of freedom like the birds in the sky, to begin a new journey. Amen

A Season for joyful song

Some of us like to sing, no matter what we may sound like to others! And sometimes, something happens that is so special that we can't help but burst into song.

In the Christmas story, singing is featured on *three* occasions. When Mary visited her elderly relative, Elizabeth, she was so overwhelmed with happiness at the forthcoming miraculous birth of her Son, that she burst into a flow of praise. Her words are known as *The Magnificat*, and they have been set to music by numerous composers down the years. Mary recalled God's promise that He would rescue His people and, through the Messiah, save the world.

The next 'song' came from the angels, on the night of Jesus' birth. They appeared to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem and were full of the glory of God. 'Peace on earth', 'goodwill toward man'.

The final 'song' in the Nativity story came from the shepherds, who hurried to see the new-born baby. They were so overwhelmed by the implications for Israel, that they sang praises to God as they returned to their sheep.

Mary, the angels and the shepherds could not help but sing for joy at the coming of the Messiah. They were the first, but not the last! Since the day of Pentecost, hundreds of millions of people have raised their voices in gratitude, thanks and wonder at God's love and mercy in sending Jesus.

Down the centuries, countless poets and musicians have composed music to describe a wondrous moment in history. At Christmas, around the world, people come together to sing carols and other songs that express the wonder of God's Gift to us.

Jesus has given *us* hope; forgiven *our* sin; and continues to impart faith and heal *our* spiritual wounds. Now isn't that something to sing about?



The Heart of Christmas

We're at that time of year again! But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? At its heart, Christmas is all about a God who has showed up on earth. The Creator of the universe, whose hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby. 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' (John 1:14)

Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, innkeeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! Why do we do all this? It's to remind us that God deals with the mess of our world by sending His Son to die in our place. This makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Himself:

When the time came, He "did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start understanding the heart of the Christmas message. However, it's so much more than simply a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:
If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;

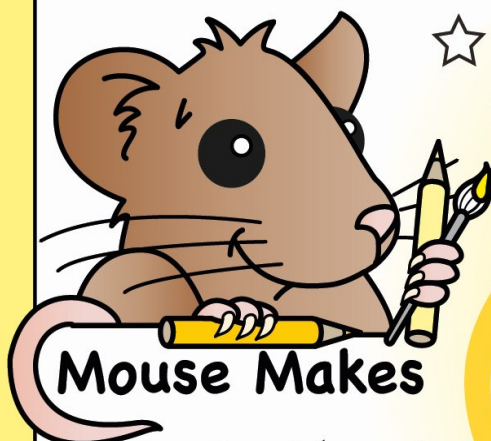
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;

But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.





Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR

MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT

THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

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



MOTHERS UNION ST. ANDREW'S



It was decided to change the time of the meeting from an evening to an afternoon at 2.00pm on the third Thursday of the month.

We hope this will be convenient to all members, and maybe we could welcome new members.



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.

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



The craft class meet in the Church Annexe every Monday from 2-4pm



In the cycle of prayer for our village & community.

Dear God, we give thanks for this time when we can all be together. We give thanks for this food which is bountiful and delicious. We give thanks for this joyful holiday when we can celebrate our Saviour and his love for us. With joy we pray, Amen.

Visit Request

Name of person requesting a visit

Address

Telephone number

Request made by

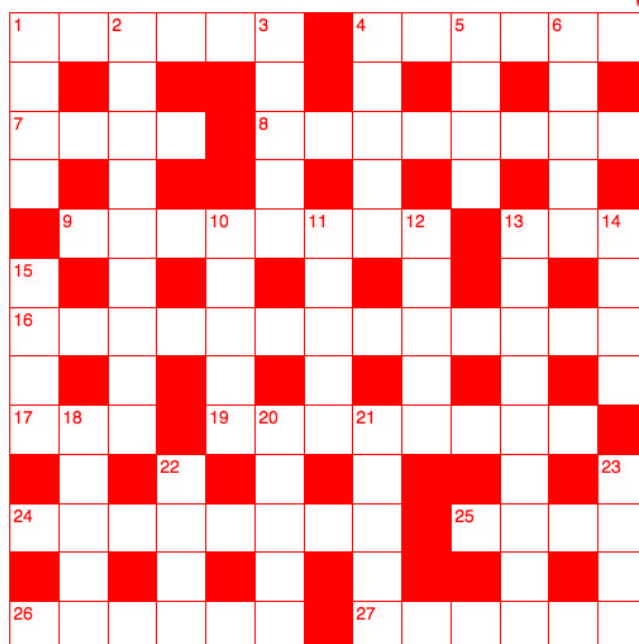
DECEMBER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
 13 'They all — and were Ssatisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2)(9)
 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
 6 'Reach out your hand and — —



into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)

- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

Sunday Sixth of December St Nicholas, a much-loved saint

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.



Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas – on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten – in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many people feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.



Bethany Gospel Choir Evening

On Friday 3rd November, it was a pleasure to welcome The Bethany Gospel Choir to our church at St. Andrew's. The Mother's Union had decided to ask them to sing to help us raise some money for our charity funds. The evening was filled with anticipation, as most of the 'audience' had never seen or heard the choir before. We were not disappointed!

The singing was amazing and everyone was uplifted by the wonderful voices and enthusiasm of the choir, ably supported by the audience with clapping and singing if they knew the songs. The evening was split into 2 sections, with a break for refreshments in the annex. This gave us a chance to have a chat and meet the members of the choir. The evening concluded with a Christmas hymn and a beautiful chorus of 'AMEN'. It



was my great honour to thank the choir for supporting our charity and for bringing and sharing their faith with us all that evening. God was indeed praised and worshipped and we were able to raise £150. On behalf of The Mother's Union, thank you again for all who supported the evening in any way, behind the scenes and by attending. We must do it again sometime.

Barbara Hall



Food Basket

St Andrews Has been operating a food basket in our church for quite some time now and we wish to say a big Thankyou to all who give so generously to people who are needing some help. We also Express a Big Thankyou to our Church Warden Wayne Marshall who does an important role delivering to the various outlets.

As Christmas is fast approaching may we ask for items that would help those less well off to have a taste of Christmas and especially goodies that children can enjoy.

Many thanks for your generosity throughout the year and may we wish you a Joyful Christmas.

CB



PARISH NEWS

St. Andrew's, Chilton Moor Christ Church, Great Lumley
St. Cuthbert's, East Rainton St. Mary's, West Rainton
December 2023

Saturday 2nd December 2023

Coffee Morning St Andrews 10am

Sunday 3rd December 2023

9.15am St Cuthberts. 9.30am Christ Church. 10.30am St
Andrews. 11a

St Mary's.

4pm Group Advent Carol Service – Christ Church, Lumley

Monday 4th December 2023

Coffee Event St Cuthbert's Church Hall 2pm

Village Carol Service St Cuthberts – 5pm

Tuesday 5th December 2023

Bible Reflection Group 6.30pm – St Andrew's Chilton
Moor

Wednesday 6th December 2023

10.30am Midweek Eucharist – Christ Church. 1.30pm Midweek Eucharist
St Andrew's.

Saturday 9th December 2023

Coffee Morning 10am – Christ Church, Great Lumley

Coffee Morning 10am – St Mary's, West Rainton

The Holly and the Reindeer Christmas Concert – St Mary's West Rainton 4.30pm

Sunday 10th December 2023

9.15am St Cuthbert's. 9.30am Christ Church. 10.30am St Andrew's. 11.00am St
Mary's

Blue Christmas – St Andrews 2pm Christ Church Lumley 4pm

Wednesday 13th December 2023

10.30am Midweek Eucharist – Christ Church. 1.30pm Midweek Eucharist
St Andrew's.

Thursday 14th December 2023

Fireside Nativity (West Rainton Primary & Springfield Lodge Care Home)

St Mary's, West Rainton 3.30pm

Sunday 17th December 2023

9.15am St Cuthbert's. 9.30am Christ Church. 10.30am St Andrew's. 11.00am St
Mary's.

Nine Lessons and Carols – St Cuthbert's, East Rainton 4pm

Monday 18th December 2023

Village Carol Service – St Mary's West Rainton 6.30pm

Tuesday 19th December 2023

Crib Service – St. Andrews, Chilton Moor 6pm

Wednesday 20th December 2023

10.30am Midweek Eucharist – Christ Church. 1.30pm Midweek Eucharist - St
Andrew's.



Sunday 24th December 2023

9.15am St Cuthbert's. 9.30am, 10.30am St Andrew's 11.00am Café Church St Mary's
4.30pm – Christmas Communion St Andrews, Chilton Moor
5.30pm – Traditional Family Carol Service, St Cuthberts, East Rainton
6pm – Traditional Family Carol Service, Christ Church, Lumley
7pm – Traditional Family Carol Service, St Mary's, West Rainton

Monday 25th December 2023

9.30am – Sung Eucharist – Christ Church, Lumley
10am – Christmas Communion – St Mary's, West Rainton

Wednesday 27th December 2023

10.30am Midweek Eucharist – Christ Church. 1.30pm Midweek Eucharist – St Andrew's.

Sunday 31st December 2023

9.15am St Cuthbert's. 9.30am Christ Church. 10.30am St Andrew's. 11am St Mary's.



Nativity Quiz Answers:

1. Nazareth
2. Gabriel
3. Carpenter
4. Caesar Augustus
5. To register for the census
6. We are not told in the Bible
7. There was no room at the inn
8. c) In a manger
9. d) None
10. 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people'
11. d) westward
12. A star
13. The Bible doesn't say
14. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
15. The shepherds
16. Bethlehem
17. Matthew and Luke
18. a) God with us
19. 8, according to the law
20. False; we don't know the date

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St Andrew's Church Annexe "In the Heart of the Community"

St Andrew's Church Annexe is a friendly and vibrant community building, we would encourage anyone wishing to use it.

Providing flexible meeting space for use by local community and volunteer groups, including regular activities for children and adults.

Offering an ideal venue for family parties, conferences, coffee mornings or other get-togethers, Craft groups and Church groups.

Situated in the grounds of St Andrew, the Annexe is attached to the Church, is within easy reach of good public transport links and close to the A690 and A1(M).

There is a fully functional kitchen has been recently re furbished and has ample parking.

Please email info@standrews-chiltonmoor.church



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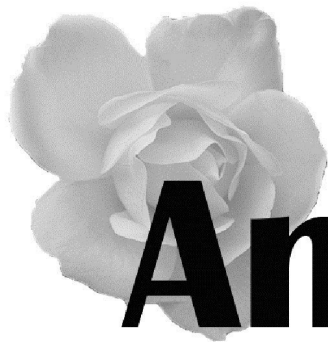
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Christian Worship In Fence Houses

For regular worshippers and for anyone who wants to find out more. All are welcome.

St Andrew: Sunday: 10.30am. Parish Eucharist
(Communion)

Wednesday: 1.30pm Holy Communion

Christian Activities In Fence Houses

Tuesday: (2nd) 6.30pm Women's Institute (Dubmire Club)

Monday: Quilting Group (St Andrew)

Thursday: (3rd) 2pm. Mothers Union (St Andrew)

(4th) Beetle Drive (St Andrew)

Churchill Square Community Room

St John:

Sunday : Afternoon Worship 3pm-4pm

Monday: Toddlers' Play 9.30am-11.30am

Thursday: Cake and Company 1.30pm-4pm

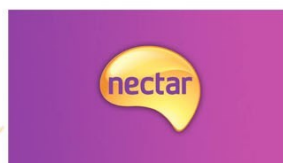
Saturday: Coffee Morning

Second Saturday of each Month

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