

The Ven. David C. Garnett
The Vicarage, Edensor, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1PH Tel: 01246 582130
(Church website - www.stpetersedensor.org)



DECEMBER 2011

Dear friends,

During the last few months we have been looking at the Lord's Prayer. I hope you have found it helpful.

This month we end with: "For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever." In fact these words are an addition to the Lord's Prayer and are not in the original manuscripts. Ultimately they became part of the prayer as a response by the congregation. They actually go right back to the prayer of King David: "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty ..." (I Chronicles 29:11) So, then, the Lord's Prayer was said in church by the leader and the people responded: "For thine is the kingdom ..."

Let's look at it bit by bit.

"Thine is the Kingdom":-The Kingdom comes as God's will is here, or letting God reign in our lives. And I personally think that St Paul's Cathedral should have invited the protesters in for the night to keep them warm and to dialogue with them. It's all about letting God override our petty agendas.

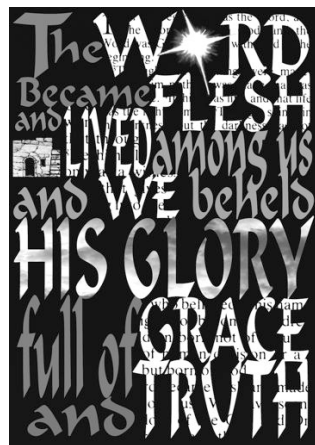
"Thine is the power": The Greek word is "dunemis", from which the English words Dynamic and dynamite come! So we end the prayer being reminded of the dynamic power of God. I remember once praying that the Church should be effective in socially deprived areas. God answered the prayer by sending us to Ellesmere Port. Our prayers can be answered more promptly than we expect! The prayer ends in the confidence that in love God has heard us and that he answers, often like dynamite!

"Thine is the glory." Glory is a special word denoting the presence of God. It can be translated by the word "Cloud". Not the clouds of winter but the brilliant clouds of summer driven up by the heat from the moisture of the earth – dazzling white. The presence of God is like that. God is mystery,

“No-one hath seen God at any time”, but there are those glorious glimpses into the presence of God. I saw the glory of God when a child took the hand of a bereaved person and led her home.

After praying the Lord's Prayer we rise from our knees and step out into the world. We do so remembering the royal reign of God and pledge to be obedient to him; remembering the dynamic power of God and trusting in that power to answer our prayer; remembering the Glory of God and living with the reverence which knows the earth is penetrated and permeated by the Divine Glory. Amen

David



Midweek Communion

During work to the lighting and wiring in St. Peter's, the monthly midweek Communion service, held on the first Wednesday of each month, will take place either At The Vicarage, Edensor or St. Anne's, Beeley. Please make your preference known to the Vicar.

THANK YOU

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has helped in any way at our two churches this year. Those who clean, make coffee on a Sunday, arrange flowers, read the lessons, act as sidesmen; our organists Lynn & Joe at St. Peter's and Judith Fraser-Martin and Ian Fisher at Beeley and the visiting organists, especially Roger Briscoe, who play for us when our own organists take a well earned rest. To Clive Robinson who winds the clock, those who clean our church brasses and the ones who have helped to keep the churchyard tidy (including Richard); thanks also to Barry Bateman who puts the parking signs out for us. Finally to David and Vernon and visiting preachers.

Apologies to anyone who has been forgotten. We do appreciate all the help you give us.



'The Bridge'

Magazine Subscriptions

Your magazine subscription for 2012 is now due - **£7.20**, please give the money to the person who delivers your magazine. If I post the magazine to you a book of 12 x 2nd class stamps (£4.32) brings the total amount to £11.52 - or just simply give me a book of stamps with your subscription.

Thank you for your continued support and remember we welcome any suitable items for inclusion in The Bridge.

Cheques should be made payable to:

Edensor PCC



St. Peter's Church 100 Club -

October Draw 2011

1st Prize £30 no. 43 - J Harding

2nd Prize £20 no. 62 - Andrew Mason

Funds to church this month - £50

Due to the printer having extra Christmas work, items for the **January** Magazine should reach me **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

Mail to: liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk

'The Bridge' Parish Magazine - 60p per copy (£7.20 per year).

Useful Telephone Numbers

St. Anne's	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Vernon Mather M.B.E.	01629 732317
<u>St. Peter's</u>	Treasurer:-	Gloria Sherwood	01629 732983
	Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw	01246 582421
		Duncan Gordon	01629 734099
	Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton	01246 582245
		e-mail: mtitterton@btinternet.com	

DATES TO NOTE

- 5 Dec A Twilight evening at Chatsworth: enjoy an evening stroll through Chatsworth's Christmas visitor route and a glass of wine and a mince pie. Handbell ringers and a choir will also be performing. The Orangery shop will be open for your last minute Christmas shopping, with a 10% discount on purchases over £2. Tickets £15 per person (no concessions) available from Christine Robinson 01246 582938 or 07874 650 979. In aid of St. Peter's Church Lighting Fund.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - NOVEMBER

- 13 Dec **Beeley WI Christmas Party**
7.30pm Beeley Village Hall
Please bring food for a 'Christmas Muddle'
- 14 Dec **Chatsworth WI Christmas Party**
Competition: Mini door wreath 12inch max.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



FROM ST. PETER'S & ST. ANNE'S

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to friends, fellow members of both congregations and readers of 'The Bridge' from: Gary & Margaret Nelson; Margaret & David Jackson; Pat & Roy Bosett; Roger & Gloria Sherwood; Stan Liddicot; Dorothy Cooper; Jean Clarke; Clive & Joy Thrower; Margaret Thomas; Janet & Peter Machin; Pauline & Vernon Mather; David & Susanne Garnett; Liz & Ray Bradshaw; Ann & David Hall; Bob & Julie Carter;

Have you done your Christmas Shopping yet?
Need to post a present to someone?
How about a present that will last all year?

The Pilsley Village Calendar ticks all the boxes.

Full of photographs taken by
Pilsley residents of over the
years the calendar has been
sponsored by local businesses.

On sale for just £5
available from Pilsley PO or
members of Pilsley Village
Fair Committee



A TWILIGHT EVENING AT CHATSWORTH

5TH DECEMBER 5.30PM – 6.45PM

Enjoy an evening stroll through Chatsworth's Christmas visitor route and a glass of wine and a mince pie. Handbell ringers and a choir will also be performing. The Orangery shop will be open for your last minute Christmas shopping with a 10% discount on any purchase over £2.

Tickets £15 per person
(no concessions)
available from Christine Robinson
01246 582938 or 07874 650 979

*by kind permission of
The Duke & Duchess of Devonshire
proceeds to St. Peter's Lighting Fund*



St. Paul and a Journey

Rev'd. Clive Thrower writes

Paul wrote to the Corinthians that his and their mission was like running a race, striving and straining towards the prize. The prize, however, was not to be made of gold or silver or anything else corruptible but the incorruptible love of God in Jesus as he said also to the Ephesians 'I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus'. On our pilgrimage in September to Greece in the footsteps of St. Paul we saw stadia where Paul almost certainly stood and watched the games 1,950 years ago and inspired his spiritual analogies. It must have been uncomfortable being around Paul as his outspoken proclamations about Jesus and his acceptance of Gentiles caused riots in Philippi, Athens, Ephesus and Jerusalem. He was a driven man and would not be silenced. It may well have been reading the life's work of St. Paul that made the 17th century nun write in her prayer 'I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with'. Unlike the games where only one wins the prize the Christian race has a prize for all that stay to the end; Paul called it "a place in heaven".

There were 25 of us on the pilgrimage just under half from

Derbyshire, the rest from the south coast around Rye, where my co-leader Canon Richard Orchard now lives. A particular inspiration and comfort came from listening to the life stories and journeys of faith of our fellow pilgrims. So much so that we are meeting up again in November to renew friendships, catch up with news, and swap photos and stories from the pilgrimage. The Biblical places we visited were Neapolis, Philippi, Thessalonica, Veria, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and islands of Crete and Patmos. In addition we visited the monasteries set on top of rocky outcrops at Meteora (how ironic that these monks and nuns sought isolated high places to be in quiet contemplation with God only to have the world now beating a path to their doors). The recent series on ITV 'Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey' has been a delightful reminder of several of the places we visited.

How appropriate that the current anti-capitalism encampment outside of St. Paul's Cathedral in London is causing so much heart searching for our church leaders. Paul had invited his hearers both Jews and Gentiles to take a radical new view of God and the world. It caused huge controversy as people perceived their vested interests in gold and silver to be upset. Following the 'new way' was not going to be easy and the focus of

Paul's ministry was so often the poor and the marginalized in society. His letters to the churches he founded illustrate how he was working out the practicalities as he went. The protestors around the cathedral don't have the practicalities worked out but they are inviting us to undertake a journey in a new direction, and that will require courage and faith in a God that is with us and guiding us in all things when we prayerfully listen to his Spirit.

Christmas – according to the Gospel of St Matthew (Matthew 2: 1 – 11)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.



St. Paul preaching at Neapolis

Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.



Missing the guest of honour

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"

(Matthew 2:2)

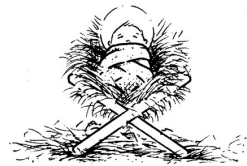
There's a story that runs like this: there was a mayor of a small town who had brought in so many improvements to local life that over several years he had transformed the town. And so the community decided it was high time to pay him tribute.

The party was held at the local town hall, and all agreed it was a great celebration. The decorations were superb, the music was loud, the room crowded and noisy. The food was delicious, and the wine flowed. It was the best party the town had ever had.

Over coffee the next morning in the local cafe, someone wondered aloud if the mayor had enjoyed it. No one knew. In fact, as the day wore on, people began to realise that actually, no one had even seen

the mayor there that night. Later they discovered that the mayor had been waiting at home all evening, waiting for the lift that he had been promised into town. But people were so busy preparing for the party, that no one had remembered him. And so he had missed the party in his honour. Apparently no one had even noticed his absence.

It sounds a lot like Christmas. People get together to celebrate, the food is great, the music warms the heart - but has anyone seen the guest of honour? We sing about him, we act out nativity plays about him, but in reality, the season has become about US. Our menus, our travel plans, our presents, our decorations. At what point in the proceedings do we give ourselves time to notice whether He is among us, or not?



Smile...

Prompting

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas Sunday School drama presentation. His mother, sitting in the front row tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the angel Gabriel!" The child beamed with acknowledgment and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the congregation could hear said, "My Mummy is the angel Gabriel!"

Derbyshire police launches new 101 non-emergency number

Derbyshire police is today launching a new telephone number which will make it easier for people to get in touch with the force about issues that do not need an emergency response.

From Monday October 24 people will be able to contact Derbyshire Constabulary by dialling 101, which replaces the former 0345 123 33 33 non-emergency number.

It is part of a national drive to make it easier for people to contact police to report crime and disorder, with all forces using the number by the end of this year.

While 999 is a well recognised number to report emergencies, the 2010 British Crime Survey found that only 54 per cent of the public know how to contact their local police if they want to talk to them about local policing issues, crime or anti-social behaviour.

It is hoped that 101 will reduce the number of inappropriate 999 calls, allowing the force to respond to emergencies more effectively.

By calling 101, you will be able to speak to the police force control room of your local police service. Calls from landlines and mobile networks cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long you are on the phone.

You should use 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not

require an emergency response. For example:

- ▶- if your car has been stolen;
- ▶- if your property has been damaged;
- ▶- where you suspect drug use or dealing;
- ▶- if you want to report a minor traffic collision;
- ▶- if you want to give the police information about crime in your area;
- ▶- if you want to speak to your local officers; or
- ▶- general enquiries, like how to join the Special Constabulary or how to join Neighbourhood Watch.

The 0345 123 33 33 number will remain as a way for people to contact Derbyshire Constabulary from overseas and deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired callers can access the service via textphone on 18001 101.

Assistant Chief Constable Dee Collins said: "People should only call 999 in a real emergency, that is when a crime is happening, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby or where someone is injured, being threatened or in danger.

"For all other matters, such as reporting anti-social behaviour, making a general enquiry or contacting your local officers, 101 is the number you should dial."

Between April 1 and September 30, Derbyshire police answered 462,423 calls. Of these, 70,520 were emergency calls and 391,903 were non-emergency calls.

For more information about 101, visit www.derbyshire.police.uk

GOD IN THE ARTS

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with

'THE VISION OF ST FRANCIS'

by Ludovico Carracci of Bologna . It hangs in The National Gallery in London.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk/artists/ludovico-carracci

JESUS THE LIGHT

Longing for light is a primal longing. When the light shines, people gather and creatures are attracted. We see the light in the darkness and we move towards it to find reassurance and comfort. The Bible's diagnosis of the human condition is that we are so often blind to that light. We can't see, we won't see.

Bartimaeus in the synoptic gospels, and the man born blind in St John's Gospel, both stand for all of us. Like them we need sight and we need insight. This month we focus on the light that brings that sight and insight – the light who is Jesus.

Over the last months we have reflected on a variety of images, of faces of Jesus portrayed in art: the babe in the temple, the adult in the wilderness, the man of prayer, the shepherd, the vine, the door, the giver of food, the healer, the clown, the risen Lord. In this month of December we travel full circle to the babe who began the year: the

Christ-Child who comes as light and life in the gloom of winter and the darkness of sin.

'The Vision of St Francis' by Ludovico Carracci of Bologna tells the story of a young friar who wakes one night to find his hut empty and the saint gone. He travels by water and wood to find St Francis with our Lady. Mary has given him the Christ-Child to hold. This work was painted around 1584, and Carracci has captured wonderfully this human, tender moment. The saint gazes into the face of the babe, whose left hand reaches up to touch St Francis. Mary looks on amid the trees with her feet on the clouds of the vision. The light in the painting shines out from the newborn child. We can just see the young companion in the shadows on the left. All is focused on St Francis whose own face is suffused with joy and wonder as he cradles the tiny, vulnerable babe.

We know St Francis reawakened the love of the Christ-Child in the people of Greccio when he invited them to a cave outside the town to see and ponder anew the first Christmas scene of a mother and child, with St Joseph and the animals. From that arose the tradition of having a Christmas crib in our churches and homes at this season. The manger scene says 'Don't pass by amid the rush of

this month. You have eyes: pause, see and wonder.' Each time we look at the crib, like the people of Greccio, we are reminded of the simplicity and the mystery of that gift of light and life in the Saviour.

When we look at the face of Jesus on the cross, perhaps we hear him

saying, 'I do this for you.' When we make our communion at the Eucharist, we may hear Jesus saying 'I come to feed you.' And when we look at the Christ-Child in the crib at this holy time, like St Francis looking in this painting, we can hear Jesus say, 'I am born for you.'

Christmas: The story of the Christingle

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that. But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay



still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. www.childrenssociety.org.uk

The Rev Paul Hardingham considers Christmas.

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED!

A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. She requested *'something that will make me look sexy and beautiful.'* To her surprise the husband gave her an exercise bike as a gift!

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy provided grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream reminding Joseph that the child to be born would fulfil Isaiah's promise: *'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel - which means, God with us.'* (1:23). Joseph's world, like our own, is scary and uncertain and it's not always clear as to what God is doing. So what is the message of the name **Immanuel** for Joseph, as well as for ourselves as we approach Christmas 2011?

• **God is present with us**

God assured Joseph through his dream that he was working in all

that Joseph was experiencing. The conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit is not unexplained; however the wonder of the incarnation is that the eternal and creator God has entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. The birth of Jesus means that we can know God personally, not just know about him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, as well as bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as he worked in the conception of **Immanuel**.

• **God is on our side**

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. By coming in Jesus he enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. Therefore, he can understand what we are going through, as he is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection he gave his life that we might know his life, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of **Immanuel** (*God with us*) as we entrust ourselves to him for the coming year.

Rural churches look great on Christmas cards, but in reality they can feel isolated. There is now good news for all rural Christians!

CONNECTING RURAL CHURCHES

The Christian rural charity, the Arthur Rank Centre, has recently launched a website (visit: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk) which will connect rural churches, ministers and lay people of all denominations. It also offers a huge range of free information, support, training and resources. It has been called a 'must-visit' for any rural church.

The website, funded by the Jerusalem Trust and the Mercers Charitable Trust, brings all the services provided by the ARC, as the churches' rural resources unit, online.

Visitors to the site can browse the library of good rural practice, signposts for rural mission and ministry, Country Way magazine (as an online publication for the first time), RuSource briefings, an online image library and a separate section containing resources for worship. Or they may wish to join in on the ARC's Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn pages. The website will continue to grow and develop, as more and new materials continue to be produced by the ARC. Please visit www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk for more information.

80 choirs to celebrate the Jubilee in 2012

Choirbook for the Queen, a unique collection of choral music published in recognition of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, has just been launched.

The Choirbook, published by Canterbury Press, includes 44 anthems written in the last decade.

11 anthems have been specially commissioned from leading British composers, including one by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Master of the Queen's Music.

During 2012, to celebrate the Jubilee and to showcase the excellence of choral singing and composition, the Choirbook anthems will be sung by cathedral and collegiate choirs in every corner of the United Kingdom. The Choirbook has been taken up enthusiastically by directors of music so that 80 of the country's most prestigious choirs will sing the anthems in services throughout 2012, many of which will also be broadcast.



More details at:

www.choirbooktrust.org.uk

GLORIOUS THE SONG WHEN GOD'S THE THEME :

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.

'THERE IS SWEET MUSIC HERE':

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

During this year we have been looking at different musical instruments and seeing how composers have used them in their music. In this final month we turn to one of the most ravishing of all orchestral instruments – the harp.

The sound of the harp introduced 'Mrs Dale's Dairy' on the radio in the 1950s. Thomas Moore, the poet, praised the harp whose music once sounded through Tara's halls. John Milton wrote of the 'charming symphony' of golden harps in 'Paradise Lost.' But many centuries before all of these, it was David's harp that soothed the tormented spirit of Saul and refreshed his soul. The plucked strings of the instrument can do just that, and it is the harp that moves the psalmist in Psalm 43 away from inner worries to the praise of God.

Appropriately for December, we shall explore the harp in a carol sequence: Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols', which he composed in 1942. I remember our music master playing a recording of this work when I was a schoolboy. I had been brought

up on 'Away in a manger' and 'O little town of Bethlehem,' and so Britten's settings of medieval and 17th century carols were a revelation as he depicted a whole range of emotions brought to life by the birth of Jesus. One moment a lullaby, the next exultant cries of 'Wolcum Yole!' One moment a freezing winter night, the next the birds singing and the corn flourishing in the season of spring.

And all reflected and sustained by the glorious sonorities of the harp: nimble fingerwork expressing joy and life, cold chords for the wintry weather that somehow sent a chill through the spirit, and then triumphant glissandi to the words 'Deo gracias.' The work is framed by plainsong – 'Today Christ is born' - and in the middle the harp has a solo which meditates and improvises on those notes. In just 32 bars, Britten expresses all that the instrument is capable of – sonorous, deep, low octaves, sparkling arpeggios, and magical glissandi that weave around the melody and then die away into silence.

Up to that interlude the carols have praised this new birth of Jesus and the light and hope it brings. After it, the mood changes – the birth takes place in the depth of winter, and there is no room anywhere for the Christ-Child. But this is the way of God working in

his world, and the carols and harp express that mystery and marvel.

The final carol is 'Adam lay ibounden' which sings of the old world of the fall and death and the new world of birth and light. The Christmas message can raise downcast spirits like a light shining in the darkness. Yet, without the darkness and the fall there would be no Christmas. That is why, says 'A Ceremony of Carols', we can rejoice amid all that brings us low. Before the work fades away in the

plainsong recessional, the dominant song is 'Thanks be to God.' The harp expresses those words in swooping, spirited glissandi that shine out on the page and ring in our ears and hearts with Christmas joy.



Once in ... Kings College Chapel Cambridge

Christmas Eve, and somewhere in Cambridge there will be a boy aged between nine and 13 who is about to sing before an audience of 10 million people worldwide.

Shortly before 3pm, the 16 boy choristers of King's College Chapel will line up in front of the adult section of the choir. They will all watch as a red light near them starts flashing, warning that the BBC announcer is telling listeners that the programme is moving to the chapel in Cambridge. When the flashing red light stops for about 10 seconds and then come on again solid, the director of music will beckon his chosen soloist forward.



The boy will then step forward to perform the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', the traditional start to Christmas Eve Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast each year by the BBC. The boy will have ten seconds warning to give the performance of his life. The lack of warning is to prevent the boys having to worry about it ahead of time....

The 1 Corinthians 13 of Christmas

If I decorate my house with beautiful bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, roasting a perfect turkey, and lay a magnificent table, but have no love for my guests, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion in my heart for those in need, I am just another social service; it profits me nothing.

If I decorate the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes and attend a myriad of holiday parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with boring housework. Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor. Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents, or even co-ordinated Christmas china and table linen. Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way; love is glad that they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives. It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future. It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about their job prospects. Love never fails other people. Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost. But the gift of love will endure forever.

Happy Christmas!



The Way I See It – Bath Salts for the Baby

David Winter is a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.

I suppose in a way you've got to blame those 'Wise Men'. Their gifts to the infant Jesus - gold, frankincense and myrrh - have probably got something to do with the fact that we give gifts at Christmas.

We can't give them to Jesus on his birthday, because even Amazon can't deliver to heaven, so we give them to ... well, Auntie Jo, grandson Reuben and the nice woman next door who takes in our parcels when we're not there. And then there's the nephews and nieces, the brothers and sisters, friends at church and of course the beloved, who always poses the biggest dilemma. 'In as much as you do it for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do it for me', said Jesus, but as I look at my presents list it doesn't honestly look like 'the least'. My nephew works for a merchant bank and his annual bonus would probably pay off my mortgage. What do you give to the young man who's got everything?

Which brings me back to those Wise Men, who weren't all that wise, in fact - pedlars of spells and high class fortune tellers, really. But their gifts were clever. What do you give to the child who is 'born king', as they described him (rather unwisely) to Herod? Their answer was gold (because he was royal), frankincense

(because he would be our great high priest) and myrrh (because he had been born in order to die). Their gifts may seem strange at first sight - and must have completely baffled poor Mary and Joseph - but they were absolutely right for the recipient: king and priest and sacrifice, as the carol says. When it comes to getting the presents exactly right, they're top drawer.

Which probably won't help much as we try to fathom out our presents list this Christmas. Do you remember John Betjeman's list of goofy gifts - 'bath salts and inexpensive scent, and hideous tie so kindly meant'? His lines make me wince every time I read them because it sounds exactly like my last minute Christmas shopping. But his wry list of inappropriate gifts is to be found in a poem about the Nativity. And in it the pathetic presents we buy and wrap up and hand over at Christmas are contrasted with God's greatest gift - 'the Maker of the sky and sea, become a child on earth for me'.

'It isn't the gift - it's the spirit in which it's given', we say. True. True, too, of that greatest gift of all, 'the baby in the manger stall'. And true, too, for the Wise Men, who got their gifts so exactly right. I reckon they'd thought hard and long about them, which suggests a truly wise approach to choosing presents. But on the whole I'd still avoid the myrrh for great-aunt Beryl (or the inexpensive scent).

TELLING THE JOURNEY

The church magazine resource website parishpump.co.uk is partnering with the Association of Christian Writers in a competition for the best article about a faith journey. Would you like to contribute YOUR story?

The article should be up to 800 words and can be either an interview or a first person account, suitable for inclusion in a church or parish newsletter or magazine. The competition, open from October 1, will close on February 29, 2012, and is open to all. Entries should be previously unpublished.

Prizes of £50, £30 and £20 are offered for the first three places. There will be an entry fee of £5 for one entry; £8 for two. No entrant may submit more than two entries.

The first round of judging will be done by members of the ACW committee, to produce a shortlist of

the best 6 to 10 entries, all of which will be put onto the Parish Pump website and available for anyone to use in their publications, with due acknowledgements. The shortlisted entries will be judged by Anne Coomes of Parish Pump together with an experienced journalist to be appointed by ACW. All those shortlisted will receive a year's free subscription to ACW and to the Parish Pump. The winning entry will also be published in the *Christian Writer*, ACW's members' magazine, and on the ACW website.

To enter: send your entry as an attachment via email to admin@christianwriters.org.uk and send a cheque payable to Association of Christian Writers to PO Box 551, Hounslow, TW3 9NX. IMPORTANT: Please don't forget to include details of your full name and address with both the email and the cheque. Acknowledgement of receipts of entry plus cheque will be sent by email.

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

November
solution



December
Sudoku



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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

SERVICES & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2011

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

4	9.30am	Holy Communion		<u>FLOWERS</u>
11	9.30am	Holy Communion	2.30pm Evensong	Advent - no flowers
18	9.30am	Holy Communion		" "
24	6pm	Carol Service		Christmas flowers
25	9.30am	Holy Communion - Christmas Day		(Mrs Hopkins)
<i>1 Jan</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion		" "

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

SIDESMEN

4	10.30am	Holy Communion	J Bowns/M Pindar
7	10.30am	Midweek Communion (either The Vicarage or St. Anne's, Beeley)	
11	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mrs Thomas/S Liddicot
18	10.30am	Carol Service	Mr & Mrs Gordon + 2 school children
24	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	to be arranged
25	10.30am	Holy Communion - Christmas Day	to be arranged
<i>1 Jan</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Jackson

COFFEE

CLEANING

FLOWERS

4	Mr & Mrs Carter	Mr & Mrs Nelson	Advent - no flowers
11	Mr & Mrs Dempsey	-----	" "
18	No Coffee	Mrs Sherwood/Mrs Kembery	Christmas decorations*
25	No Coffee	-----	Christmas flowers
<i>1 Jan</i>	Clive & Joy Thrower	Mrs Day/Mrs Walters	" "

*We will be decorating the Church & Christmas Tree on **Saturday 17 December from 10.30am** ready for the Carol Service on 18 December. Help appreciated!

READINGS

ST. PETER'S

ST. ANNE'S & SUNDAY SCHOOL

4	Romans 15: 4-13 Luke 21: 25-33 <i>Sunday School</i>	John Bowns	Lynda Hinxman-Allegri Judith Fraser-Martin <i>Fiona Swain</i>
11	Isaiah 40: 1-9 Matthew 11: 2-10 <i>Sunday School</i>	Bob Carter	Di Homer <i>Fiona Swain</i> <i>Sarah Porter</i>
18	Philippians 4: 4-7 John 1: 19-28 <i>Sunday School</i>	Carol Service	Sarah Porter Di Homer <i>Lynda Hinxman-Allegri</i>
24	Isaiah 9: 2-7 John 1: 1-14	to be arranged	to be arranged - Carol Service
25	Isaiah 9: 2-7 John 1: 1-14	Roger Wardle	to be arranged " "

Still looking for presents? Remember the Recipe Book with contributions from the congregations of St. Anne's & St. Peter's - price £6 from either church.