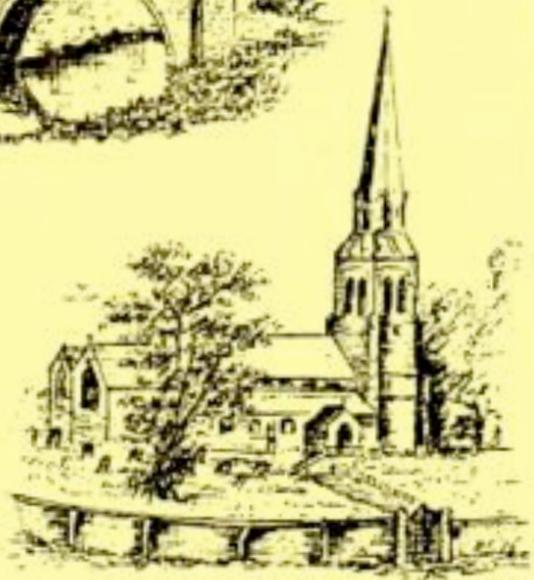


DECEMBER 2015



'The  
Bridge'



BEELEY WITH EDENSOR

*Including CHATSWORTH, CALTON LEES & PILSLEY*

PARISH MAGAZINE

Rev'd Canon D. Perkins,  
The Vicarage, Edensor, Bakewell,  
Derbyshire DE45 1PH Tel: 01246 386385  
(Church website -[www.stpetersedensor.org](http://www.stpetersedensor.org))



December 2015

Babies live in darkness. For nine months they live and grow in the darkness of the womb. For mothers it is a very special time, filled with a mixture of worry, pain and excitement. Then a baby, carried for nine months in darkness, is delivered to the light, and light shines in the faces of people all around, when they see it. If you watch, you will observe that most people spontaneously smile when they see a baby.

And these little bundles of helplessness transform our lives, making us into mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grannies, cousins, uncles, aunts, friends and neighbours – all of us are touched and transformed by the birth of a baby. The birth of a baby brings hope and joy as well as anxiety and sleepless nights. It affects all of us, because we are all involved in humanity, connected to each other by the very fact that we are members of the human race.

A baby begins its life in darkness and then is born into the light. For us, who are used to this world, there is another darkness, a place of deep shadow, namely the sadness and sorrow of this world. Not for us now the safety of the womb, the calm, comfort and warmth of our mother's body – instead we have the darkness of loneliness, the coldness of this world's anonymity, the shadows that threaten and that take away our peace.

The shepherds in the Christmas story were far from the warmth and security of their mother's wombs. They had to look after their sheep and protect them from being savaged by wild animals. And a shepherd attacked by a wolf, would not have stood much of a chance of escaping alive. Shepherding was a dangerous job. Like the shepherds, we too live on our own exposed hillsides, a prey to danger. We try to live good and upright lives, to make a living, and to have security – but living in this world can often be like "living out in the fields". We are vulnerable to attack, nothing is certain, and the darkness can sometimes engulf us. But we can take real encouragement from looking at the way the angels, in all their glory, went

first to those exposed, vulnerable, cold shepherds to tell them the good news that a King had been born and was truly relevant to their lives.

And what about us? Some of us are yearning to be delivered out the darkness into the light of day, like a new born baby. We want to feel the touch of love all around us, to know the love of family and friends, and even of strangers. We want to be held and gazed upon with love. We wish to experience unconditional love towards ourselves in our helplessness and weakness. We don't want to be under the perceived adult pressure of having to earn the love of others.

As an adult, Jesus said we need to become like little children. He became a little child for us, born a baby at Bethlehem. Christmas is the time for each one of us to become a child again. Every new-born baby tells us who we are – children of God. And the birth of Jesus tells us most of all – we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Sisters and brothers whom God loves so much that he came from the glory of heaven to be born in a cold and dirty stable, identifying with us all in our vulnerability, and by so doing, bringing hope and salvation to our lives. It is a real cause for rejoicing.

As a baby looks unquestioningly to its carers for love, protection, food and warmth, so we can look with confidence to God. *Glory to God in heaven and peace to his people on earth.*

Every Blessing to you, your families and your friends as you celebrate the Christmas Festival.

Canon Dave

### ADVENT AT ST. PETER'S

Come and enjoy the beauty and calm of St. Peter's by candlelight on the weekends of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December- Saturdays 11am - 3pm; Sundays 12.30pm- 3pm. Donations welcome.

		<u>Telephone Numbers</u>	
St. Anne's	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Fiona Swain	<i>ex directory</i>
	Treasurer:-	<i>to be confirmed</i>	
<u>St. Peter's</u>	Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw	01246 582421
		David Jackson	01246 583452
	Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton	01246 582245
		e-mail: <a href="mailto:mtitterton@btinternet.com">mtitterton@btinternet.com</a>	



## FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR



BAPTISM ~ 25<sup>th</sup> October ~ Penelope Rose Fish

MEMORIAL SERVICE ~ 20<sup>th</sup> November Anne Coombe

### 'THE BRIDGE'

#### Magazine Subscription

Your magazine subscription for 2016 is now due - £7.20. Please give the money to the person who delivers your copy of the magazine\*, or if I post it to you please enclose a book of 12 stamps with your subscription.

Cheques should be made payable to Edensor PCC. Thank you for your continued support. We welcome suitable items for possible inclusion in 'The Bridge'.

\* Beeley subscribers should give their money to Pauline Mather or place it in an envelope and put it through her letterbox - 1 Devonshire Square.

Due to the printers having extra work at Christmas, items for the **JANUARY** magazine should reach me **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** 2015: email to: [liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk](mailto:liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk)

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

### St. Peter's Church 100 Club

**Please note that subscriptions for 2016 will be due on or before January 25<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for the first draw of 2016.**

Subscriptions are £12 per number for 2016.

Cheques should be made payable to – **St. Peter's Church 100 club.**

Thank you for your continued support.  
Ann Hall



### St. Peter's Church 100 Club October Draw 2015

1st Prize £30 - no. 10 Zoe Penrose  
2nd Prize £20 - no. 66 Louise Rhodes

Funds to church this month - £47

We still need another 3 members for this year.

If you are interested please ring 01246 583856.

Thank you, Ann Hall

## Dates for your Diary - December

- 8 BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting -**  
**Christmas is coming!** Making our now traditional and ever popular Christmas wreath followed by the Christmas Party Fuddle!  
*Tea & Food: All Secret Santa: All*
- 9 CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting (note 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)**  
 7pm Edensor Tea Cottage  
 Speaker: Wiltshire Farm foods (tasting)  
 Competition: Pretty Wrapped Parcel  
 Vote of Thanks: Margaret Oliver
- 16 7pm St. Peter's - A Service of Lessons & Carols**
- 19 7.30pm The Cavendish Hall, Edensor A Christmas Folk Evening with**  
**'The Travelling People' featuring Canon Dave**  
*Choruses; ballads; comedy; monologues All proceeds to St. Peter's Church*
- 24 6pm St. Anne's, Beeley - A Service of Lessons & Carols**

**Post those cards on time! Final posting dates are as follows:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec: Far East and Eastern Europe.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dec: The Caribbean.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec: Australia and New Zealand.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: Germany, Italy and Poland.

- 15<sup>th</sup> Dec: Canada, Sweden and USA.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec: Austria, Ireland and Spain.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec: France.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec: Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, & Switzerland.
- **19<sup>th</sup> Dec – last date for 2<sup>nd</sup> class UK post**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Dec – last date for 1<sup>st</sup> class UK post.**

### High Peak Women's Refuge

This month we will be collecting Children's books. Books for all ages - story books, colouring books, sticker books etc.



### The Padley Centre

The staff at the Padley Centre, in Derby, were very grateful for the gifts of food from the harvest services at St. Peter's and St. Anne's.

**St. Anne's Church** will be collecting items of clothing for people who use the centre and they would specifically like - for men and women: -warm winter hats, scarves, gloves, socks, underclothes and also BARS OF CHOCOLATE!

All donations should be made by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December and can be left in church or given to Sarah Porter.

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ST. PETER'S & ST. ANNE'S



*With all good wishes for Christmas and  
the New Year*

to friends, fellow members of both congregations  
and readers of 'The Bridge' from:

*Gloria & Roger Sherwood; Jean Clarke; Dorothy Cooper; Ann & David Hall;  
Margaret & David Jackson; Julie & Bob Carter; Vernon & Pauline Mather;  
Margaret Thomas; Margaret Clamp; Molly Marshall; Margaret & Gary Nelson;  
Cynthia & Duncan Gordon; Janet & Peter Machin; Lynne & Joe Clark;  
Anne & Tony Hubbuck; Liz & Ray Bradshaw; Jayne Boyd; Stan Liddicot;  
Diana & Dick Walters; Jill & Michael Gowdey; Pat & Roy Bossett;*



## Easy Fundraising



Thinking about shopping online for  
Christmas gifts etc? Then why not use Easy  
Fundraising and help raise money for St. Peter's Church? There is no  
extra cost to you and a percentage from your purchase will come back to  
the church.

### To Register

- Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Click on **Register**
- Choose **Saint Peter's Church - Chatsworth Park** as your charity and fill in the rest of the form

### To Shop

- Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Search for your store in the alphabetical list
- Go ahead and shop

Choose from over 2000 of the UK's best-know retailers including names such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis and HMV and when you shop using the links on the easyfundraising site up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to St. Peter's Church.



## Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November



Over sixty young people from the Chatsworth Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, with their leaders, joined a congregation of over 100 people for the Remembrance Sunday service at St. Peter's.

Canon Dave led the procession followed by the the Scout groups and after the welcome the flag bearers bore their flags up to the altar, followed by 31 people, chosen at random from all age groups in the congregation, who each carried a ceramic poppy in memory of those from the parish who had died during the two world wars. These were laid on the altar and later on in the service the same people went up to receive them from Canon Dave, who then blessed them. They were then carried round the church to the two memorials where 25 were placed on the memorial to the fallen of the 1st World War and 6 on the memorial to the fallen of the 2nd World War.

The poppies, previously displayed at the Tower of London, were generously donated by the Duke of Devonshire, thirty one for St. Peter's and thirteen for St. Anne's - one for each name on the war memorials.

During the Act of Remembrance the names of the fallen were read out and a bugler sounded the Last Post.

Thank you to Canon Dave for such an inspired and moving service.

### Thank You

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has helped in any way at our two churches during the past year. The cleaners, coffee makers, flower arrangers, readers, sidesmen, organists, clock winders, brass cleaners, Richard for keeping the graveyard at St. Peter's in such good order, Clive for organising the bellringers who come once a month to ring at St. Peter's before the Sunday service and the 'lighting team' who have recently been putting up the Christmas lights in the churchyard trees - we really do appreciate all the help you have given us - and to anyone we've missed off this list our apologies and please accept our thanks.



Don't Forget

## Bakewell Christmas Tree Festival

11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> December Bakewell Parish Church

**Opening times:** Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 10am - 5pm

Thurs 10am - 8.30pm

Sun 12.30pm - 5pm

**Refreshments:** Mon - Sat 11am - 4pm

Sun 1.30pm - 4pm

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** 7pm Opening service, followed by refreshments

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm Sheffield Folk Chorale. Tickets £10, including a glass of wine, available from the Bakewell Bookshop, Ben Roper (01629 812438) or Dot Bushen (01629 814496)

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** 2pm Town Nativity

3pm Blessing of the crib in Bath Gardens

6pm Taize service

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** 7pm Messiah choruses and carols. Admission free

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** Late night opening until 8.30pm. Come along and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and nibbles!

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>** 6pm Closing community carol service

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am - 3pm the Community bus will be running a shuttle service between the Co-op (opp. Boots), the Lych gate and the Museum.

Don't miss this spectacular and exciting start to the Christmas festivities!

We look forward to welcoming you.

## BAKEWELL & ASHFORD FILM SOCIETY

December 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 (Christmas Party)

Pride (2014, UK)

Comedy, Drama

UK gay activists work to help miners during the lengthy strike of the National Union of Mineworkers in the summer of 1984



## Baslow Choir Christmas Concerts

Baslow Choir will be performing their Christmas concerts on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December** in Curbar Church at 7.30. We will be singing some old English carols, pieces by Mendelssohn and Pachelbel, other festive items and some traditional carols.

We will be joined by Plague o' Bells, hand bell ringers from Eyam, who will be performing for us and accompanying us in two carols arranged especially for us by Michael Coe.

Come and join us for what will be a very enjoyable evening.

Tickets are £8, which includes a glass of wine and a mince pie, and are available from members of choir, from the Spar shop in Baslow, from Julia on our ticket hotline 01246 418887, online at [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com) or by email from [tickets@baslowchoir.co.uk](mailto:tickets@baslowchoir.co.uk)

These concerts are always popular so get your tickets soon!



**Traidcraft** Christmas orders are coming in apace with sales last month of

£1673, helped by £78 at the All Saints' Church Sale, £36 at the Oxfam Rich Man, Poor Man lunch and £252 at the Great Longstone Sale.

A good price for his crops, technical guidance and interest free loans have made a sustainable future possible for Indian cotton farmer Satbir Singh, his wife and three children. For beekeepers in Kenya like Molo and Elisabeth, the only way to sustain their living from honey production is to look after their fragile environment and ensure they are prepared for the constant threat of drought. By working with Traidcraft they have been able to do just that. Talmina who is eleven years old lives in Bangladesh. Her father joined a Traidcraft project and was able to increase his income

by growing jute as well as rice. As a result Talmina was able to continue her education.

Madina and her family were living hand-to-mouth, but since joining the Traidcraft project her duck flock has grown from 20 to 400 and she can now pay for education and a nourishing diet for her children. Ngina has been farming in Kenya since she was a girl, but her crops suffered from insect infestation and lack of rainfall. Her project helped her to learn new techniques to improve her crop.

If you would like to help people like these why not think about Gifts for Life this Christmas. See pages 28 and 66 in the catalogue or look on the Traidcraft website. Happy Christmas.

Peter Bird (01629 813087,  
[pabird@gmail.com](mailto:pabird@gmail.com))

## Farewell to Dad's Army – 70 years on

*David Winter looks back with fondness on a great British war effort...*

'Dad's Army' has been one of the BBC's most popular sit-coms, its characters' catch-phrases universally known: 'Don't panic!', 'You stupid boy!', 'We're doomed!' It means that generations of TV viewers feel they know all about the Home Guard. This month marks the date of its final disbandment, on December 31<sup>st</sup> 1945, seventy years ago.

The Home Guard – originally the 'Local Defence Volunteers' – came into being in the summer of 1940, when the Nazi forces were encamped across the Channel, waiting for orders to invade Britain. People were understandably nervous. Civilians clamoured to be given weapons so that they could defend their towns and villages.

In response, the Government began recruiting local volunteers – men who already possessed weapons (farmers with shot-guns, typically) and others who could make and use 'Molotov cocktails' – petrol bombs. The new prime minister, Winston Churchill, wanted something more recognisably military, and at his insistence these volunteers were mobilised in a

'citizen army' which he called the Home Guard. The Government expected about 150,000 volunteers – within a month there were 750,000.

Over the war years these men (and later a few women) who were either too young or too old for military service or deemed unfit for it, guarded air fields and strategic buildings, manned coastal look-outs, and watched for enemy parachutists, freeing regular soldiers for combat duties. Even so, 1206 members of the Home Guard were killed 'in action', mostly by bombs or rockets. Dubbed 'Dad's Army' at the time, their contribution to final victory was certainly no joke.

*Were any of our readers or their parents or other relatives in the real 'Dad's Army'... let us know and we could possibly put something in a copy of the magazine.*

### **Mistletoe's smelly history**

Did you know that the word 'mistletoe' means dung on a tree? The Anglo-saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan (from old English) means twig.

## The ‘wonder’ of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So, in the astonishing story of heaven-come-to-earth in Bethlehem, of divinity in a cowshed, it is shepherds who receive the revelation. Not priests, not presidents, not philosophers.

*Continues on page 12*

## **New church legacy film**

The Church of England has launched a new, short film which shows how gifts in wills can help to transform the lives of churches and communities. 'A Lasting Difference', features three inspiring case studies from parish churches where gifts have enabled opportunities for mission: from new church halls, to hiring a youth worker, to improving disabled access.

John Preston, National Stewardship Officer for the Church of England, said: "The call to Christian stewardship doesn't just apply to our church and charitable giving -

we're called to be generous in all of our giving throughout life and at the end of life. The Church of England encourages its members to give 5% of their income to the local church and a similar amount to charities that the Lord puts in their hearts."

The film provides helpful support and advice to PCCs on how to encourage this area of Christian giving. Certainly gifts in wills are a valuable source of income to parishes, with around £50 million being left to churches each year. Proceeds are used to finance mission projects, maintain church buildings and grow church communities.

*Continued from page 11...*

"An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." For all they knew it might have been bad news. "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord'."

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

## **Be kind to clergy this Christmas**

One of the most thoughtful presents you could give this Christmas might simply be to be sensitive to all our local clergy and their families as they embark on this, the busiest time of the church year. The vast majority

of clergy are conscientious and very hard-working, wanting to make the most of every opportunity for Christian witness and celebration that Christmas provides. You can help: they will value your practical support and prayers – and Christmas cheer!

## In praise of the Food Bank

*David Winter praises the excellent work our Food Banks are doing...*

2015 has been the year of the Food Bank. Suddenly, up and down the country, in cities, towns and even villages, people have realised that some of their neighbours are really struggling to feed themselves or their families. So all over Britain there are now 'food banks', often largely supported by local churches, and under the sponsorship of a splendid charity, the Trussell Trust.

What an excellent name - 'Food Bank'. It is much less patronising than the old 'soup kitchen' where what were once called 'down-and-outs' could get a steaming bowl of broth. These are 'banks'. And the customers of banks are entitled to draw on what they or others have put into them. A bank is not a place where anyone need feel humiliated, but an essential service. It's sad that we have a situation in which food banks are necessary, but it's good they're there to meet a real need.

### ..... :World's oldest fake tree .....

:Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own :  
:the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and is still :  
:put up every year.  
:.....

## A CHRISTMAS QUIZ (answers on page20)

1. According to the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Matthew, 'Immanuel' is interpreted to mean \_\_\_\_ \_.
2. The Moabite widow, Ruth, is mentioned by name only 12 times in the book named after her, and not again until Matthew 1:5. What makes this woman's life so significant to the birth of Jesus Christ?
3. An angel of the Lord told Joseph, Mary's betrothed, 'Do not \_\_\_\_\_ to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'
4. What caused Elizabeth's unborn baby to leap for joy in her womb, when she was visited by her relative Mary?
5. What was the angel's name who visited Mary to tell her she had been chosen to be the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ?
6. What does Bethlehem mean?
7. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
8. What did the angels say to the shepherds?
9. What did the chief priests tell Herod that worried him so much?
10. Why was 'a voice heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning'?

## Aspects of that first Christmas night....

First, the star that shone over Bethlehem. Many stars shone in that night sky, but none like this one! It was as though God had taken his lamp from the ceiling of heaven and hung it in the dark sky over a troubled world.

Second – a new song was in the air: the angels sang ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’ (Luke 2:14) The world which had lost any reason for singing was being given the chance to sing again. Glory – peace – goodwill.... with the coming of Jesus, it was time to rejoice.

Third – a baby was born. And what a baby! The Messiah, promised for centuries. The Son of God Himself, our Saviour. The

angel who said: “He will save his people from their sins” was touching the very heart of our need.

Most people today would rather not talk about sin. Few of us want to face up to the reality of spiritual disease. We resent anyone mentioning the fact that we might sin! And yet Jesus had a great deal to say about sin. The Christmas message is that God’s grace is greater than our sin. Christmas assures us that God wants to deal with our sin through Jesus, who came to redeem us, however damaged and sinful we are.

This Christmas, if you have not already done so, you can accept Jesus Christ for what He came to do for you: to be your Saviour and your Lord. Then your Christmas really will be worth celebrating!

### **Why was Jesus born in a barn?**

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for his beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable? Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a

perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for his unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)



## **THE WAY I SEE IT:**

*David Winter reflects on a troubled area of the world...*

### **The pivotal importance of the Middle East**

It's astonishing how the epicentre of world news has always seemed to be what we call the 'Middle East'. Ever since history was first recorded, these lands have been its backdrop: great civilisations and powers, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and Persia occupied the world's centre stage, sometimes for centuries. When they were replaced, it was usually by another one of that short list.

The world's two greatest religions, Christianity and Islam, were born here, offspring of a smaller but even older one, Judaism. These very lands were the site of the Garden of Eden, the poetic source and beginning of the whole human story. Sadly, these lands have also been marked out as battle-fields – and the apocalyptic message warns that they will be the site of the final great

conflict, Armageddon. Today our TV screens are full of images of devastated towns and cities, destroyed by bombing and shelling. Is this not only the history but also the fate of the Middle East?

But now comes Christmas, and we hear a different message echoing from the same region. It was first heard in a field outside Bethlehem: 'Peace, goodwill among people'. The child who was born in a stable in the Middle East 2000 years ago was to be known as the 'Prince of Peace'. He came, the Bible says, to 'preach peace to those who are near, and peace to those who are far off'.

This is the great paradox. In the midst of conflict, in a land that had suffered enemy occupation for 300 years, there came a message of peace. Hard to hear over the noise of battle, but insistent, it will surely prove in the end to be the greatest gift that these much-abused lands have offered to the world.

### **The way to a woman's heart**

Christmas is not a time to be alone, and so men will do well to bear in mind some recent scientific research. This Christmas, if you want to woo a woman, feed her first.

As the scientist in the journal *Appetite* explained: "We found that young women had greater brain activation in response to romantic pictures in reward-related neural regions after having eaten than when hungry." In other words, romantic dinners are worth it.

## 'The people keep a-coming – but the train has gone'

*Richard Bewes reflects on an old song.*

*He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God (John 1:11, 12 KJV)*

An old negro spiritual, stemming from the slave trade over 200 years ago, was derived from the days of the former American railroad. It uses the idea of a station-master looking sadly at crowds of people all desperately seeking to board a train - that had already come and gone!

*Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord; Mary had a baby, Yes, O Lord.*

*Mary had a baby, Yes my Lord!*

*The people keep a-coming – but the train has gone!*

There is an element of real wistfulness, that something special has been missed. The station-master in the song seems to be expressing the tragic poignancy of God's dealings with the human race. At the first Christmas, here was the universe's rightful Governor, coming to his own earth in order to reclaim the people He had created – who were now a collection of rebels. Some would 'receive' his Son, and so joyfully board The Gospel Train, bound for Salvation. In contrast to them, there have always been the careless or ungrateful who – despite the free tickets – never make it to the train.

*Born in a stable, yes, Lord; born in a stable, yes O Lord,*

*Born in a stable, Yes my Lord!*

*The people keep a-coming - but the train has gone!*

## Safe driving this winter

The temperatures are dropping now, and it is a good idea to nurture your car battery. Cold, damp weather can cause problems for it. The RAC recommends the following to take best care of your battery:

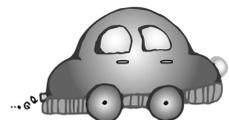
- Before you switch off your engine at the end of a journey, turn off the lights, wipers and heaters. This prevents any unnecessary drain on the battery next time you start the car.

- Check that everything is switched off before your turn on the ignition.

- Avoid using the heater longer than necessary, as it puts high demands on the vehicle's battery.

- Check that you don't leave interior lights, satnavs or phone chargers connected.

- If possible, park in a garage.



*We continue our series looking at the stories BEHIND some of our favourite hymns. We have included here just three of the five verses of the hymn.*

## **The story behind the hymn: Good King Wenceslas**

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen... ever wonder who on earth he was? Here are three of the five verses...

*Good King Wenceslas looked out on the  
Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about, deep  
and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho'  
the frost was cruel  
When the poor man came sight,  
gathering winter fuel...*

*Bring me flesh and bring me wine; bring  
me pine logs hither;  
Thou and I will see him dine when we  
bear them thither.  
Page and monarch forth they went, forth  
they went together,  
Through the rude winds' wild lament,  
and the bitter weather...*

*In his master's step he trod where the  
snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod which the saint  
had printed.  
Therefore Christian men, be sure wealth  
of rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall  
yourself find blessing.*

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia.

For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the rex Justus – or 'righteous king' - that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

*Continued on page 17*

*continued from previous page.*

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king's footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol - it goes back to Finland in 1582.

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

## CHRISTMAS AND ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St. Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the

shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!



## GOD AND THE ARTS

*Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art. You can see the image described by googling 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe.*

### 'HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM': 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe

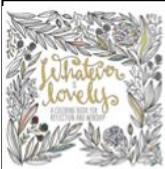
During this year we have been exploring how art can celebrate the wonder of this world. This month with our Lady and Jesus we stand above the world: high on the clouds with a glorious path of tall, elegant lilies that lead like a stairway to the earth beneath. This is 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe. He was born in Germany and then lived in Switzerland and France, painting this canvas in 1899 when he was 33 years old.

It is like a scene caught when we look out of the window in an aeroplane. We can see the earth beneath and spot hills and valleys, roads and settlements, and a river weaving its way through the

countryside. Mary and Jesus are haloed in a lunar-like radiance. The lilies are symbols of purity and obedience, the qualities that will take them to that scene at Bethlehem which we give thanks for at Christmas. The heavenly light shining out in the painting brings hope and joy to the world below, transforming lives with the wonder of the Saviour's birth.

Jesus holds three nails in his hand as a sign that His life will be tempered by rejection, suffering and death. But the lilies growing tall and straight in the skies are signs of new life and resurrection. The light come down to earth at Christmas can never be extinguished. That light and love are expressed in this vivid, moving painting of Carlos Schwabe as they are caught up in the carol of Christina Rossetti we sing at this time:

*Love shall be our token, Love be  
yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men, Love for  
plea and gift and sign.*



**Whatever Is  
Lovely – a  
colouring book  
for adults  
Authentic, £10.00**

Here is a relaxing, reflective, colouring book for adults that inspires creativity and worship in a calm and colourful way.

In today's hectic, stress-filled, screen-weary world, women are looking for ways to return to simple pleasures and uncomplicated creativity. 'Whatever Is Lovely' invites women to immerse themselves in inspirational quotes from the Bible, hymns, and contemporary authors while they colour pages individually designed by a range of artists and illustrators.

## Pilsley C of E Primary School

### Toddler Group

Every Friday morning (term time) from 9am - 10.30am

Everyone Welcome

£2 for a parent and 1 child -  
50p each for additional children

## Pilsley C of E Primary School

### Pre-School Nursery

Every morning (term time)  
from 9am - 12noon

Everyone Welcome

Spaces available for rising  
3 year olds

## Children's books popular this Christmas

Children's books seem set to rival adult fiction under the Christmas tree this winter. According to the list recently released by the book trade, this year's 500 potential best-sellers include 115 children's books.

That is double the number from last year, when it was only 50. Children's

fiction certainly seems to be bucking the digital revolution. Look out for:

*An Eagle in the Snow* (Michael Morpurgo), *Aliens Love Dinopants*

(Claire Freedman)

*Tom Gates 9* (Liz Pichon) and *Little Stars*

(Jacqueline Wilson.)



## Answers to the quiz

1. God with us – Matt 1:23
2. Her child is in Christ's lineage – Matt 1:5
3. 'Be afraid/fear' Matt 1:20
4. Mary's greeting/ the Holy Spirit
5. Gabriel – Luke 1:26
6. The House of Bread. It was the city of David – Luke 2:4
7. To be registered in a Roman census Luke 2:1-5
8. 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy...' Luke 2:10
9. 'But you Bethlehem, in the land of Judea... out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' Matt 2:6
10. Massacre of the Innocents by Herod – Matt 2:18

## The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



## **Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow**

[www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk)

### **New Patients Welcome**

**GP Appointments:** can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance via the Internet and 1 week in advance via telephone/reception. **Nurse appointments** can be booked up to 3 months in advance, via telephone/reception.

**Clinical Practitioner:** Alison Ward our Clinical Practitioner, can assess your health care needs using her highly developed clinical knowledge and skills, make a diagnosis, discuss and plan treatment options with you and she can also prescribe any necessary medication.

Alison is trained and experienced in managing Patients Chronic conditions, such as Heart, Respiratory conditions and can manage patients with multiple conditions, and will be working as part of our Practice Team, with the aim of providing you with a greater choice of which health professional you wish to see about your health needs.

The next time you need to make an appointment, why not ask the receptionist if the Clinical Practitioner can help you! Alison will work full days on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **Telephone Numbers:**

Reception: 01246 582216

District Nursing Team: 01246 584903

Surgery Fax: 01246 583867

Health Visitor: 01246 583270

Dispensary: 01246 582366

(The Dispensary line is open 12noon – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 3.00pm)

### **Normal Surgery Opening Times**

Monday (07:30 until 19:30) Tuesday to Friday 08:00 to 18:30 (closed Bank Holidays)

*Please note the above times as we receive a lot of phone calls, just asking what time we are open to!*

### **Surgery Closure** – Closed

December 25<sup>th</sup>; 26<sup>th</sup>; 27<sup>th</sup>; & 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

**Email-** Please contact the reception and give us your email address if you would like to have the option of being contactable via email and receive the Practice and the Patient Participation Group newsletter.

### **Patient Participation Group** - (PPG)

– If you want to be kept up to date and have the opportunity to express your views please consider joining Baslow's PPG. Contact Keith Maslen on [kmaslen@aol.com](mailto:kmaslen@aol.com) T.01246 582274 Virtual members welcome.

### **Ordering Repeat Medication**

All requests for repeat prescriptions must be:-

- In writing or with our on-line access
- Return form to surgery by Post/Fax/Box on Dispensary Reception
- **Allow two working days before collection**

! To ease the parking congestion, please collect your prescription between 12:00 – 16:00

**Samples** – if you need to leave a sample with us please ensure it is labelled with your name and date of birth and returned in the bag.

**Test Results** – As we do not receive test results from hospital until lunchtime, please ring for these after 2pm.

**For Urgent Calls when we are closed call I I I**



## SERVICES & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2015



<u>ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY</u>		<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>CLEANING</u>
<b>6</b>	9.30am Holy Communion	<i>Advent - no flowers</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Rupert &amp; Liz</i>
<b>13</b>	9.30am Holy Communion	“ “	<i>All/Pre Christmas clean/decorations up</i>
<b>20</b>	9.30am Holy Communion	Christmas Flowers	
<b>24</b>	<b>6pm</b> Service of Lessons & Carols		
<b>25</b>	9.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day		
<b>27</b>	9.30am Holy Communion Christmas decorations		

<u>ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR</u>		<u>SIDESMEN</u>
<b>6</b>	10.45am Holy Communion	J Bowns/M Pindar
<b>13</b>	10.45am Holy Communion	Mrs Thomas + I
<b>16</b>	<b>7pm</b> Service of Lessons & Carols <i>to be arranged</i>	
<b>20</b>	10.45am Matins	Mr & Mrs Gordon
<b>24</b>	<b>11.30pm</b> Midnight Mass <i>to be arranged</i>	
<b>25</b>	10.45am Holy Communion for Christmas Day <i>to be arranged</i>	
<b>27</b>	10.45am Holy Communion Jean Clarke & M Jackson	

	<u>COFFEE</u>	<u>CLEANING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>
<b>6</b>	Mr & Mrs Bosett	Mr & Mrs Nelson	<i>Advent - no flowers</i>
<b>13</b>	Mr & Mrs Sherwood	Mrs Day/Mrs Walters	“ “
<b>20</b>	M Douglas/D Maskery	Mr & Mrs Jackson	<i>Christmas Decorations*</i>
<b>27</b>	Mr & Mrs Harding	Mr & Mrs Grimshaw	“ “

*\*We will be decorating the church and Christmas tree, ready for the Carol Service, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 10am. You are very welcome to come along and help.*

	<u>READINGS</u>	<u>ST. PETER'S</u>	<u>ST. ANNE'S &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>
<b>6</b>	<b>Baruch 5: 1-9</b> <b>Luke 3: 1-6</b>	Diana Walters <i>Advent Two</i>	Tilly Cadogan <i>Children in Service</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>Zephaniah 3: 14-20</b> <b>Luke 3: 7-18</b>	Margaret Thomas <i>Advent Three</i>	Sarah Porter <i>Claire Cadogan</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>Micah 5: 2-5a</b> <b>Luke 1: 39-55</b>	Molly Marshall <i>Advent Four</i>	Rupert Turner <i>No Sunday School</i>
<b>24</b>	<b>Isaiah 9: 2-7</b> <b>Luke 2: 1-14</b>	<i>to be arranged</i> <i>Christmas Eve Midnight Mass</i>	
<b>25</b>	<b>Isaiah 52: 7-10</b> <b>John 1: 1-14</b>	Duke of Devonshire <i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>to be arranged</i>
<b>27</b>	<b>Exodus 33: 7-11a</b> <b>John 21: 19b-25</b>	Christine Robinson <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	Fiona Lichfield <i>No Sunday School</i>