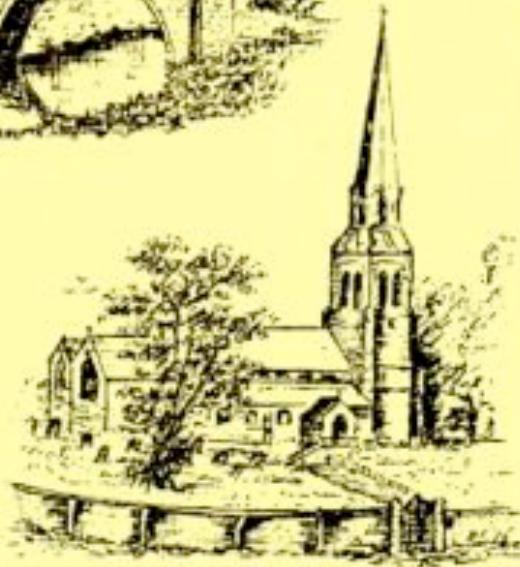


DECEMBER
2016



'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)

December 2016



Some people love it and have never really lost the wonderful child-like innocence of it all. They can't wait for the decorations to go up, the carols to be played and the anticipation of the big day itself, spent with loved ones. For others, it is one of the toughest times of the year. Cold weather, memories of past Christmases where everything went very wrong, broken relationships and loneliness all take their toll. And Christmas is the hardest time to be alone. For those of us who go to Church, Christmas is often the time when we hear sermon after sermon reminding us not to take Christ out of Christmas, or all we are left with is M&S. So amid the abandoned diets, merry making, preparations, presents and pies, let me offer a few thoughts about Christmas.

LET CHRISTMAS BLOW YOUR MIND

Of course Christmas is about Jesus Christ being born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. It is a great story to teach children because there are all kinds of useful lessons about it being important to treat refugees and poor people well. But so often we leave the Christmas story for the children, and we don't stop to realise how earth-shatteringly huge it all is. It's like buying a new car and only ever using it to enjoy the way the windscreen wipers work! Christmas is when the infinite, eternal God, who made everything that exists became part of his own creation. He didn't become King of the Universe at Christmas. He became an illegitimate baby born to a poor couple, born in a grotty cave-stable in an insignificant backwater of a town in the unfashionable end of the Roman Empire. We are talking here about the same God who spoke and the universe was created.

The Christmas Carol, 'In the bleak midwinter' puts it well:
One of the verses says:

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

LET CHRISTMAS BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES

God did this not just to blow our minds, but to enter into our experience. The God of the Universe became one of us and lived as one of us so that we could know him and be with him. Jesus Christ who was born at Christmas bridged the gap between people and God, at an immense cost to himself. Do we praise and worship God for Christmas? Do we let the facts of Christmas bring us to our knees? Why not take some time on your own or with another Christian during the festive season just to think about what God did at Christmas until you are left with no choice but to worship him for it.

LET CHRISTMAS WARM YOUR HEART

Christmas is a time to celebrate what we have in this life. Telling people to put Jesus at the centre of Christmas often doesn't work because they don't see how he will help them enjoy Christmas more. We need to show them that Jesus was right when he said, "I have come that they may have life to the full," and that the best life to live is one with Jesus at the centre.

So I hope and pray you will all enjoy Christmas, that you will enjoy Christmas all the more because Jesus is at the centre of it, and that you will share that enjoyment with others who maybe don't have much to rejoice about.

God bless, and have a very happy Christmas.

Canon Dave

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH
EDENSOR**

21ST DECEMBER ~ 7.30PM

A service of Lessons & Carols
Everyone welcome



**ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
BEELEY**

24TH DECEMBER ~ 6PM

A service of Lessons & Carols
Everyone welcome

Telephone Numbers

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| St.Anne's | Wardens:- | Rupert Turner | 01629 732794 |
| | | Fiona Swain | ex directory |
| St. Peter's | Treasurer:- | Fiona Lichfield | 01629 813382 |
| | Wardens:- | Elizabeth Bradshaw | 01246 582421 |
| | Treasurer:- | David Jackson | 01246 583452 |
| | | Mark Titterton | 01246 582245 |
| | | e-mail: | mtitterton@btinternet.com |

Dates for your Diary - December

- 3 Belper Town Wind Band & Bel Canto Choir** 7.30pm Cavendish Hall

10 Visiting Ringers - 11.30am - 1pm Anthony Cotton, Peak District Ringers Charity Peal. This will be part of a national challenge for cancer charities, each quarter peal is worth £600 of sponsorship.

13 BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting - 7.30pm Village Hall
‘Christmas is coming!’ Making our now traditional and ever popular Christmas wreath followed by the Christmas Party Fuddle!
Tea, wine & finger food:All Secret Santa:All

14* CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting - 7pm Edensor Tea Cottage
Speaker: Mike Spriggs & Singers - Music from the Shows
Competition: Christmas ornament
Vote of thanks: Sue Smith Tea: Kath Watts & Val Blackwell

16/17 Bakewell Comedy Club, Bakewell Town Hall 8pm Tickets £15
www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/149606

31 Wedding, St. Peter's 1pm Mark Willis & Hannah Pickford

***2nd Wednesday Chatsworth WI Meeting**

The Cavendish Hall, Edensor Saturday 3rd December 7.30pm

Belper Town Wind Band &

Bel Canto Choir

Perform a selection of Christmas Music

Tickets £10 (includes refreshments)

Bar available

01246 386385

Tickets available from Canon Dave

or the wardens

I would like to thank all those people who have congratulated me on receiving the Bishop's Badge, their support and good wishes are very much appreciated. The service at Derby Cathedral was a very special occasion and particular thanks must go to Ray, Canon Dave and David and Margaret Jackson, who went with me to that service.

Liz

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

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



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

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

Change of address:

David and Susanne Garnet
'Wayside', Goslip Gate,
Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 8EQ
Tel: 01751 269 189 email: davidcgarnett@aol.co.uk



Due to the printers having extra work for Christmas, items for the **JANUARY magazine** should reach me **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2016**: email to: liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk
'The Bridge' Parish Magazine 60p per copy (£7.20 per year).

'THE BRIDGE' Magazine Subscription

Your magazine subscription for 2017 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 and do remember that 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 letter box - 1 Devonshire Square.

Easy Fundraising

If you already SHOP ONLINE, or if you haven't yet done so, 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
- 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
- Search for your store in the alphabetical list
- Go ahead and shop

Choose from over 2000 of the UK's best-known 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.



Apple Scrump at the Old Vicarage - 8th October

This raised £148.50 for St. Peter's Church funds. Many thanks to Becky Lyne for organising this and supplying refreshments, including delicious apple scones and a toffee apple cake and to Peter Hunt for allowing us to pick the apples in his garden. A lovely afternoon.

The Padley Centre

This is St. Peter's chosen charity for 2016 and we are now collecting:

warm clothing for adults - particularly hats, scarves, gloves and socks; sleeping bags would be very welcome with the winter ahead of us; tins of meat, fish, soup and tomatoes; dried food such as pasta; biscuits and chocolate are always welcome. These items can be brought to Sunday services or left at the back of the church at any time.

St. Peter's Church 100 Club

October Draw 2016

1st Prize £30 - no. 15 Liz Bradshaw

2nd Prize £20 - 92 Roger Bemrose

Funds to church this month - £50

Ann Hall

Subscriptions for 2017 are due in January at £12 per number held.
Please make cheques payable to:-
St. Peter's Church 100 Club.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ann Hall

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 etc. Richard Finney, who keeps the churchyard at St. Peter's in such good order, Clive Thrower for organising the bellringers who come once a month to ring before the Sunday service, those hardy souls who braved a cold (and at times wet) Monday to hang the Christmas lights - we really do appreciate all the help you give us and to anyone we may have missed off this list please accept our apologies and our thanks.

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

BAPTISM ~ 23RD OCTOBER - *Edwin James Beeston*



WEDDING BLESSING ~ 5TH NOVEMBER

Clinton & Jennie Faulkner

WEDDING ~ 12TH NOVEMBER

Marc Thomas James Exton-McGuiness & Francesca-Louise Tupling

FUNERAL SERVICE FOLLOWED BY INTERMENT

10TH NOVEMBER ~ *Eda Elizabeth Wilkinson aged 92years*

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY



INTERMENT OF ASHES ~ 8TH NOVEMBER

Derek Herbert Hill aged 83years



Traidcraft

last month's receipts to £1,304, helped by £52 from the Matlock Disabled Group, by £87 at the Oxfam Christmas Sale and £260 at the Great Longstone Coffee Morning.

Traidcraft's EqualiTEA project in India and Bangladesh has supported 52,000 tea growers, helping them to work together in groups, increasing their knowledge and influence and enabling them to negotiate the best price for their crops. This 5-year project, supported by the European Union, has had a major impact on India's tea sector as a whole. The income of the

Christmas orders are coming in and have boosted

participating growers has risen by 87% in India and no less than 20% in Bangladesh.

This is only one example of the many Traidcraft projects which benefit small producers across the world. You can help, not only by purchasing the products you see in the catalogue or on line, but by making a Gift for Life. Look on page 10 of the current catalogue or on the website, to learn more.

Happy Christmas.

Peter Bird (pabird@gmail.com,
01629 813087)

BAKEWELL & ASHFORD FILM SOCIETY

December 11th 2016

Hail Caesar!

(2016, UK & USA) Certificate 12A, 106 minutes

Comedy, Mystery

Follows a day in the life of Eddie Mannix, a Hollywood fixer for Capitol Pictures in the 1950s, who cleans up and solves problems for big names and stars in the industry. But when studio star Baird Whitlock disappears Mannix has to deal with more than just the fix.

Introduction by Janet Byrne

BASLOW CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Baslow Choir will be performing their annual Christmas Concerts on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd of December in Curbar Church at 7.30. We are featuring A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, The Lord Comes by Telemann, The Hallelujah Chorus by Handel and a selection of carols for choir and audience. We will be joined by Eyam's hand bell ringers, Plague o' Bells.

Tickets cost £9 for adults and £5 for children and include wine and mince pies. Tickets are now on sale on wegottickets.com and are available from choir members, from the Spar shop in Baslow and from Heather on 01433 631586 or by email from tickets@baslowchoir.co.uk.



All Saints Church, Bakewell

Christmas in Bakewell will begin early, with the annual Christmas Tree Festival opening at All Saints Parish Church at 7pm on Thursday, 8th December.

Church open daily from 10am (12.30 on Sunday) - 5pm (8.30pm Thursday to enable you to marvel at the trees, enjoy piano duets performed by Sue Clarke and David Winder and partake of a free glass of mulled wine).

Cafe open daily from 11am - 4pm (1pm - 4pm Sunday), serving delicious home made cakes, light lunches, tea and coffee.

Quiet time each day -10.30 -11am, for those who wish to pray, reflect or meditate.

Saturday 10th December 7.30pm - an evening of storytelling and music with Gillian Shimwell and the Bakewell Community Choir.

Saturday 17th December 7.30pm - Breeze and Wilson will make a welcome return with their very popular folk music.

Sunday 18th December 6pm - the Festival will close with a Community Carol Service. This is an extremely popular, annual event, to many the highlight of the year and entry is free!

There will be musical contributions by local schools and individual talented musicians and the very popular “Gamebirds”, a quartet from Sheffield, will appear during the Festival. Please keep your eye on local publications and on the church website (www.bakewellchurch.co.uk) for details.

Comedy returns with two special Christmas shows

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th December.

Bakewell Town Hall are very pleased to announce 2 fantastic Christmas comedy nights at their new Bakewell Comedy Club. Friday 16th and Sat 17th December sees some of the best acts on the UK comedy circuit heading for Bakewell. This is a great night out for Christmas works parties, friends or couples just seeking a break from the madness of pre-Christmas. Top quality acts right on your doorstep. Line-up includes Dave Williams, physical comedy from The Kagoools and UK circuit headliner John Ryan.

8pm, doors open 7.15pm

Tickets £15 www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/149606

Experience #JoyToTheWorld this Christmas at one of thousands of Christmas services and events happening in Church of England churches around the country this December.



Visit www.AChristmasNearYou.org to find services happening near you including carols, nativities and mince pies.



What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

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

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

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards

and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

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



NO ROOM? ON THE CONTRARY.

The Ven John Barton considers the Christmas story ...

All over the world, doors are being slammed shut this Christmas. The closure of the Calais Jungle in the Autumn, which dispersed thousands of asylum seekers and would-be immigrants, brought into sharp focus the story of Joseph and the pregnant teenager Mary, for whom there was no room in the Bethlehem Inn. Vast numbers of Christians forced to flee from their ancient homelands in Syria and Iraq today mirror the Holy Family's escape into Egypt. Every time yet another infant dies violently, it will be a reminder of the first century massacre of babies in the Bethlehem region.

This year one carol will be sung with particular poignancy. It retells the message of angels, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests" and continues:

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have
rolled,
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears
not
The love song which they bring:*

*O hush the noise, you men of
strife,
And hear the angels sing.*

The angels' goodwill message will persist despite our clamour, for it proclaims God's all embracing and eternal welcome. Heaven's doors are ever-open: it is home for everyone. The final biblical vision is of an all-encompassing city: "On no day will its gates ever be shut... the glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it."

Jesus, for whom there had been no room at the inn, taught that God's kingdom is home for every race: "I say to you that many will come from the East and the West, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." He reassured those anxious about the future: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms..."

No room? Don't you believe it!



THE WAY I SEE IT: The Most Beautiful Story

Canon David Winter reflects on the coming of Jesus...

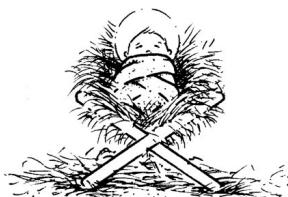
Earlier this year a well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. In the course of an enlightening chat he was asked how he spent Christmas, and he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. ‘But you’re an atheist’, his interviewer protested. ‘Yes’, he replied, ‘but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told’.

That ‘beautiful story’ tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes,

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

During 2016 we have all become familiar with probably the best-known statue in the world, Christ the Redeemer, towering over the Olympic city of Rio, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough. His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, ‘the most beautiful story ever told’. Enjoy it again this Christmas.



Help CUF tackle homelessness this Advent

Tim Burton-Jones of Church Urban Fund explains the Advent Sleepout Challenge.

Last Advent, churches and communities across England responded to a call to help the homeless by taking the Advent

Sleepout Challenge. Sleeping out in churches, cathedrals, halls, and even a home-made stable, these courageous fundraisers of Advent Sleepout Challenge 2015 raised a massive £93,450.

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'In Quires and Places where they sing'

The Rev Michael Burgess looks back on 90 years of BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong, which is its longest running outside broadcast.

'There was scarce a score of persons in the Cathedral besides the Dean and some of the clergy, and the choristers, young and old, that performed the beautiful evening prayer.'

There may have been few attending evensong in the 1850s, in that description by the novelist, William Thackeray. But today such cathedral worship is an important part of the life of the Church of England, and as such, much valued, not just by those able to attend in person, but also by those who are able to listen in on the radio. That weekly broadcast on Radio 3 now attracts an audience of 250,000 people.

In September of this year the BBC celebrated 90 years of outside broadcasting with Choral Evensong from Westminster Abbey. On 7 October 1926, all those years ago, the BBC began broadcasting this service from the same Abbey. It is a remarkable achievement – the longest running outside broadcast in its history!

Those years have seen many variations: Evensong once a week

on Thursdays in the 1920s, twice weekly in the 1930s, moving to the Home Service in the years of World War II, and then to Radio 3 in 1967. In April 1970, with the BBC's reorganisation, there were three months without Choral Evensong. That gap resulted in 2500 letters asking for its return. Later in that year broadcasts began again on Wednesdays at 4pm.

It has been 90 years of variety and change. In 1993 the first girls' choir sang Evensong from Salisbury Cathedral. In 2002 Evensong was relayed from Trinity Church in New York on the first anniversary of September 11. Then in June 2006 there was even a Jazz Evensong. Amid all this variety, at the heart of the service is the Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer, bringing to listeners a wealth of choral and organ music, settings of the psalms and canticles, special anthems and more popular hymns.

But it is not just Anglican cathedrals and important churches that have taken part. There have been broadcasts of Roman Catholic Vespers, and in 2005 the Holy Cross Liturgy from the Danilov Monastery in Moscow.

Izaak Walton, in his life of George Herbert of 1670, wrote that the poet said his time 'spent in prayer and cathedral music elevated his
(continues on page 14)

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soul and was Heaven upon Earth.' We would echo those thoughts as we give thanks for this rich tradition of prayer and praise.

In a famous hymn, Herbert says that no door can keep out the worship of our God and King. Thanks to broadcasting no door can keep out the weekly offering of

music and scripture as we tune our radios and become an extended congregation listening to Christian music from across the centuries. Thank you to the BBC for making this possible and for letting the glory of this music transport our lives and move our hearts to praise the Lord.

40 years at the Hotel California

Tim Lenton hums along to a favourite tune...

The album Hotel California, by the rock band The Eagles, was released 40 years ago on 8th December 1976. It became their best-selling studio album – selling more than 32 million copies – and its title track is widely regarded as one of the best rock songs ever written.

As such, its brilliant lyrics, by Don Henley, have been widely and often wildly misinterpreted, especially by some Christian groups in America who insist that it's about Satanism. But the theory that it's about drugs is more widely believed.

Neither is true. Henley himself says that it's about the excesses of American culture, or "a journey from innocence to experience", and this



rings true, as does the more moderate Christian idea that it's about the subtle, confusing power of temptation.

The music, as crucial to the song as the lyrics, was in fact written first, and none of the band members involved in the composition of the song came from California. They were generally middle-class and from the Mid-West.

Although the opening chords are almost universally recognised by rock music lovers, it is the lyrics that stay with you, particularly the last two lines: "you can check out any time you like, but you can never leave".

The band seemed determined to prove this true, but in March this year, following the death of Glenn Frey, they gave a "final" tribute performance. In an interview three months later, Henley confirmed the band's dissolution.

Christmas - who is 'Santa Claus'? writes David Winter.

On the whole British people are happy with the title 'Father Christmas', a suitably neutral name for the central character in children's Christmases, In America, however, and by a process of cultural indoctrination increasingly in other English-speaking countries, the same red-coated and bearded fellow with his sack of presents is known as 'Santa Claus'. They are, of course, one and the same person, distantly related to a bishop in Turkey in the fourth century (hence the red coat and hat – a cope and mitre originally). His name was Nicholas, and he was known as a patron of children, who would from time to time distribute gifts to them.

From that, believe it or not, comes the practice of giving presents at

Christmas. We can't give them to Jesus on his birthday, so we give them to someone else, in love and gratitude. That, at least, is the theory. Quite how the massive commercialization of such giving developed probably owes more to smart marketing than Christian generosity.

It's not Nicholas's fault, of course, nor of the Dutch Christians who took the practice to America as migrants 300 years ago. It might be a positive step at least to tell children who St Nicholas is, and perhaps even to mark his feast day, December 6th, when 'Christmas' presents are handed over in Holland.



continued from page 12

Advent for 2016 has just arrived, and it is time to take the challenge again. Could you brave a night sleeping out? Church Urban Fund is urging as many people as possible to get together with friends and take a stand against homelessness this advent. The need is very great: last year as many as 3,569 people were sleeping rough on any given night in England. This number is a 30% increase on 2014 and double the figure for 2010.

But CUF says that :"Together we can make a change. Since 2014 CUF has been able to invest £156,000 into projects to support the homeless and marginalised."

Night shelters supported by Church Urban Fund are set to increase their provision to nearly 4,000 bed spaces this winter in response to a growing problem of homelessness. For more details:

www.sleepoutchallenge.org.uk/

THAT COIN IN YOUR CHRISTMAS PUDDING

David Pickup considers the coin in *Christmas puddings*

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

We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile

telephone. In future will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? Hope not.

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



26th December - Look out for Wenceslas

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

However, Wenceslas was a real person, a duke, and effectively king of Bohemia in the 10th century. In modern terms, he was Czechoslovakian. He was known as a generous and kind monarch, deeply Christian and given to good works. So the story in the carol by

the Victorian hymn-writer J.M. Neale, while possibly fictitious, is at least in line with his recognized character. ‘Page and monarch’ braved the ‘bitter weather’ and the ‘cruel wind’s wild lament’ to take food and fuel to a poor man living rough.

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

A SEASON FOR JOYFUL SONG

Lester Amann considers the three songs of the nativity story.

Many people like to sing. No matter what we sound like, there can be a stirring within us on special occasions that prompts us to sing.

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. So Mary sang of God's mercy and benevolence on the helpless, the humble and the hungry.

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.

So as we sing carols this month, let's remember that they are well worth singing! 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?



1936 – the year the King stepped down

Tim Lenton looks back at the royal crisis of 1936...

Eighty years ago – on 11th December 1936 – King Edward VIII became the only sovereign to ever abdicate voluntarily in this country. He did so in order to marry an American socialite divorcee, Wallis Simpson, one of a number of women with whom he had had affairs.

Edward – known to everyone in his family as David – had been King for 11 months. On his abdication he took the title of Duke of Windsor and went to live a high society life, mainly in France.

Edward was born on 23rd June 1894 in Surrey. He joined the Grenadier Guards in World War One, but was not allowed to see active service. In the 1920s he represented his father, George V, on many foreign tours and this, together with his visits to deprived

areas of the UK, plus his charm and good looks, brought him considerable popularity.

But there was a rift between him and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang, because of his apparent lack of interest in the Church, of which he was head. There have been suggestions that it was this rift that made the abdication unavoidable.

The Archbishop and many of the King's advisers were in any case against marriage to a divorcee, and all attempts to find a solution failed. Edward's brother became George VI and led Britain through the Second World War, while the Duke became Governor of

the
Bahamas.
He died of
throat
cancer in
Paris in
1972.

*King Edward VIII
making his abdication*



Why 'oldies' are golden

The UK would be considerably poorer without its older folk. Research carried out by the WRVS (now the Royal Voluntary Service) showed that the over-65s contribute almost £40bn more to the UK economy than they receive in State pensions, welfare and health services.

The study, which was independently reviewed, took into account the tax

payments, spending power, caring responsibilities and volunteering effort of people aged 65-plus. Furthermore, this benefit to the economy will increase to £77bn by 2030 as the late 'baby boomers' enter retirement. For the full report: <http://www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/christians-for-old-people/resources>

TRAFAVGAR SQUARE'S VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

This year, as every year for the past 69, a magnificent Norwegian spruce will stand proudly in Trafalgar Square. It is seen as a symbol of freedom and a token of friendship.

This huge – it is generally more than 20 metres tall - annual gift from the people of Norway has been sent every year since 1947. It is Norway's way of thanking Britain for standing by them during the dark days of the Second World War. For when the Nazis invaded Norway in 1940, King Haakon VII fled to the UK. The British enabled him to set up a Norwegian government in exile in London, where he could send radio messages back to his occupied homeland.

The tree is known to Norwegian foresters as 'the queen of the forest', and each year only the very best is

chosen to grace Trafalgar Square. Sometimes the trees are hand-picked years in advance. Many of them are very old, which means they were quietly growing deep in a Norwegian forest during the dark days of Nazi occupation and death.

Many years ago, a tree in another occupied land played a crucial role when a Gift to the whole world was put on display. He was not lit up for a holiday season, but instead became the Light of the world. This month we remember His birthday, and look ahead to His amazing gift to us of forgiveness and friendship with God – through His death on a tree. Jesus is the reason for Christmas, and He is for life, not just for Christmas.



dreamstime.com

Over Christmas smile....

I asked a friend of mine what he would be doing over Christmas. He told me he reckoned he would be doing a lot of work on "aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment."

I was astonished – and baffled.

In further conversation, I learned that he would be "washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision."

Three strangers

The minister came home after church on Christmas morning looking very satisfied.

"We had at least three visitors this morning, though I didn't see them."

"Then how do you know?"

"Because there were three £10 notes in the collection plate."

GOD AND THE ARTS

Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Rev Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church building itself.

'HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM' – THE CHURCH BUILDING

Each month we have been following in the footsteps of George Herbert and making our way through the church building from the entrance door to the altar - pausing at the font, by kneelers, candlesticks, windows, monuments, pulpit, ceiling, bells and choir stalls. They all form part of the church building: a witness to its history and tradition. They speak to us of beauty and craftsmanship, of art and skill, of dedication and faith. We look around. We find our hearts raised to heaven in praise for all we see, and remember Jesus talking about the stones speaking out on that first Palm Sunday.

And when people enter the church building, they become the living stones – filling the air with hymn and psalm, pulling the ropes for the bells to ring out, lighting candles to shine in the dark, kneeling in prayer, and going to the altar to feed on the Bread of life. A church building is an offering, and we, as we worship, make our offering. We set aside time and attention, and bring to God our lives in His service.

All Saints Church in Brockhampton, just south of Hereford, is a wonderful example of the Arts and Crafts movement. Outside and within there is much to admire - including a frontal, hymn book covers and embroidered seat covers that were left on the altar in 1960 by an anonymous donor. They were a thank offering for that church being there and open. It is a reminder of the journey called of us as we become living stones, offering our love and faith and service for the Kingdom.

Churches up and down the land invite us all to enter and make that journey, both physically and in faith. As Herbert's poem 'The Invitation' expresses it:

*'Come ye hither all, whose love
Is your dove,
And exalts you to the sky:
Here is love, which having breath
Ev'n in death,
After death can never die.'*



Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

New Patients Welcome

Appointment Times: Clinicians will endeavour to keep to time; however, they also need to afford the patient the appropriate consultation time, which may lead to them overrunning.

Therefore, it is imperative that patients arrive on time for their appointments as it will have a rolling knock on effect if you are late. Patients, who miss their appointment by 10 minutes or more, will be marked as failed to attend and have to rebook. If you are later than 2 minutes you may have to wait to be seen.

Patient Online: Have you registered to use the online service, allowing you to book and cancel appointments on line and order your repeat medications? You can also request access to your Summary Care Record, and Detailed Coded Data contained within your medical records.

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)

Flu Vaccination: You are advised to have an annual flu vaccination, if you are pregnant, aged 65 or over, have a health condition such as asthma, chest or heart complaints, diabetes, weakened immune systems or are personal carers. Also children between the ages of 2 and 4. If you are in the above category, please contact reception to book an appointment.

Normal Surgery Opening Times

Monday (7:30 - 19:00) Tuesday - Friday 08:00 - 18:30 (closed Bank Holidays), (Phones 08:00 – 18:30 Mon - Fri).

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

Surgery Closure – Closed

24th-27th December & 31st December - 3rd January

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 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 111

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

November
solution
☞

December
Sudoku
☞

| | | | | |
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| 4 | | 8 | 7 | |

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**Save it - Save the earth. It's
the only planet with chocolate.**

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

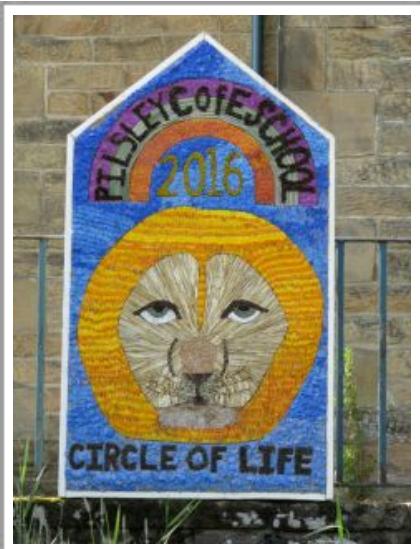
3 - 11 years

Our new and exciting Foundation Stage unit is now running all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday plus two afternoons (Monday and Friday).

The unit is led by a fully qualified Early Years teacher with two highly experienced teaching assistants.

Visits to our lovely school are warmly welcomed.

Please contact Emma Bond,
Headteacher on 01246 583203.



Pilsley C of E Primary School

Pilsley School has been awarded 2nd prize in the Rotary Club's Children's Well Dressing category 2016 and won £50.

Well done to everyone who helped with this year's well dressing, it was ← truly outstanding.



Rachel Haslam

Dip CFHP MPS Pract

I have been 'making feet feel good'
for over 10 years in the local community

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If you use any of the services
advertised in this magazine
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the ad. We appreciate their
support and they need to know
if their adverts are bearing fruit.

Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP

The telephone number is now:

01629 57205

The e-mail is now:

Patrick.mcloughlin.mp@parliament.uk

Post:

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA



THE CAVENDISH CLUB

Did you know

- It is a members only Social Club. If you are a member of any of the Chatsworth's sports clubs then you are automatically a member of the Cavendish club too.
- Members are welcome to bring visitors. A visitor can only be signed in 5 times per membership year before needing to become a member in their own right.
- New members are welcome. Membership application forms are available at the bar or by email from cavendishclub@chatsworth.org or cavendishclub@gmail.com
- There is a snooker room, pool table and darts in the bar and a box of children's toys.
- They serve freshly cooked meals Tuesday to Saturday 6pm until 9pm and light lunches (which can be pre-ordered) on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11am until 2pm.
- There are monthly Special Nights and Friday is a Fish night

To book a table or ask about membership please phone 01246 565392

[Like us on Facebook](#)

CAVENDISH VILLAGE HALL, BEELEY

Looking for somewhere with bright modern facilities to hold your event and at reasonable cost?

Beeley Village Hall is the place for you.



- Disabled access and toileting
- Fully equipped kitchen.
- Small meeting room seating 12 persons.
- Main hall seating 60 persons.
- Situated within a well maintained garden.

Currently used for Yoga, Flamenco dancing, band practice, Society meetings, Wedding receptions and of course parties. An ideal venue for anything from small one off meetings to regular courses.

Available for ½ day, full day or evening bookings.

For more information or to make a booking please contact 07900 214 286 or look at our website www.beeleyvillage.org.uk



SERVICES & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2016

| ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY | | | FLOWERS & BRASSES | CLEANING |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 4 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Mrs Swain (brasses only) | 30 th -3 rd Dec Rupert & Liz |
| 11 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | (Advent, no flowers) | |
| 18 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Mrs Turner (brasses only) | All - Pre Christmas clean and decorations up |
| 24 | 6pm | Service of Lessons & Carols | <i>Christmas flowers</i> | |
| 25 | 9.30am | Holy Communion for Christmas Day | | |

| ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR | | | SIDESMEN |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 | 10.45am | Holy Communion | Mr & Mrs Machin |
| 11 | 10.45am | Holy Communion | Mr & Mrs Wardle |
| 18 | 10.45am | Matins | R S Sherwood/Diana Walters |
| 21 | 7.30pm | Service of Lessons & Carols | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| 24 | 11.30pm | Midnight Mass | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| 25 | 10.45am | Holy Communion for Christmas Day | John Bowns/Mike Pindar |

| | COFFEE | CLEANING | FLOWERS |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 | Mr & Mrs Bosett | Mr & Mrs Carter | Advent - no flowers |
| 11 | Mr & Mrs Sherwood | Mike Pindar | " " |
| 18 | M Douglas/D Maskery | Mr & Mrs Nelson | " " |
| 25 | No Coffee | Mrs Day/Mrs Walters | <i>Christmas decorations*</i> |
| 1 Jan | No Coffee | Mr & Mrs Jackson | " " + wedding flowers |

*We will be decorating the church and dressing the Christmas tree on Tuesday 20th December from 10am. You are very welcome to come along and help.

| | READINGS | ST. PETER'S | ST. ANNIE'S & SUNDAY SCHOOL |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| 4 | Isaiah 11: 1-10 Matthew 3: 1-12 | Roger Wardle Advent Two | Matilda Cadogan <i>Children in service</i> |
| 11 | Isaiah 35: 1-10 Matthew 11: 2-11 | Trevor Grimshaw Advent Three | Rupert Turner SS Sarah Porter |
| 18 | Isaiah 7: 1-16 Matthew 1: 18-25 | Gloria Sherwood Advent Four | Fiona Lichfield <i>No SS, holidays</i> |
| 24 | Isaiah 9: 2-7 Luke 2: 1-14 | Christine Robinson <i>Christmas Eve Midnight Mass</i> | <i>to be arranged</i> Service of Lessons & Carols |
| 25 | Isaiah 52: 7-10 John 1: 1-14 | John Caws <i>Christmas Day</i> | <i>to be arranged</i> <i>No SS, holidays</i> |