

DECEMBER  
2017



# The Bridge



BEELEY WITH EDENSOR  
INCLUDING CHATSWORTH, CALTON, LEE & HILLEY  
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 2017



At this time of the year there is always a great sense of anticipation and of hope. As we make our plans for Christmas, we anticipate the variety of services which help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus: school Christmas services, nativity plays, carol services and the special service of midnight mass.

A favourite story about a school nativity service is of the little boy who wanted to play the part of Joseph. He was very disappointed to be given instead the part of the innkeeper, but he appeared to accept his teacher's decision and got on with his part in the play. However, on the day of the performance, in front of a school hall packed with parents and grandparents, the little boy took his revenge. When Joseph and Mary asked him if there was any room in his inn, he abandoned the script, stood back so that the door to the inn was wide open and said, "yes there is plenty of room; come on in!"


That might not be the way the familiar story goes but I think the little boy's actions have some important things to say to us at Christmas. We are all invited to 'come in' to greet the holy child, born into such very humble surroundings. All will be welcomed to the variety of different services which our two churches offer at Christmas as we join together in celebrating the birth of Jesus, the one who comes to save us and bring us joy. There literally is 'room for all' because God welcomes each and every one of us. He does not want anyone to be turned away, because he loves each of us so much. God has shown the depth of that love in his unique gift to us; the gift of his Son, born as one of us, part of a loving human family; the one who was willing ultimately to give his life for us, so that we might share in his life, for ever.



We anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, not only because it is a great excuse for a bit of a party, but also because his birth gives us hope. Hope for the future. Hope in the midst of much that seems to be changing all around us. Our Christmas celebrations lead us into the celebrations of the new year, with a heightened sense of anticipation for all that 2018 might bring. Many

will be praying that the next year will be better than the last; others will be going into the new year with a deep sense of anxiety and uncertainty. However we approach 2018, we should remember the wonderful promise which Jesus made to us: 'remember that I am with you always; yes to the end of time' (Matthew 28 verse 20). Jesus promises to be there with us in whatever it is that life brings; in the happy times and in the sadnesses; in the pain and also in the joy.

At Christmas, God welcomes us all to celebrate the birth of his Son, the one who brings hope to the world. God invites us to come in because he has made sure there is room for us all.

With every blessing,  
Canon Dave

ST. PETER'S CHURCH EDENSOR		ST. ANNE'S CHURCH BEELEY
20 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER ~ 7.30PM		24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER ~ 6PM
A service of Lessons & Carols Everyone welcome		A service of Lessons & Carols Everyone welcome

FROM THE REGISTERS		
ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR	BAPTISM	
	29 <sup>th</sup> October ~ Edward Granville Eustace	
	WEDDING	
	4 <sup>th</sup> November ~ Stephen Paul Davies & Tracey Kathryn Fidler	

<u>Telephone Numbers</u>			
St. Anne's	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Fiona Swain	<i>ex directory</i>
	Treasurer:-	Fiona Lichfield	01629 813382
<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@me.com">mtitterton@me.com</a>	

### Dates for your Diary -December

- 7 Pilsley CofE School Christmas Fair 3.30pm in school**
- 9 St. Peter's Church, Edensor - 7.30pm** Hallamshire Military Concert Band 'Music for Christmas'. Tickets £10 from the wardens.
- 12 BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting - Christmas is coming!**  
Making our now traditional and ever popular Christmas wreath followed by the Christmas Party Fuddle! Village Hall 7.30pm  
*Tea, wine & finger food:* Sarah *Secret Santa:* All
- 13 CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting 7pm** Edensor Tea Cottage  
Social evening - supper & quiz  
Competition: Handmade Christmas Cracker  
Vote of Thanks: Melanie Holmes
- 21 'Midwinter' A celebration of Christmas music, old and new -**  
7.30pm at St Peter's, Edensor. Tickets £10 each. Available on the door, or in advance from: 01246 271540 or [chesterfieldstudios.co.uk](http://chesterfieldstudios.co.uk)
- 29 Wedding - St. Peter's 1.30pm** Richard Pope & Natalia Shaw

### **Hallamshire Military Concert Band Christmas Concert**

**St. Peter's Church, Edensor**  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm



Band concert featuring Christmas music from stage, screen, traditional & modern

Tickets £10 from Liz Bradshaw 01246 582421; 07803 317402 or  
David Jackson 07749 807057

*All proceeds in aid of Church funds*

#### **St. Peter's Church 100 Club October Draw 2017**

1st prize £30 no. 93 Mavis Cunningham  
2nd prize £20 no. 44 Bob Newman  
Funds to church this month - £50

Subscriptions for 2018 are due in January at £12 per number held. Please make out cheques to:-

St. Peter's Church 100 Club.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ann Hall

#### **Pilsley CofE School Christmas Fair - NEW DATE**

**7<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm in  
School**

**Refreshments; tombola; crafts;  
games; Phoenix cards; and much,  
much more, come along and see  
for yourself! Free entry!**

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:

*Jayne Boyd; Liz & Ray Bradshaw; Ann & David Hall; Vernon & Pauline Mather;  
Margaret & Gary Nelson; Dick & Diana Walters; Pat & Roy Bosett; Jill &  
Michael Gowdey; Margaret Clamp (Margaret would also like to thank everyone  
for their thoughts and prayers throughout the year); Molly Marshall; Gloria &  
Roger Sherwood; Julie & Bob Carter; David & Lisa Novakovic; David &  
Margaret Jackson; Jean Clarke; Dorothy Cooper; Margaret Thomas; Jennie Ball;  
Cynthia & Duncan Gordon; Ann & Tony Hubbuck & Judy & Freddie Harding.*

ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ~ 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 6PM

A candlelit service to mark the beginning of the Christian year, this service  
will include anthems sung by the Derbyshire Singers, Advent hymns,  
readings and prayers.

EVERYONE WELCOME



**'THE BRIDGE'**

**Magazine Subscription**

Your magazine subscription for 2018 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 items for possible inclusion in 'The Bridge'.

Items for the **JANUARY** magazine should reach me **NO LATER THAN**  
**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017**; email to: [liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk](mailto:liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk)

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

**MIDWINTER**  
**A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC, OLD AND NEW**

Thursday 21st December 7.30pm  
at St Peter's, Edensor

Jonathan Francis, the occasional organist at Edensor and Beeley, returns to St Peter's following the successful 'Hear My Song' concert in July.

With soloists from his critically acclaimed company, Theatre & Beyond, the Young People's choir, and all female Rose Choir from Chesterfield Studios, this festive concert brings together traditional carols with modern Christmas music.

*Piano:* Katy Strudwick, Helen Wallace

*Conductor:* Jonathan Francis

Tickets £10 each. Available on the door, or in advance from:

chesterfieldstudios.co.uk

Box Office 01246 271540

**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, brass polishers, clock winders, organists, sidesmen and readers. Richard Finney who keeps the churchyard at St. Peter's in such good order, Clive Thrower, who organises the bellringers for St. Peter's once a month on a Sunday morning and those who have organised and helped with events, we really do appreciate your help and comments in the visitors books show how much our open churches are appreciated by those who visit them.

*A Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2018 to everyone. Thanks to all who have helped with the Classical Kicks concerts, much appreciated by Lizzie and myself.  
Best Wishes Jennie Ball.*

**A Message from Sarah Porter,  
Beeley Parish Council Clerk**

I know some residents have noticed new wiring on the telegraph poles in the village. This will provide fibre optic cabling to our houses. However, this work is not due to be completed until the Spring.

Residents and businesses of Derbyshire (if eligible), with speeds of

below 2Mbps, have an opportunity to benefit from Better Broadband Voucher Scheme as an interim measure while the programme is progressing. Further details of this scheme are on [http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/better\\_broadband\\_subsidy\\_scheme/default.asp](http://www.digitalderbyshire.org.uk/better_broadband_subsidy_scheme/default.asp).

Hope this helps.

[www.beeleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.beeleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

## 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](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-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.

## The Padley Centre

We are collecting: All types of clothing for adults - warmer clothing now that the cold weather is here, including warm socks, gloves, hats, scarves etc.; warm sleeping bags are very welcome. Food - tins of meat, fish, soup and tomatoes; dried food such as pasta; biscuits and chocolate are always welcome. With the Festive Season on the way why not include some seasonal food such as Christmas puddings, fruit cake, mince pies and, of course, some chocolate.

Items can be brought to Sunday services or left at the back of the church at any time.

These donations of food and clothing are always very much appreciated at the centre and particularly as the weather turns colder and more people need assistance.

## BAKEWELL & ASHFORD FILM SOCIETY

10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Christmas Buffet)

**The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert**

1994 Australia, Certificate 15, 104 minutes

Comedy, Music

Two drag performers and a transgender woman travel across the desert to perform their unique style of cabaret.

Introduction by David Webb

## **The Beveridge Report – 75 years on**

*The Ven John Barton looks back on an historic watershed for the UK.*

We take it for granted that all children will receive secondary education, people who are ill will be treated under a national health service and we will all be paid a State pension when we retire. Indeed, we regard these benefits as routine, perhaps not realising this has not always been the case.

Turn the clock back to World War 2. The British people accepted their wartime deprivation with a strong sense of unity and purpose in the face of a common enemy. At the same time, it was recognised that long-standing inequalities should be rectified when times improved. The British Government, which was then a coalition of political parties, commissioned Sir William Beveridge to investigate the best way of helping people on low incomes.

The resultant Beveridge Report identified five ‘Giant Evils’ of Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness. It proposed that in return for all people of working age paying a weekly contribution, benefits should be available to those who were sick, unemployed, retired or widowed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, said “this is the first

time anybody has set out to embody the whole spirit of the Christian ethic in an Act of Parliament”, for at the war’s end the Beveridge Report began to be implemented. The 1944 Education Act was followed in 1948 by the founding of the NHS. Social security benefits meant people in need could be cared for from the cradle to the grave. Temple had himself published a vision for post-war Britain, called “Christianity and the Social Order”. Temple, Beveridge and the economic historian R H Tawney had been at university together and shared both Christian idealism and the urge to make it work.

This month is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beveridge’s Report. The Welfare State is now woven into the fabric of British Society. Like all reforms, it needs regular attention to ensure the original vision hasn’t been obscured over time. Today’s Universal Credit is a step in the right direction, though its clumsy roll-out needs rapid modification if the intended recipients are to be paid on time.

Christians may want to reflect on the Welfare State. Is it a right or a privilege to be beneficiaries? Do we take it for granted as our due, or are we grateful for what we receive?



## In praise of The Nutcracker – a Christmas favourite

*The Nutcracker turns 125 years old this year. By Tim Lenton*

Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* was performed for the first time 125 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1892 at the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg, Russia.

It was not well received. The choreography was dismissed as 'confusing' in some scenes, and the libretto was described as 'lopsided'. But today it is extraordinarily popular – perhaps partly because Walt Disney used Tchaikovsky's entire score in *Fantasia* in 1940, making the music instantly recognisable.

But it is also popular as a ballet because it portrays children, is for

children and makes use of children, providing the ideal showcase for ballet schools.

Today more people have seen it, and more companies have performed it, than any other ballet. It has the unusual distinction of being classical Christmas music that has nothing to do with Christianity.

The ballet is based on *The Nutcracker and the King of Mice*, written by E T A Hoffman and revised by Alexander Dumas. The story is of a young German girl who dreams of a Nutcracker Prince and a fierce battle against a Mouse King with seven heads.

The first complete performance outside Russia took place in London on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1934, at the Sadler's Wells Theatre.



### **Baslow Choir Christmas Concerts**

Baslow Choir will be performing their Christmas concerts on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** in All Saints Church Curbar at 7.30. We will be singing a variety of Christmas music, including Christus by Mendelssohn, traditional Derbyshire carols and some traditional carols.

We will be joined by Plague o' Bells, hand bell ringers from Eyam.

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

Tickets are £9 for adults and £5 for children, which includes a glass of wine and a mince pie, and are available from members of choir, from the Spar shop in Baslow, online at [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com), by email from [tickets@baslowchoir.co.uk](mailto:tickets@baslowchoir.co.uk), ring 01433631586 or on the door.

## THE WAY I SEE IT: The Love that in a Family Dwells

*By David Winter*

Christmas is, beyond doubt, the family event of the year. For holidays and weekends we go away, but at this one time of the year most of us get in our cars to join some or all of the family somewhere.

Being human, there may be the odd squabble or falling out (and if we believe the television drama, not much else), but in fact they are usually treasured get-togethers.

This family element of Christmas probably originates from the story of the birth of Jesus. There must be hundreds of famous paintings of the Holy Family gathered around the manger – Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. It was a little family from which, in the Christian story, vast

blessings flowed to the whole human race. The Son of God had an earthly father and mother, and grew up in an ordinary home in an ordinary town. His later life was extra-ordinary, but his home life was utterly normal.

Family lies at the heart of our whole culture. It is created by two things, choice and inheritance. Around the family table are some who are there because by choice they married someone, and others are there because they were born into the family. It's usually a happy mix. We are glad we chose our partner, and we are glad to be members of this family, and probably another one as well. In his poem, 'Christmas', John Betjeman spoke of 'the love that in a family dwells'. It's not a bad idea once a year to celebrate it.



### A Christmas gift with a difference!

How about 'giving' a friend/family member a twinned toilet for Christmas?

For £60 you can provide a latrine, clean water and hygiene training to some of the most impoverished people on the planet.

In return, you get a colour photograph of the twinned toilet and its GPS coordinates, to hang in your friend's own bathroom, with pride. You can choose the twinning country, personalize the certificate, and include a gift message. Just visit: <https://www.toilettwinning.org/twin-your-toilet/>

## 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve



How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

### **Now you can give by 'tap & go'**

12 Church of England cathedrals are trialling contactless donation boxes for visitors. It follows the announcement earlier this year that the CofE was going to trial 'tap and go' contactless payment systems for donations.

For several months now, 60 churches have been equipped with handheld terminals to process card payments, with a view to offering the system to every diocese next year. The trial includes a variety of churches - urban, rural, large and small - to make sure that the needs of different parishes are considered when the scheme is offered nationally.

John Preston, National Stewardship Officer, recently told the Financial Times: "We're aware that younger generations - and there are many people now who don't carry cash - want to give in different ways. Enabling them to give in a way that suits them is something we'd like to try."

The scheme will be run by Parish Buying. <https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/> The terminals, provided by startup GoodBox, are already in place in the Natural History Museum, where donations have been up 20 per cent since they were installed in June.

## The miracle of Christmas Day

*The Ven John Barton provides a meditation on the sheer wonder of Christmas....*

Way back in Bible times, everyone believed the world was flat and the universe was in layers, above and below. Though limited in their understanding, people in those days could marvel at the immensity of the universe and their relative insignificance: one of the OT Psalms considers all this and asks God a question:

*'When I look up at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
At the moon and the stars you have set in place,  
What is a frail mortal, that you should be mindful of him,  
A human being, that you should take notice of him?' [Ps 8:3,4]*

How much more meaningful that question is today. Think of our appreciation of the cosmos: its staggering size and complexity. What are frail mortals, that God should be mindful of them, human beings, that God should take notice of them?

If questions about our origin and our place in the order of things are larger than ever, so too is our enquiry about human destiny. Where's it all heading?

Suppose then, for one moment we could glimpse through a crack in the

impenetrable veil of the unknown, to see whatever/whoever it is that controls our origin and our destiny. What would that vision do to us?

There's a healthy reticence in the Bible about seeing God. Moses was warned that 'no mortal may see me and live'. (Exodus 33) And in the New Testament St Paul makes clear that no one had ever seen or could ever see Him.

And yet. That is precisely what Christmas enables us to do. In Jesus, we are offered God on the only terms we could understand. God in our own language. Incarnation.

It began with a baby in the arms of His mother. Sensationally surprising. The origin of the universe and its destiny – now in human form... for our sake. It's the last thing we would have expected, so it's easily missed. But here and now you and I are invited to kneel in wonder and worship, with Mary and Joseph and shepherds.

The story continued, of course. As the baby grew up, the Creator of the Cosmos placed Himself at the service of humanity, as Jesus the teacher and healer. Then it all went grim. He suffered persecution, prosecution, crucifixion. But it was still all part of God's plan to redeem His wayward human creation.

*Continued over page...*

Finally, as the Christian creed puts it, 'On the third day He rose again...He will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.'

This child is our glimpse of the beginning and the end. He is God stooping to meet us, in the lowliest of guises.

This extraordinary contrast of majesty and humility in the birth at Bethlehem was captured beautifully by a 17th century parish priest, Giles Fletcher. Here is just an extract:

*'A child He was, and had not learnt to speak,  
That with His word ... the world before did make;*

## Silence for Her Majesty

*Canon David Winter considers the Christmas Message from the Queen.*

Exactly 60 years ago the Queen's Christmas message was broadcast for the first time on television. Finally, the newcomer had put radio in its place! Families all over Britain delayed their Christmas pudding to hear, and for the first time to *watch* their monarch delivering it.

By modern broadcast standards, it was rather odd. One could feel the Queen's anxiety about it, the content, as most royal messages had always been, predictable and platitudinous and the accent a strange and unique 'royal speak' in which 'I' was always 'One' and

*His mother's arms Him bore, He was so weak,  
That with one hand the vaults of heaven could shake.*

*See how small a room my infant Lord doth take,  
Whom all the world is not enough to hold.*

*Who of His years or of His age hath told?  
Never such age so young, never a child so old.'*

*(Giles Fletcher 1586 – 1623)*



'house' was pronounced 'hice'. Nobody worried. She was a popular monarch and she had embraced the new 'medium of the people' to talk to us.

Somewhere in the next 60 years the whole style and feel of the Christmas message changed. For one thing, the Queen's accent is now simply a bit posh, but completely recognisable and normal. 'One' has gone, and Her Majesty is very happy to talk freely about her own feelings and faith – quite remarkably so in the last few years. There are very few platitudes, but a great deal of hard-earned wisdom in her words. At 91, she has mastered the great television art of talking to rather than *at* the audience. Long live the Queen!

## What about the first Christmas?

*The Rev Paul Hardingham looks back on how early Christians might have celebrated the big day...*

How did the early Christians celebrate Christmas? The simple answer is: they didn't!

Christmas was first celebrated as late as 336, during the reign of Emperor Constantine. The first Christians didn't celebrate Jesus' birth or any other birthdays, regarding them as pagan customs to be avoided. However, the resurrection was central to their faith and they celebrated this event every Sunday.

By the 4<sup>th</sup> century however, many Christian groups observed Christ's birthday, although on different days. So, in 345, Pope Julius I officially fixed the date of Christmas as 25<sup>th</sup> December. Why was this date chosen?

Early Christian tradition said that Jesus' birth was announced to Mary on 25<sup>th</sup> March (the Annunciation), nine months before 25<sup>th</sup> December. As time went on, the Annunciation became more associated with Mary

than Jesus' birth. It was also believed to be the day on which Jesus died (14<sup>th</sup> Nisan in the Jewish calendar).

In the setting of Passover, as Jews from all over the Empire travelled to Jerusalem for the Festival, it would make sense for the Romans to take a census. Also at Passover, many lambs would be sacrificed at the Temple in Jerusalem. 'He is believed to have been conceived on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, upon which day also He suffered.' (Augustine).

The date of Christmas may also have been chosen because the Roman winter solstice and midwinter festivals took place at this time. 'Saturnalia' honoured the god Saturn and 'Dies Natalis Solis Invicti' ('birthday of the unconquered sun') celebrated the sun god Mithra. Here we also see the Christian church 'redeeming' a pagan festival, by investing it with new Christian meaning.

This Christmas, let's not forget that we celebrate a real gift in real time for everyone: 'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!' (2 Cor 9:15).

## 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 means twig.



## And there were shepherds

By David Winter

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told – the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to be called 'John', who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds ...' – that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message – a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to

see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds, in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.



## Prompting *Smile.....*

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas drama presentation. His mother, sitting in the front row, tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, 'I am the angel Gabriel!' The child beamed with acknowledgment, and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the audience could hear him said: 'My Mummy is the angel Gabriel!'



## Are you dreading the Facebragging this year?

You'll remember it from last year's build-up to Christmas: how some of your friends posted photographs on Facebook of their impossibly beautiful Christmas decorations, home-made delicious food and perfectly turned out children.

How do these women, also with full-time jobs and numerous children, still 'do' such a perfect Christmas? Do they really follow all those Christmas craft suggestions in the women's magazines? When do they whisk up that perfect Christmas pudding, and hand-make all their decorations, Christmas cakes and mincemeat? How do they find time to shop in amazing little shops for exquisite presents? Never mind them attending numerous Christmas parties, with nails and make up just perfect.

Just remember there are two sides to Facebragging.

*You will see:* perfect food, home-made holly wreaths, colour-themed decorations, presents wrapped and beribboned, children singing like angels, and looking adoringly at Mum as they help with Christmas preparations.

*You won't see:* the jam jar propping up the Christmas cake from behind; the sticking plasters on fingers who were wrestling with the holly leaves; the strange bulges on the other side of the presents, and the fact that the name tag is lost, so no one knows who it is for anyway, the video of the children's fight at the back of the church, and how Mum threatened them with no Christmas at all if they did not shut up, stand still, and smile for just ten seconds...

Don't worry about the braggers. It is only bragging. Enjoy your Christmas the way it comes – however chaotic and confused. It is Christmas – peace on your family, and goodwill to all of them, however difficult.

### Beware of 'supersize me'

When you go out to eat in the run-up to Christmas, beware the guy who urges you to 'supersize' your order. Over a year, it could mean that you are eating an extra 17,000 calories, which can mean a five pound weight gain.

The Royal Society for Public Health has warned that consumers are facing more than 100 attempts a year by retailers wanting to 'upsell' unhealthy food and drink. Instead, the advice is to NOT 'go large', 'upgrade', or 'add chocolate'. If you do, the only one to benefit will be the retailer.



## Eating with children - without going mad

Are your children fussy eaters? Do they like to play with their food, and does more of supper end up on the table than in their mouths? The latest advice from the NHS is not to worry about it, and to make mealtimes as 'relaxed' as you can.

So this Christmas season, instead of scolding young children into better behaviour, the advice is to keep the time of meals consistent, not to rush children, and above all, do not let

meals become a battleground. Encourage your young children to feed themselves, while you accept the mess. Encourage upbeat conversations, and a general air of contentment, even if the result is a chaotic table.

After all, even the most 'picky' of children is unlikely to starve. According to data from primary schools in England, in 2015-16, just one per cent of children starting school were underweight.

### **Hark! The biography of Christmas** *(Review)*

*By Paul Kerensa, Lion Hudson, £7.99*

In this delightful sleigh ride through Christmas history, Paul Kerensa answers the festive questions you never thought to ask... Did Cromwell help shape the mince pie? Was St Nicholas the first to use an automatic door? Which classic Christmas crooners were inspired by a Hollywood heatwave? And did King Herod really have a wife called Doris? Whether you mull on wine or enjoy the biggest turkey, the biggest tree or the biggest credit card bill, unwrap your story through our twelve dates of Christmas past. From Roman revelry to singing Bing, via Santa, Scrooge and a snoozing saviour, this timeless tale is perfect trivia fodder for the Christmas dinner table.

### **The sound of music**

Got demanding work to do? Put on some classical music. Listening to upbeat classical music may well enhance your brain power, and is better than working in silence.

Such are the findings of a study at Radboud University in Holland. It

found that a person's ability to come up with creative answers to complex problems is boosted by upbeat, happy classical music. On the other hand, avoid downbeat or anxious compositions, which will not inspire you to solve anything very much.

## The man who married Mary

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance. After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, and find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of his father's responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

*Continued over page.....*

*Continued from over page...*

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness.

Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most

important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please Him in all that we do.



## **You named my grandchild WHAT!!?**

When Mary gave birth in the stable of Bethlehem, the one thing she and Joseph did not have to worry about was what to name their baby: the angel had already told them. But for the rest of us, choosing a baby's name is not easy – and even when the parents agree, what about *their* parents?

A recent study has found that a fifth of all grandparents simply do not like the name chosen for their grandchild. The most common complaints? The name sounds 'too odd', or 'made-up', or is just wildly unconventional. Other worries

include that the name will embarrass the child when it gets older, that it is not a family name, and that it is too hard to pronounce.

It seems that when told of the new baby's name, ten per cent of grandparents have responded with an incredulous 'what?'" and three per cent of grandparents have simply burst out laughing.

So, what do grandparents do? Nine per cent do not use the un-liked name at all, and instead call their grandchild by a shorter version of the name, one that they can manage. The survey was done by Mumsnet and Gransnet.

## **The millennials and alcohol**

How things change. Now it seems that going out and drinking too much is no longer 'cool' in the least. Instead, clean living young millennials are turning their noses up at such overindulgence – because it was the sort of thing their parents did.

Alcohol has fallen out of favour among the young – to such an extent that a recent study found that only one in ten young people consider that getting drunk is 'cool'. Instead, young people see drunkenness as just 'pathetic', or 'embarrassing'. The data was from a survey by Eventbrite.

## **Angel Tree - Bringing the gift of joy to prisoners' families at Christmas**

For someone in prison, Christmas is the most difficult of seasons. Families often struggle financially and their children have very little.

*Angel Tree* is a programme run by Prison Fellowship England and Wales. Volunteers buy, wrap and send gifts on prisoners' behalf with a personal message written by the prisoner to make the gift extra special. Gifts are accompanied by a Christian storybook appropriate to the child's age.

By providing gifts to the children of prisoners, *Angel Tree* lessens the devastation experienced as a result of parental absence by not only helping families to connect and build relationships, but by providing children with much-needed joy.

When Prison Fellowship England and Wales launched its first *Angel Tree* programme in one prison in 1994, it

delivered 60 presents. Last Christmas, the *Angel Tree* programme ran in 82 prisons, enabling 2,550 prisoners to send a gift to their children. Nearly 5,000 presents were sent out to children!

One parent wrote afterwards, "Thank you very much for helping me protect the delicate bond between my children and their dad. They need each other very much and it was magical for them to receive a Christmas present."

One parent in prison said, 'I had three children that received gifts. They were extremely excited at receiving a gift and it made a fantastic surprise as they never thought their Dad could get them a gift this year. So, thank you with all my heart.'

Prison Fellowship is always seeking individuals and churches to help with fundraising, buying presents and wrapping gifts. If this is something you would like to be involved in, contact Prison Fellowship.

[www.prisonfellowship.org.uk](http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk)

### **A good way to fight depression**

Do you often feel low? Well, how often do you exercise? In a recent study, it was found that people who do not exercise are 44 per cent more likely to suffer with depression. It seems that even just one hour a week can help lift your mood.

The research was done by the Australia-based Black Dog Institute. One scientist concluded: 'If we can find ways to increase the population's level of physical activity even by a small amount, then this is likely to bring substantial physical and mental health benefits.'

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

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

### **New Patients Welcome**

**Flu Vac:** Are you 65 and over, or have Asthma, Diabetes, Lung/Heart/Kidney/Liver disease? If so, please book in for your Flu Vac.

**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. You can also look at your test results\*.

### **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 (7:30 - 19:00) Tues - Fri 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 for training -**

Wednesday afternoon - **10<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

**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. Or better still –why not register for the online service and view them for yourself!

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

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

November  
solution



December  
Sudoku



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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

## QUALITY HARDWOOD LOGS

Very good quality, dry, seasoned and barn stored hardwood logs for sale. Very low moisture content:-

One x builders bag £56 per bag

Two x builders bags £110

3 x builders bags £165

4 x builders bags £200

*(The logs are measured in builders bags but are delivered loose unless requested otherwise).*

Free delivery within a 10 mile radius of Bakewell.

**Please phone 01629 732122  
or 07950 495727**

We are only a phone call away and you can be assured you will not be disappointed.



## 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 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





## SERVICES & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2017



<u>ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY</u>			<u>FLOWERS &amp; BRASSES</u>	<u>CLEANING</u>
3	9.30am	Holy Communion	Brasses only during Advent	29 <sup>th</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Hornsby
10	9.30am	Holy Communion	" "	
17	9.30am	Holy Communion	" "	all - Pre Christmas clean and decorations up
24	9.30am	Holy Communion	Mrs Hopkins (Christmas flowers)	
	6pm	<b>Service of Lessons &amp; Carols</b>		
25	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion for Christmas Day</b>		
31	9.30am	Holy Communion	Christmas flowers remain	
<u>ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR</u>			<u>SIDESMEN</u>	
3	10.45am	Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Wardle	
10	10.45am	Holy Communion	R S Sherwood/Diana Walters	
17	10.45am	Matins	J Bowns/M Pindar	
20	7.30pm	<b>Service of Lessons &amp; Carols</b>		
24	10.45am	Holy Communion	Mrs Thomas + 1	
	11.30pm	<b>Midnight Mass</b>	to be arranged	
25	10.45am	<b>Holy Communion for Christmas Day</b>	to be arranged	
31	10.45am	Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Gordon	
<u>COFFEE</u>		<u>CLEANING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	
3	M Douglas/Diana Maskery	Mrs Day/Mrs Walters	No flowers - Advent	
10	Mr & Mrs Carter	Mr & Mrs Jackson	" "	
17	Clive & Joy Thrower	Mr & Mrs Grimshaw	" "	
24	John & Jill Caw	Mr & Mrs Wardle	Christmas Decorations*	
31	Mr & Mrs Bosett	Mr & Mrs Carter	as above & Wedding flowers	
*We will be decorating the church and dressing the Christmas tree on Tuesday 19 <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>	
3	<b>Isaiah 64: 1-9</b> <b>Mark 13: 24-37</b>	Margaret Thomas Advent Sunday	Matilda Cadogan Family Service	
10	<b>Isaiah 40: 1-11</b> <b>Mark 1: 1-8</b>	Duke of Devonshire Advent Two	Rupert Turner SS Sarah Porter	
17	<b>Isaiah 64: 1-4, 8-end</b> <b>John 1: 6-8, 19-28</b>	Molly Marshall Advent Three	Sarah Porter No Sunday School	
24	<b>2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16</b> <b>Luke 1: 26-38</b> Midnight Mass to be arranged	Christine Robinson Advent four	To be arranged No Sunday School	
25	<b>Isaiah 52: 7-10</b> <b>John 1: 1-14</b>	Duke of Devonshire Christmas Day	To be arranged No Sunday School	
31	<b>Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3</b> <b>Luke 2: 15-21</b>	Mavis Cunningham Christmas One	Claire Cadogan No Sunday School	