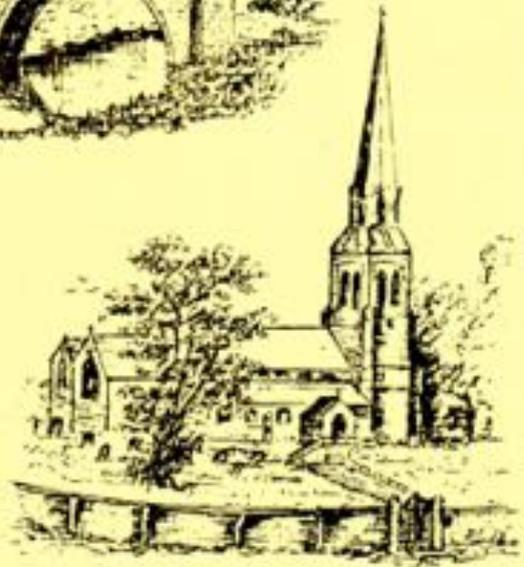


DECEMBER  
2023



# The Bridge



BEELEY WITH EDENSOR  
*including CHATSWORTH, CALTON LEES & PILSLEY*  
PARISH MAGAZINE

St. Peter's Church, Edensor & St. Anne's Church, Beeley  
Church websites -  
[www.stpetersedensor.org](http://www.stpetersedensor.org)  
[www.stannesbeeley.co.uk](http://www.stannesbeeley.co.uk)

December 2023

Bishop Libby writes...

During Advent, in the run up to Christmas, we pray: 'even so, come Lord Jesus'.

Our prayer longs for the fulfilment of God's promise that the risen Jesus will come again in glory and, at last, death shall have no more dominion, every tear shall be wiped away, sword will be turned into ploughshare, and, by God's merciful judgement, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Our prayer also hopes, in the meantime, for the fulfilment of God's promise that the risen Jesus will be with us always to the end of time. 'Come, Lord Jesus' is a prayer not just for the end of all things but for today. It is a prayer that remembers that Jesus first came to ordinary people in the midst of their everyday life.

I've been having conversation, in the run up to Christmas, with people in Derby and Derbyshire whose everyday today echoes the ordinary lives of those in the first Christmas story.

I've heard stories of sheep farming, chatted with a hotel owner, learnt about midwifery, talked to a broadcaster, met with an educator and listened to a child. (You can hear these Christmas Conversations through Advent via the diocesan website [derby.anglican.org](http://derby.anglican.org) or my BishopLibbyLane Facebook page).

God chose to become part of everyday people's ordinary lives when Jesus was born. Those we read about in the gospels weren't particularly special people, weren't especially good or religious, wouldn't have made history except that God chose to share their lives. God chooses that still. And so, we glimpse heaven in the ordinary, as I did through my conversations.

As I pray this Advent, in the run up to Christmas, 'even so, come Lord Jesus', I'm hoping to catch sight of God in the everyday lives of people around me, people like you – the ordinary people of Derby and Derbyshire. Not because we're particularly special or especially good but because this is how God chooses to be known. And until the end, when Jesus comes in glory, we find the Kingdom of God among us.

+ Libby Derby

The Rt Revd Libby Lane  
Bishop of Derby



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER SUNDAY!

Once again our two churches will be holding a 'Christmas Jumper Sunday' with donations going to the Padley Centre in Derby.

**St. Anne's - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - 3pm (Family service)**

**St. Peter's - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December - 10.45**

This is just a bit of fun to brighten up the winter days and to raise funds to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

If you don't have a Christmas jumper just jazz up any jumper with a bit of tinsel!!!

### Telephone Numbers

<u>St. Anne's</u>	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Fiona Swain	<i>ex directory</i>
<u>Both Churches</u>	Treasurer:-	Fiona Lichfield	01629 813382
	Safeguarding:-	Sarah Porter	01629 312168
<u>St. Peter's</u>			0786 669 5132
	Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw	01246 582421
		Lynne Clark	07767 652 624
	Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton	01246 601475
		e-mail: <a href="mailto:mtitterton@me.com">mtitterton@me.com</a>	

## ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

TheGivingMachine is a unique registered charity that enables you to generate sales commissions with every online purchase. They convert these commissions into free donations for the schools, charities and other community

organisations you choose. **St Anne's, Beeley** is one of the organisations you can support. The donation is calculated without going via another website so doesn't affect your shopping experience.



Please sign up at <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>

### ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

7.30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.45AM

HOLY COMMUNION

this will be a joint service with  
St. Anne's

PREACHER & CELEBRANT

BISHOP OF DERBY  
RT REVD LIBBY LANE

EVERYONE WELCOME

### ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

6PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.45AM

HOLY COMMUNION

this will be a joint service at  
St. Peter's

PREACHER & CELEBRANT

BISHOP OF DERBY  
RT REVD LIBBY LANE

EVERYONE WELCOME

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**St. Peter's, Edensor**

**Baptism - 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Elsie Kya Elizabeth Gower

## 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.

### St. Peter's Church 100 Club

#### October Draw 2023

1st Prize £30 - no. 20 Margaret Nelson

2nd prize £20 - no. 2 Barrie Bateman

Funds to church this month - £50

**Ann Hall**

### The Christmas stars (Smile...)

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.

### St. Peter's Church 100 Club

#### Subscriptions for 2024 are now due

Subscriptions are £12 per number held.

Cash or cheque please. Cheques payable to St. Peter's Church 100 club.

Thank you all for your support.

**New members are welcome for 2024**

Ann Hall

## Dates for your Diary -December 2023

- 12 BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting - 7.30pm Beeley Village Hall**  
Christmas wouldn't be the same without the wreaths  
*Presidents:* Chris Miley & Sarah Porter  
*Refreshments:* Jackie Evans - wine; food - All; Secret Santa - All
- 13 CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting - 7pm Cavendish Hall**  
**Annexe, Edensor**  
Seasonal Quiz and Christmas Party  
*Competition:* card with an animal on

**Please Note that there will be no Chatty Crafts in December, the next meeting will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January in the Cavendish Chapel 10-12. Everyone welcome.**

## BAKEWELL AND ASHFORD FILM SOCIETY (BASH)

The Medway Centre, New Street, Bakewell

7.30pm 2nd Sunday of every month (except August)

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - What's Love Got To Do With It (2022) Cert PG-13**

How do you find lasting love in today's world? For documentary-maker and dating app addict Zoe (Lily James), swiping right has only delivered an endless stream of Mr. Wrongs to her eccentric mother Cath's (Emma Thompson) dismay. For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbor Kaz (Shazad Latif), the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an arranged (or "assisted") marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan.



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

via 'THE BRIDGE'

*Donations to Church Funds*

*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 Bradshaw; Ann & Tony Hubbuck; Margaret & David Jackson; Lynne & Joe Clark; Ann Hall; Dick & Diana Walters; Maureen Adams; Cynthia & Duncan Gordon; Gloria & Roger Sherwood*

## 'THE BRIDGE'

The magazine subscription for 2024 is now due - £1 per copy -  
£12 per year.

Please give the money to the person who delivers your magazine. Cheques should be made payable to **Edensor PCC**. If you would prefer to make your payment by bank transfer the account is:

**Co-op Bank**

**Sort Code: 08-92-99**

**Account Number: 65414327**

Please use the reference 'parish magazine' and let me know if you have made a payment this way so that I can mark you down as 'paid'.

If I post the magazine to you please enclose a book of 12 stamps (12x 2nd class stamps = £9) with your cheque and send it to me, Liz Bradshaw.



Thank you for subscribing to 'The Bridge'.



Do you have difficulty hearing in church?

If you suffer from a hearing problem, wear a hearing aid but are unable to use the loop system, read on.

A member of our congregation who has severe hearing loss has installed an app on her phone which translates what the speaker is saying and brings it up on her phone screen as text.

The app is called 'Live translate and notification'.

David Neale suggested this app to the person and so far she's very pleased with it. There is a small monthly fee for the app from the provider and if you are interested it might be worth having a word with David.

Apparently it was very easy to download and install.

## EDENSOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

SWITCH ON

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

Mulled wine & Mince Pies in St. Peter's Church

at 5.45pm

followed by the official switch on by the

Duchess of Devonshire

at 6.30pm on the Green

## BASLOW CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Baslow Choir will be performing their Christmas concerts this year on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at All Saints' Church Curbar and on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at St. Anne's Church Baslow at 7.30 pm.

There will be traditional carols for Advent and Christmas with additional audience carols. The guest soloist is Rachel Abbott ( soprano).

Tickets are £10 and £5 for children, which includes mulled wine or soft drinks and mince pies in the interval. Tickets available from choir members, the Spar shop in Baslow, online at [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com), by email from [tickets@baslowchoir.co.uk](mailto:tickets@baslowchoir.co.uk) , by phone on 07745 385976, or on the door.

### Stop mist on your windscreen

If you're going to be out in your car a lot this Christmas, here's an easy way to stop your windscreen from misting up:

Simply clean it with shaving foam. It provides a protective barrier which stops mist forming. Ice hockey players use it to stop their face masks from steaming up while they're on the ice.

It's easy to do. Put a good dollop of shaving foam onto a clean towel, and then wipe it all over the windscreen. Then take a second clean towel, and gently wipe off the shaving foam. This leaves a protective barrier, but it will need to be regularly reapplied, to continue to work.

This tip can be found on the RAC website: [www.rac.co.uk](http://www.rac.co.uk)

## Food Banks across the UK may be facing their ‘worst winter’ yet

The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) has warned that the numbers of people needing foodbanks this year are still rising, as the cost-of-living crisis continues.

The Trussell Trust, which runs the UK’s largest network of food banks, expects to support more than 600,000 people between December and February. This means handing out around one million food parcels, or an average of one parcel every eight seconds, which is 11,500 parcels a day, making it the “worst winter yet” for the charity.

These figures support what workers at Citizens Advice have found, that there is a “terrifying new normal of people living on empty.”

To compound the problem, many independent food banks are now running low on donations. As the manager of one such foodbank recently told the IFAN, “Surplus food is down. Our collections are under 50% of what they were. It just doesn’t work.”

Paul O’Brien of social justice charity Micah Liverpool put it this way: “Food banks cannot sustain this level of poverty for much longer.”

Su Parrish, based at The Easter Team in Crawley, explains a further problem for the foodbanks: “Everyone is feeling the strain of struggling to support clients with increasingly complex needs. Most of our volunteers signed up to give out food parcels and be a friendly face spreading some love. They didn’t anticipate the level of stress that our clients now exhibit because of the situations they find themselves in.”

80 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1943, Beatrix Potter, children’s writer and illustrator, died. She created animal characters including Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle, Jemima Puddle-Duck, and many more.

In 1913, when she was 47, Beatrix married William Heelis, a local solicitor in Hawkshead. By now she was also a prize-winning breeder of Herdwick sheep and a farmer.

In 1943, when she was 77, Potter died of pneumonia and heart disease at her home in Near Sawrey. She left most of her property to the National Trust, which means that she deserves the credit for so much of the land that now makes up the Lake District National Park.

More at: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/helen-beatrix-potter-1794#>

## Why King Charles never throws cake away

King Charles is on a mission to tackle food poverty and rising food waste.

It is said that he and the Queen eat daily slices from the same cake until it is finished, as part of a drive to curb their personal food waste.

As for the nation, the king has been increasingly concerned that in the UK, 12 million tons of food is thrown away each year - even though almost three quarters of it could still be eaten, according to experts. In contrast, an estimated 4.7million people are living in food poverty.

To combat this problem, King Charles has launched The Coronation Food Project, to coincide with this, his 75th year.

Up to eight new food hubs around the country will store food, prepare it, and package it, before redistributing it to organisations like food banks and community kitchens. The long-term goal is to circulate 200 million meals a year.

In the meantime, King Charles is careful not to throw his cake away. Is there one simple thing you could do in your own kitchen this Christmas, to curb your personal food waste?

## Can you get benefits?

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has launched a campaign to help people gain access to the various benefits that are going unclaimed by eligible households.

CAP estimates that in the past year, almost £90 million in benefits has gone unclaimed, because of the complexity of the application systems.

Pension credit is the most under-claimed benefit, and yet it acts as a passport benefit to other support,

including housing benefit and local assistance. Carers' allowance is also underclaimed.

About 800 churches have now signed up to work with CAP, to encourage people to check if they could be liable to claim benefits. CAP, in partnership with the debt charity Turn2Us, has created an online calculator to help people discover what they may be eligible for. Go to: <https://capuk.org/money-and-debt-advice/benefits-calculator>

## **Prospect of winter energy bills causing anxiety for millions, says Archbishop of York**

Millions are looking ahead to this winter with 'fear and anxiety' about the cost of heating their homes, the Archbishop of York has said as he backed the recent launch of a campaign to provide a network of warm spaces for people who struggle to pay their energy bills.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell is encouraging churches to consider getting involved in the Warm Welcome campaign, a network of venues from community centres to churches providing warm spaces over the winter for people struggling to heat their homes.

Archbishop Stephen said: "Sadly, what began as a cost-of-living crisis has simply become the new normal for many.

"Millions of people will look ahead to this winter with fear and anxiety, wondering how they are going to cope with high living costs. That is why I am proud to endorse the Warm Welcome campaign this winter.

"But a warm welcome isn't only about the temperature. It is about kindness and community, giving people the chance to be seen and known, to belong and to be part of something. It is about celebrating the God-given value and dignity of every single person, finding hope and community together. But of course, none of that will happen if people are cold."

The Warm Welcome campaign is led by a coalition of over 50 charitable organisations who joined together in response to the cost of living crisis to provide emergency support to communities struggling to pay for rising food costs and to heat their homes.

## **Christmas 2023**

Megan Carter

*The night before Christmas when all are abed,  
As reindeer and sleigh bells are heard overhead,  
Children still sleeping will early arise,  
With shouts of delights as they open each prize.*

*A doll for Amanda, a toy soldier for Jo?  
Ah, these are toys of long ago!*

*Now it's computers, a party dress,  
Gifts so expensive they're meant to impress.*

*But the real joy of Christmas forever will stay,  
As church bells and carols proclaim that glad day,  
As wise man and shepherds recount what they saw,  
Of Mary, her Baby - and a bed full of straw.*

## The Most Beautiful Story

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

A well-known atheist was once interviewed on Radio 4. When 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.

Most of us are familiar with probably the best-known statue in the world, Christ the Redeemer, towering over Rio de Janeiro, 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.



It was 75 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948, that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Also 75 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1948, that the first Midnight Mass to be televised was broadcast from St Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

## Preparations

By Lester Amann

Christmas is a time for making plans. Presents to buy, cards to send, decorations to put up, food to order, travel arrangements to make... the list goes on and on. But whether our plans are ambitious or simple this Christmas, we still dread anything going wrong.

Yet plans seemed to fall apart that first Christmas. Mary and Joseph had planned to marry and set up home together in Galilee. Then Mary had become unexpectedly pregnant, and they were summoned to Bethlehem for the census. So instead of a comfortable Galilean home amongst family, they were suddenly parents, all alone in a place fit for animals!

The shepherds had expected another routine night on the hills of Bethlehem. But the angel's message and a heavenly choir changed everything, and they went to search for the Christ-child instead. Their change of plans brought them great joy!

The Eastern men had expected to find the 'King of the Jews' in a

royal palace. But the star bypassed Jerusalem and took them to Bethlehem. Then their plans changed again, when they were warned in a dream to avoid Herod, and slip home another way.

The Holy Couple then had another upset of plans: Joseph was warned in a dream NOT to go home to Galilee, but to flee for safety in Egypt instead.

At first sight, all these changes display a chaotic mix of circumstances. But behind it all, God was working out His divine purposes. When Jesus was born, all the Old Testament prophecies of His coming were fulfilled. Nothing happened by chance. Into a messy world God brought to us His Son, to be our Saviour.

We worship a great and loving God who not only planned that first Christmas but is also preparing for our stay in His eternal home.

*The plans God makes are wise, and they always succeed! (Isaiah 28:29)*

## No Room? On the Contrary

*The Ven John Barton considers the Christmas story ...*

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 Night Before Christmas - A nativity spin on the classic poem

*By Oliver Lancaster, 10Publishing, £6.99 (Book Review)*

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the stable every creature was stirring. This ain't a fable!  
No stockings were hung, no chimney in sight,  
but one thing's for sure - The Lord came that night!*

Children will love this rollicking retelling of the Christmas story, based on the classic festive poem. They will join in the chaos and the wonder of the very first 'night before Christmas' - when everything was far from silent and still!



## 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 gasp at the cost of cards, and sheer disbelief at what the Post Office charges 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 decide to 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.’ Proverbs 25:25. They will enjoy hearing from you!

### **Luke 2:8-12 The Shepherds arrive**

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

The first visitors are not VIPs but humble shepherds who have been summoned by an angelic visitor. For those who have eyes to see, there hidden in the manger beneath the

blankets is the Son of God, the one sent by the Father to be the Saviour of the world. Very few of those crowded into Bethlehem that night were aware of what was happening. Only those with faith could recognise the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. It is the same today.

Lord, I pray for eyes to see where the glory of Heaven touches earth. May I be alive today with the truth that the Saviour, rescuer, King Jesus has been born ‘to us’ and that there is joy in this for all people. May my life reflect that glory even in a small way in my interactions with people, so that in this Christmas season the good news of great joy will be known.

# The story behind 'The Night Before Christmas'

It was 200 years ago this Christmas, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1823, that the famous poem 'The Night Before Christmas' was first published (anonymously) in the Sentinel newspapers in Troy, New York.

It was light-hearted and full of fun, and not at all what you might have expected from its author, Clement Clarke Moore.

For Moore had been born in 1779 into a prominent New York family. His father, Benjamin Moore, the Episcopal bishop of New York, had even taken part in the inauguration of George Washington as the nation's first president.

As for Clement Moore, he was a scholar of Hebrew and a professor of Oriental and Greek literature at the General Theological Seminary in Manhattan.

But on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1822, the night that Moore composed the poem, he was traveling home from Greenwich Village. He had gone there to buy a turkey, in order to fill the last of a number of baskets that his family donated to the poor during the Christmas season.

Perhaps Moore was inspired by the plump, bearded Dutchman who took him by 'taxi' sleigh on his mercy errand through the snow-covered streets of New York City that night. But whatever it was, Moore scribbled down 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' for the amusement of his own six children, to whom he read the poem when he got home that evening. His description of St Nicholas drew upon the Dutch-American and Norwegian traditions of a magical, gift-giving figure who appears at Christmas time.

The following year, Christmas 1823, the poem was made public, without his permission. Moore was said to have been at first embarrassed to be named as the author of such a light-hearted verse, and then astonished by its quick rise to popularity. He finally published it under his own name in 1844.

*...But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."*

There is more on this story at the Library of Congress website:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-24/#:~:text=Moore%20is%20thought%20to%20have,poor%20during%20the%20holiday%20season.>

## The Light of the World

*Revd Dr Jo White*

During the month of December, people are 'counting down' to Christmas Day in an ever-increasing variety of ways.

In my childhood we had a simple card with a traditional picture of a manger scene with doors marked with the countdown numbers and a picture of the different characters behind each. If my parents had extra money to spend, they would buy one with shiny snow made of sparkles!

These days you can pay hundreds to have a gift for each day from toys to jewellery. And don't fret, your pets can have their own also!

Churches don't normally count the days, but they do note the four Sundays before Christmas Day. They give each of those four 'advent' Sundays a theme and light a candle each time. One for the first week, two for the second and so on.

Unlike the secular world, the church counts up, and not down. It increases the light as we get nearer to Christmas Day and then adds an extra light on that day. So, a total of five candles.

Churches vary in their use of colour in the candles. Some will use all white, whilst many only use white for

the Christ-light on Christmas Day and 'colours' on the four Sundays.

There again they vary; some use all purple – originally the most expensive colour - as we prepare for The King. In a more modern style, some use blue – perhaps recalling the most associated colour for Jesus' mother Mary. But perhaps reminding us of creation and that we are surrounded by God's love as the earth is surrounded by the blue sky.

And again, others will change the colours for each Sunday, often giving the third Sunday to be pink as we are over half-way through Advent and it is known as Gaudete – Joyful – Sunday. Or there are those who make the fourth Sunday pink, as that one is often dedicated to Mary and it's a 'girly' colour.

### ***This month***

Have a look at the advent candles in your church, or perhaps in your own home, and think about what the colours mean to you. How do they reflect your faith? Whatever the colour – Have a Good Christmas!

## Was Jesus really born on 25<sup>th</sup> December?

Almost certainly not. But the story of how that date came to be chosen as His 'birthday' is one that stretches back long before His birth.

It seems to have started on the Greek island of Rhodes in 283 BC. That year the solstice fell on 25<sup>th</sup> December, and it was also the year that the Ancient World's largest Sun God statue – the 34 metre, 200 tonne Colossus of Rhodes, was consecrated.

By 46 BC, Julius Caesar had made 25<sup>th</sup> December the official winter solstice.

In AD 274, the Roman Emperor Aureilian chose the winter solstice to be the birthday of the Sun God. He also decreed that Sol Invictus (the unconquered sun) was 'Lord of the Roman Empire'.

50 years after that, and Constantine had become the first

pro-Christian Roman Emperor. He wanted the Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Perhaps it was that to him, Jesus was more or less the same person as the mighty Sun God. Or perhaps he felt that the ancient Sun God's association with goodness, light, warmth and life would help ease the people's transition from paganism to Christianity.

Whatever the reason, the Church went along with it, and chose 25<sup>th</sup> December to be the date of Christmas. And in an ancient mosaic in the crypt of St Peter's Cathedral, Jesus is portrayed as adorned with sun rays and riding in a chariot – just like Sol Invictus.

As for the huge, bronze 200 tonne Sol Invictus? He fell over during an earthquake and was sold off for scrap metal in 654AD by an enterprising Arab scrap merchant.

Meanwhile, Jesus lives on...

800 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1223, St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene, in Greccio, Italy, after visiting Jesus' birthplace in the Holy Land. It proved enormously popular and inspired other communities to stage their own nativity scenes.



## 25<sup>th</sup> December Where did Christmas cards come from?

Christmas cards have a history which may surprise you: their origins are not of the Church, but of the Post Office and railways.

Of course, very early 'Christmas cards' had been around for hundreds of years, in the form of a simple exchange of Christmas greetings in private letters. The earliest such letter on record was written in England in 1534.

In 1611 a HUGE Christmas card made a one-off appearance. It measured a whopping 33" by 24", and was given to King James I of England (who was also King James VI of Scotland). It featured an illustration of a rose, four poems, a song, and a Christmas message for the king and his son.

Then in 1843 came the creation of Christmas cards as we know them today. One enterprising man was responsible for this: Sir Henry Cole, a senior civil servant who had helped launch the 'Public Record Office', now called the Post Office.

Sir Henry Cole helped to introduce the Penny Post, as it was called. Until then, only rich people could afford the Post, but with the building of the railways, which carried far more

packages than a horse and cart (and went much faster), suddenly the Penny Post became possible.

Sir Henry wanted to encourage 'ordinary' people to use the new service. So he came up with the bright idea of creating a simple card that people could send each other for Christmas. His friend, John Horsley, was an artist, who designed a three-panel card. Two panels depicted people caring for the poor, and the middle panel showed a family enjoying a large Christmas dinner.

They printed about 1000 cards that first year, and advertised under the slogan: 'Just published, a Christmas Congratulations Card; or picture emblematical of old English festivity to perpetuate kind recollections between dear friends!'

The cards sold for one shilling each and could be posted to friends and family for a Penny. There was an immediate, warm response from the public.

Printing methods improved, and by 1860 Christmas cards were produced in large quantities. By 1870 the cost of posting one had dropped to half a penny, and the custom was rapidly gaining popularity. By the early 1900s, the custom had spread across Europe.

*Continues over page..*

*Continued from previous page....*

The first cards usually included a Nativity scene, and in late Victorian times, robins and snow-scenes. Robins were chosen because the postmen in those days were nicknamed 'Robin Postmen', because of their red uniforms.

Christmas cards appeared in the USA in the late 1840s. They were mass produced from 1875, and in 1915 John C Hall and two of his brothers

created Hallmark Cards, which today offers 2,000 different designs of Christmas card.

Charity Christmas cards began in Denmark in the early 1900s. They spread to Sweden and Norway, and then on throughout Europe and America.

Last year the Royal Mail estimated that it had delivered 150 million cards during the Christmas period.

## **Big Ben**

Do you stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve? If so, this year will be special – it is 100 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923, that the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben to welcome in the New Year.

For it was not until 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923 that the chimes of Big Ben were ever heard outside of Parliament and Westminster. But then the BBC got permission to broadcast them to the nation, and history was made.

That first year, the BBC engineers were not allowed into Parliament, and so had to access Big Ben from the roof of the Palace of Westminster. This meant that their microphone picked up not just the chimes, but a lot of traffic noise as well. But a tradition had started, and

by 1924 the Big Ben bongos were being broadcast every day.

By then the BBC had installed low sensitivity microphones very close to the bells, so that they missed the sound of the clock mechanism.

The nation quickly came to love the sound of Big Ben, and during the Second World War the chimes were broadcast across occupied Europe – encouraging millions in their struggle against the Nazis.

The Big Ben daily time signal on the BBC is still cherished today, and Big Ben rings live for important events such as Remembrance Day and New Year, when the BBC sends the sound right around the world.  
<https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/anniversaries/december/big-ben-new-year/>

## God in the Sciences

*Written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. I can't help thinking that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed in with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads? But what exactly was the star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

First, there is the idea of a supernova: the massively bright explosion caused by a dying star. On rare occasions a supernova can be seen from Earth with the naked eye, remaining visible for several months. We now know that Herod the Great died around 4BC, so the actual date of Jesus' birth must be a little earlier. The supernovae that might match this timing were one in the Andromeda galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and

another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.

Next, comes a planetary conjunction. The alignment most commonly associated with the star of Bethlehem was between Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7BC, but not everyone is sure whether this would be extraordinary enough to be the 'star' mentioned in the Bible.

Finally, the bright astronomical object that drew the Magi could have been a comet. This idea came from Sir Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University, and Oxford astronomer WG Waddington, who found that a comet was recorded by Chinese astronomers between March and May, 5BC. Humphreys then speculated that the 'no room at the inn' scenario came about because Jesus was born during Passover, and the Magi visited Jesus in May or June.

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all sorts of ways, but there's very little argument from serious historians that Jesus of Nazareth actually existed. Whatever the true explanation for the 'star of Bethlehem' may be, there's plenty of evidence that an astronomical event could have happened at the time of His birth.

*Continues over page....*

Continued from previous page...

I think it makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one

of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very significant physical event!



## **Little donkey, little donkey**

You are bound to sing about donkeys this Christmas, especially the little one that carried Mary to Bethlehem! But how much do you know about donkeys? They are really rather special.

Here are some fun facts:

- There are more than 44 million donkeys in the world, of all shapes and sizes.
- There are more than 186 breeds of donkey.
- Donkeys have good memories.
- They can remember places and other donkeys even 25 years after they last saw them.
- Donkeys are not stubborn, they are cautious. If they are fearful about something, they will do their best to avoid it.
- Donkeys are naturally clean. Given the chance, they are always

grooming themselves and each other.

- Donkeys like to be warm and dry. They come from deserts and savannahs.
- Donkeys are social. They make deep bonds with their family and herd and get very upset if someone they love is taken from them.
- Donkeys have big ears for a good reason – it means they can hear each other at a great distance. They communicate by braying, grunting, whiffing, squealing and snorting.
- Donkeys help the ecology of their desert homes by digging into the ground to access water. This provides little creatures such as birds and chipmunks with life-saving water.
- Donkeys need your help. Millions round the world are being mistreated, and you can take action to help them.

*For more information go to:*

<https://www.peta.org.uk/blog/world-donkey-day/>

## What does your TV licence cover?

*David Pickup, a solicitor, explains what is legal for you to watch this Christmas...*

Imagine something unlikely! This Christmas, there is one television programme that the whole family wants to enjoy, but everyone will view it differently. So - you are resting upstairs and watching it on the portable set in the bedroom. Your partner is still at work and watching it on a laptop in the office. Your son is at university and watching it on his computer live. Your daughter who lives with you is on the train coming home for Christmas, loaded with dirty clothes, and using her mobile phone to see the programme. Your neighbour does not have a television but will listen to the King's speech on the radio. A happy typical family scene!

You are covered if you have a television licence as it includes the whole house. If you have let out a part of your house on a separate tenancy, the tenant needs a licence.

Your student son must have his own TV Licence if he watches or records programmes as they are being shown on TV or live on an

online TV service, download or watches BBC programmes on iPlayer. If he shares a house, then one licence is sufficient for the house.

Your partner needs a separate TV Licence for the office if he watches live on an office phone, tablet or computer. Staff or customers do not need a licence if they watch live TV at the business address using their own device, if it is not plugged into the mains, and there is a TV Licence at their home address.

Your daughter is covered by your home licence. The neighbour does not need a licence to listen to the radio.

You must have a TV Licence to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer – live, catch up or on demand. If you already have a TV Licence, you are already covered.

As always this is only a guide, and if in doubt get advice. The TV Licensing website has some very clear and helpful advice and a set of FAQs. <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/>

**Pilsley C of E Primary School  
NURSERY**

**FREE childcare places AVAILABLE**

- Exceptional grounds for exploration and play, with Forest School activities, and an outdoor classroom.
- Highly experienced, well qualified early years practitioners.
- Daily 'Read, Write, Inc' phonics and maths sessions.
- High quality child-led learning and continuous provision.
- Links to the local churches and community.
- State of the art interactive smartboard technology in every classroom.
- Dedicated music, baking and PE sessions.
- Delicious home-cooked lunches, prepared on site.

**Safeguarding standards published**

The Church of England has published a set of National Safeguarding Standards.

They will serve as an 'essential benchmark,' enabling Church bodies to identify both their strengths and areas for development, which will in turn inform their strategic planning in respect of safeguarding.

The five Standards have been developed after three years of consultation, and they build on existing policies and procedures

including the previous Promoting a Safer Church statement.

The Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop, Joanne Grenfell, said: "All organisations, including the Church, must be able to demonstrate how well they are fulfilling their safeguarding responsibilities.

"The standards are part of a vital quality assurance framework aimed at making the Church a safer place for all. I know they will be welcomed by all those involved in their local church."

**Christmas gifts (Smile....)**

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

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

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

### **Appointment Times:**

Clinicians are still available for consultations and medical advice. Please contact the surgery and a GP or Nurse will call you back to discuss your concerns and if necessary arrange to see you in person. Many problems can be dealt with over the telephone.

### **Patient Online:**

Have you registered to use the online service? This allows you to book or cancel appointments on line (during normal service) 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 01332 564 900

Health Visitor: 01629 816633

### **Normal Surgery Opening Times**

**Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri**  
8am-6.30pm;

(closed Bank Holidays)

(Phones 8am – 6.30pm Mon - Fri).

### **Surgery Closure**

The surgery will be closed on **Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day**

### **Ordering Repeat Medication**

You can order repeat medications in the following ways:

- In writing or with our on-line access service
- Return your repeat request form to surgery by Post or Fax

Please allow **three** working days before collection and **collect between 8am and 5pm**

**Prescriptions can be collected from reception inside the surgery.**

**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 a bag, if provided, either through the letterbox or at reception.

**Test Results** – Please ring for test results after **2.30pm** as we do not receive test results back from the hospital until lunchtime.

**For Urgent Calls when we are closed call 111**

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

November solution  
☞

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

December Sudoku ☞

© 2013 KrazzDad.com

## Drink tea or coffee each day – and keep old age weakness away!

Recent research has found that drinking coffee or tea in midlife may help keep you stronger in later life.

A study at the National University of Singapore concluded that higher caffeine intake is associated with lower odds of physical frailty in old age, regardless of the source of the caffeine.

Physical frailty in old age was defined as having at least two of the

following: weight loss, exhaustion, slowness and weakness. The scientists also measured handgrip strength and the time taken to complete a timed up-and-go (TUG) test.

In addition to caffeine, coffee and tea contain rich bioactive polyphenols, which have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. These have been associated with reduced risk for diseases that increase frailty, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity and neurodegenerative disease.

## Manchester Baroque

One of the highlights of the festive season for many people is going to a performance of Handel's Messiah. It is the story of the life of Christ told through a series of wonderful songs and choral pieces culminating in the magnificent Hallelujah Chorus. Manchester-based Charity, **Manchester Baroque** and their professional orchestra will be performing it with the **Manchester Cathedral Choir at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday December 9th at 7pm.** More information at: [www.manchesterbaroque.co.uk](http://www.manchesterbaroque.co.uk)

READINGS & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

<u>ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY</u>		<u>FLOWERS &amp; BRASSES</u>	
<b>3</b>	3pm Family Communion	Revd Mike Gilbert	Fiona Lichfield*
<b>10</b>	9.30am Holy Communion	Revd Matt Barnes	“ “
<b>17</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer	David Neale	tba
<b>24</b>	<b>6pm</b> Service of Lessons & Carols	David Neale	Christmas decorations
<b>25</b>	<b>Joint service at St. Peter's</b>	Bishop Libby	
<b>31</b>	9.30am Holy Communion	Revd Clive Thrower	“ “
<b>* Brasses only during Advent</b>			
<u>ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR</u>		<u>SIDESMEN</u>	
<b>3</b>	10.45am Holy Communion	Revd Michael Futers	Mr & Mrs Gordon
<b>10</b>	10.45am Holy Communion	Revd Matt Barnes	Mrs Jackson/Mrs Bradshaw
<b>17</b>	10.45am Matins	David Neale	Mr & Mrs Wardle
<b>24</b>	10.45am Holy Communion	Revd Brenda Jackson	R S Sherwood/Diana Walters
<b>25</b>	10.45am Holy Communion	Bishop Libby	TBA
<b>31</b>	10.45am Holy Communion	Revd Clive Thrower	Mike Pindar/John Bowns
<u>COFFEE</u>		<u>CLEANING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>
<b>3</b>	Mr & Mrs Sherwood	Mr & Mrs Grealey	No flowers - Advent
<b>10</b>	Lesley Butcher/Helen Garvey	Mrs Walters/Mrs Day	“ “
<b>17</b>	Mr & Mrs Hubbuck	Mr & Mrs Jackson	“ “
<b>24</b>	Clive & Joy Thrower	Mr & Mrs Grimshaw	Christmas decorations
<b>31</b>	Jane Dickson/Kate Green	Kate Green/Christine Goldsack	“ “
<u>READINGS</u>		<u>ST. PETER'S</u>	<u>ST. ANNE'S</u>
<b>3</b>	<b>Isaiah 64: 1-9</b> <b>Mark 13: 24-end</b>	Christine Robinson <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	TBA
<b>10</b>	<b>Isaiah 40: 1-11</b> <b>Mark 1: 1-8</b>	Roger Wardle <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Rupert Turner
<b>17</b>	<b>Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-end</b> <b>1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24</b>	Trevor Grimshaw <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	Fiona Lichfield
<b>24</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7: 1-11; 16</b> <b>Luke 1: 26-38</b>	Gloria Sherwood <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Carol Service 6pm
<b>25</b>	<b>Isaiah 9: 2-7</b> <b>Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]</b>	Duke of Devonshire <i>Christmas Day</i>	Joint Service
<b>31</b>	<b>Isaiah 61: 10-62.3</b> <b>Luke 2: 15-21</b>	John Bowns <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i>	Fiona Swain