



The Bridge



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

RICHARD WHITTLESTONE

Wildlife Gallery



Tuesday-Saturday: 10am-5pm
Open every day November-December

Broomes Barns, Pilsley, Chatsworth,
DE45 1PF

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Church websites:
www.stpetersedensor.org & www.stannesbeeley.co.uk

December 2024

Dear Friends,

As we approach Christmas, I'm always struck by how little there is actually recorded in the gospels about the first Christmas and the way each of the gospel writers feature different aspects of the story. Matthew focusses on Joseph and later the Wise Men, while for Luke the annunciation, the birth and the shepherds are at the heart of things. John, of course, comes from a very different place in his majestic prologue as he speaks of the word made flesh. Mark misses the story of the birth altogether.

If there is a limited amount in the bible, we start to realise that much of the detail that is our popular idea of the Christmas story comes from the carols that we sing or the nativity plays that we see. Donkeys, innkeepers and starry nights are all later additions- even the fact that we take for granted there were three wise men is a development of the story in the gospels (there are three gifts but no number of wise men given).

The carols that we sing are great ways of telling the stories, from the factual re-telling in While Shepherds Watch to the Wesleyan theology of Hark! The herald angels sing, but also express the feelings and reflections of the writers. O Little Town of Bethlehem was written by an American Bishop in the 19th century, remembering looking down over Bethlehem from the hillside. The Holly and Ivy takes us into Christmas but uses the natural world which points towards the true purpose of the incarnation being Holy Week in the crown of thorns and the blood shed.

Christmas carols were always the building blocks of the season, known by everyone and sung by the whole community, but it sometimes feels like that is ebbing away and people are either less willing to sing or the songs, even the modern ones, are more unfamiliar.

That is why it is so important to sing the great Christmas carols in church

and outside of church, around our villages and wherever people are. As we sing them, we sing the story and invite people around us to be transported back with us to Bethlehem to see the Christ child in the manger and to be immersed in what that means - God come into the world as a helpless baby, identifying with humanity.

As we sing, we pass the words and story on to a new generation, and hope that the words (and music) inspire them and become as important in their lives as they are in ours.

Have a very happy, peaceful
and melodious Christmas

Mark



FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, EDENSOR

WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER ~ MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sam Titterton 13th September 1989 - 21st October 2024

R I P



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| <u>St. Anne's</u> | Wardens:- | Rupert Turner | 01629 732794 |
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ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR
SERVICE OF LESSONS
& CAROLS

WITH MEMBERS OF THE
ROSE CHOIR, CHESTERFIELD

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER
7.30PM



CHRISTMAS DAY
10.45AM
HOLY COMMUNION
EVERYONE WELCOME

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY
SERVICE OF LESSONS
& CAROLS

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER
6PM



CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30AM
HOLY COMMUNION
EVERYONE WELCOME

'THE BRIDGE'

The magazine subscription for 2025 is now due - £12 per year.

Please give the money to the person who delivers your magazine. **Cash or Bank transfer are the preferred payment methods. If you pay by bank transfer the account name is Edensor PCC -**

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 you are only able to pay by cheque this should be made payable to **Edensor PCC**.

If I post the magazine to you please add the cost of a book of 12 stamps (12x 2nd class stamps = £10.20) to your subscription or send a book of stamps to me, Liz Bradshaw.

Thank you for subscribing to 'The Bridge'.



Easy Fundraising

If you already SHOP ONLINE, or if you haven't yet done so, then why not use Easy Fundraising and help raise money for St. Peter's Church? There is no extra cost to you and a percentage from your purchase will come back to the church.



To Register : Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk

- Click on **Register**
- Choose **Saint Peter's Church - Chatsworth Park** as your charity and fill in the rest of the form

To Shop : Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk

- Search for your store in the alphabetical list
- Go ahead and shop

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

St. Peter's Church, Edensor ~ Bookstall

Following the success of Lynne's notelets, we want to create an area at the back of Church where we sell and promote the work of local artists and crafts people. As well as promoting local creative people, this will also be an opportunity to raise funds for the Church. If you are a local crafts person or if you know of someone, please contact Clare at clareg04@gmail.com

Clare

St. Peter's Edensor

Why Your Support Really Matters

Regular giving from worshippers, visitors and the community is the primary way that St. Peter's Church in Edensor resources itself.

By scanning this QR code and making an online donation, you will be enabling regular worship together with weddings, baptisms & funerals, Christmas and Easter celebrations, together with all of the activities the church undertakes in Edensor for future generations.

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now!



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.Anne's Beeley

Why your Support Really Matters

Your support is very important to St.Anne's.

If you would like to make a gift, please scan this QR code with your phone camera. Your gift helps to keep St.Anne's open every day for visitors and the local community, and available for weddings, baptisms and funerals, together with services throughout the year.

St.Anne's church has a long story of faith; your gift enables this beautiful church to be enjoyed and treasured by future generations.

Thanks you for your gift.

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now!



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 1st December - 3pm (Family Service)

St. Peter's - Sunday 15th December - 10.45am

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 or wear the tinsel as a scarf!!!

Dates for your Diary - December 2024

- 10 BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting - 7.30pm** Beeley Village Hall
Christmas wouldn't be the same without the wreaths
Refreshments: Supplied *Secret Santa: All*
- 10 CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting - 7pm** Cavendish Hall
Seasonal Quiz and Christmas Party
Competition: Homemade Christmas decoration

There will be no Chatty Crafts in December so our next meeting will be on Thursday 30th January - do come and join us for knitting, sewing, any crafting or just chatting. Everyone is very welcome.



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

make your own Christmas Wreath
under the guidance of the inimitable

Mick Brown (Head of Production Garden, Chatsworth)

Thursday 5th December

10am - 12noon OR 2pm - 4pm

Tickets £35 (including refreshments & all materials)

phone 07767 652624



EDENSOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

SWITCH ON

MONDAY 2ND 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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS via 'THE BRIDGE'

Donations to church funds

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

*Liz Bradshaw; Ann & Tony Hubbuck; Jennie Ball;
Maureen Adams; Margaret & David Jackson;
Gloria & Roger Sherwood; Lynne & Joe Clark;
Christine & Alan Goldsack; Diana & Dick Walters;
Duncan & Cynthia Gordon*

St. Peter's Church 100 Club September Draw 2024

1st Prize £25 - no. 67 Nancie Park

2nd prize £15 - no. 8 Daphne Feeney

Funds to church this month - £50

Ann Hall

Items for the **JANUARY**
magazine should reach me **NO
LATER THAN MONDAY 9th
DECEMBER** : email to:

liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk

The 'Bridge' Parish Magazine £1
per copy (£12 per year)

St. Peter's Church 100 Club

**Subscriptions for 2025 are now due in order to be eligible for the
January draw.**

These are payable at £12 per number held. Please make out cheques to:-

St. Peter's Church 100 Club

Thank you for your continued support.

**We would like to invite new members for 2025 to ensure a
membership of 100 throughout the year.**

Membership is open to everyone from the villages and the church and their
families and friends.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Ann Hall

A message from Pam Young, received at the end of October and unfortunately too late for the November magazine.

Good morning,

I thought you all may be interested in our latest humanitarian events. I arrived back from Africa just a couple of weeks ago, after arranging a Cataract surgery programme in Diema, Mali, West Africa.

We were able to operate on 274 individuals as well as having examined 1270. A wonderful programme.

I will be returning to Ukraine on 10 November. I feel I need to take money so much needed items can be delivered to those in dire need over the Christmas period.

Thank you all for your kindness and support for our work..

Regards,
Pam

The Padley Centre

Nadine Harrington has received an email from the Padley explaining that their new premises are not finished and that the other donation facility used for dropping off donations is totally full.

They will let her know when this changes, but it does not look as if this will be until the New Year.

However, if food is donated, Nadine can take this down to Derby, as this will be used immediately for those in daily need.

Padley Centre have said they most need - tins of meat, fish, soups, tomatoes, fruit etc. and packets of rice, pasta, cereal, tea and coffee and long life milk as well as toiletries and sanitary products.

It was 25 years ago, on 1st Dec 1999, that an international team of scientists working for the Human Genome Project announced that they had mapped an entire human chromosome (number 22). In April 2003 they announced that they had mapped all human chromosomes.

Also 25 years ago, on 31st Dec 1999, that the London Eye – the world's tallest Ferris wheel at the time, was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. It opened to passengers in March 2000.

Could you help us?

The NSPCC is looking for volunteers to help support our Speak Out, Stay Safe Programme in Schools across North Derbyshire. You would visit primary schools local to you to help us protect a generation of children from abuse and neglect. Please note that visits to school only take place Monday to Thursday and applicants must have access to their own transport.

In 2022 the NSPCC's Speak out, Stay safe volunteers returned to primary schools. As a Speak out, Stay safe volunteer, you will visit primary schools to deliver Speak out, Stay safe workshops that teach children about the different types of abuse and how they can speak out and stay safe. Our workshops are age-appropriate and memorable and need an energetic and enthusiastic person to deliver them. You'll work alongside other Speak out, Stay safe volunteers to make sure that at the end of each session the children feel empowered and know who they can speak out to if they are worried.

If you are interested in volunteering and want to find out more about the role, the next step is to attend a Volunteer Information Meeting, which is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Meet with staff as well as volunteers to ask any questions you may have
- Learn more about the application process and your volunteer journey

Our meetings are designed to help you decide whether you want to apply – there's no obligation or expectation that you'll apply if you attend one. At the meeting, you'll also receive information on other ways you can become a supporter of the NSPCC. For this role, we can only accept people over the age of 16. You can join us here:

[NSPCC | Volunteers](#)

Thank you for your Harvest donations

(a letter from Kerry Collyer Marketing Manager for Padley@YMCA Derbyshire)

On behalf of everyone at Padley and YMCA Derbyshire, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous Harvest Festival donation. Your contribution has a direct impact on our ability to continue offering essential support and services to individuals and families at risk of homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion.

Your donation is vital to our work, as it helps us to sustain our services and provide a safety net for those most in need. Without your generosity, many of the people we support would not have access to the food, shelter, and services that allow them to take their first steps towards a brighter future.

One of the people we've recently been able to support as a result of donations we receive is Jayne, who reached out to us when she moved to Derby to seek refuge from the trauma of domestic violence. We supported her to find safe and secure accommodation, and provided her with essential household items, along with food and toiletries to help her settle in her new home. Jayne recently got back in touch with us to express how grateful she was for our warm friendly approach, knowing that there were people who cared, made all the difference to her starting a new life.

It's been another busy year for our Padley@YMCA Derbyshire team. As a result of the support we have received we have supported many individuals and families to access:

Emergency Food, Clothing, and Toiletries: Providing immediate relief to

individuals facing hardship and ensuring their basic needs are met.

•**Community Hub Meals:** Offering nutritious breakfasts and lunches, to those in need. Last year, we provided over 24,000 meals to many who would have otherwise gone hungry.

•**Cooking and Budgeting Courses:** Hands-on sessions teach people how to prepare healthy meals on a budget and equipping them with valuable life skills that promote self-sufficiency.

•**Mental Health and Wellbeing Support:** We understand the importance of mental health, and we provide one-on-one support, group sessions, and activities that help people manage stress, anxiety, and other challenges.

•**Access to Critical Services:** Our community hub connects individuals with essential services, including substance misuse recovery programs, employability workshops, debt and welfare advice, and healthcare services.

•**Housing and Homelessness Support:** We offer safe, secure accommodation for people in crisis, providing a foundation from which they can rebuild their lives. Our residents also benefit from tailored support that helps them develop the skills needed to move towards independence.

We also work with other local organisations to redistribute surplus food, ensuring that even more individuals and families across Derby receive the help they need.

Since merging with YMCA Derbyshire, Padley has become an even stronger force for positive change in the community. When our new Community Hub opens on Parcel Terrace, we are expanding our services to include a community kitchen and pantry, where

Continues over page....

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families and individuals in emergency accommodation can prepare their own meals. This initiative ensures that those without access to kitchen facilities have the dignity and autonomy to cook for themselves and their families.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and commitment to supporting our work. If you would like to stay involved or learn more about how we're making a difference in the lives of those in need, please visit our website at www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk.

No Room? On the Contrary

The Ven John Barton considers the Christmas story ...

All over the world, doors are being slammed shut this Christmas. As the wars in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in Sudan rage on, millions are losing their homes and places of safety. Elsewhere, hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers and would-be immigrants are on the road, seeking refuge anywhere they can find it.

Meanwhile, in recent years vast numbers of Christians have been forced to flee from their ancient homelands in Syria and Iraq. They mirror the Holy Family's escape into Egypt. Every time yet another infant dies violently, it is a reminder of the first century massacre of babies in the Bethlehem region.

So perhaps 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. Whatever is happening on earth, 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 in heaven? Don't you believe it!

Enjoy free bus travel with Gold Card

If you are aged 66 or over, did you know you can get free travel on local buses across Derbyshire with a Gold Card?

The bus can connect you with so much, letting you meet with friends and get social, or get you out into the countryside to be more active, giving you a boost both mentally and physically.

So, whether that's a trip to the shops, a leisurely coffee break at a

cafe, or simply enjoying the scenic bus routes while striking up conversations with fellow passengers; there are many reasons to take the bus.

The added benefits are; no parking charges and zero driving or searching for parking spaces needed, just the freedom to explore and spend time with loved ones.

A Gold Card can be used at any time during weekends and bank holidays, or after 9.30am on weekdays, so get your card out and start exploring more of Derbyshire.

If you've not got a Gold Card, it is really easy to apply for one – just visit derbyshire.gov.uk/gold.

Restrict number of dogs that can be walked

A lot of us will be out taking walks over the festive period. But do you get nervous when you see someone walking towards you while trying to control a number of various kinds of dogs on the lead?

Last year a woman was mauled to death while out walking eight dogs at one time. Natasha Johnston, 28, died near Gravelly Hill in Caterham,

Surrey when she lost control of her pack.

Following Natasha's death, the senior coroner for Surrey has suggested that the number of dogs that can be walked at one time in public should be regulated and restricted. He is preparing a prevention of future deaths report for Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, about bringing in regulations and restrictions for dog walkers in public places.

The Challenges of Christmas

By the Revd Paul Hardingham.

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! After one family had put up 250,000 Christmas lights outside, they didn't dare boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

The challenge of over-indulging

We all remember the episode of the Vicar of Dibley, where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, the average person gaining six pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. *'Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.'* (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

The challenge of overspending

In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later she read

the message: *'This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.'* Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night: *'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.'* (Matthew 1:21).

The challenge is over too quickly

Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. *'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas? *'Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart'.*



The “cheek and chic, pose and poise” of Noel Coward

by Tim Lenton

Just 125 years ago, on 16th December 1899, Noël Coward, British playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, was born. His plays include *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives* and *Blithe Spirit*.

Coward was a supremely talented individual, starting as a child dancer who made his professional debut at the age of 11 and progressing to become a success in many areas of show business. He published more than 50 plays and hundreds of songs, most of them set in the kind of high society that he himself soon inhabited, despite his unpretentious upbringing in Teddington. His acting and directing career lasted six decades.

He received some education at the Chapel Royal Choir School, but he later described his spiritual attitude as “unregenerate” and became agnostic. He said: “I have a selfless absorption in the well-being and achievements of Noël Coward... I am jolly kind to

everybody and still attentive and devoted to my dear old mother.”

He found it easy to make friends and possessed what *Time* magazine called “a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise”.

His many successes, including those in cabaret from the 1950s, led to a knighthood in 1970. Much earlier, by 1930, he had become one of the world’s highest-earning writers, with an annual income of £50,000 – equivalent to more than £4 million today.

During the Second World War he worked for British Intelligence and ran the British propaganda office in Paris. It is reported that Churchill preferred his role in entertaining the troops.

Towards the end of the 1960s Coward developed arteriosclerosis and suffered from bouts of memory loss. He received many other awards, including an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Sussex University.

Sol Invictus, Emperors and how Christmas began

by Tim Lenton

It was 1,750 years ago, on 25th December 274, that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded and launched the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion. He erected a temple and declared 25th December a national holiday, to be known as the Feast of the Unconquered Sun. In 336, after the conversion of the emperor Constantine, the Church in Rome began to celebrate Christmas on 25th December.

Aurelian, who was born in Moesia – the south-eastern Balkans – rose from modest beginnings to become a strong and successful Emperor at one of the most difficult times in Roman history. He defeated many attempts to destroy the empire from without and within, notably attempts by the Gallic and Palmyrene Empires, and improved the lot of the common people.

His idea in promoting Sol Invictus as the main divinity of the Empire was

to try to give everyone a god to believe in without betraying their own gods. However, when Constantine the Great, who was born during Aurelian's reign, became Emperor in 306 and converted to Christianity, it was the beginning of the end for Sol Invictus – and the start of the dominance of Christianity in the Roman Empire.

The date of 25th December was taken over and celebrated as the birthday of Jesus – and has been ever since, though scholars agree that this is an impossible date because flocks of sheep would not have been out in the fields in the dead of winter, and therefore shepherds would not have been out either. Other dates have been suggested, of which perhaps the most convincing is September 11.

It is a happy irony that in English, Christmas can be described accurately as the Feast of the Unconquered Son.

Christmas carols (Smile...)

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases." The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Morten Lauridsen, American composer

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

In the Middle Ages, at the end of the Christmas Midnight Mass, the clergy would often tell the animals’ version of the Nativity story and imitate the sound of each animal. The cock would crow ‘Christus natus est.’ (Christ is born). The cows would moo ‘Ubi?’ (Where?). The sheep would bleat ‘In Bethlehem.’ And the donkey would cry ‘Eamus’ (Let us go there). It was a way of expressing something of the joy and fun of the Christmas celebration.

Commercialism with all its trappings has sadly made that fun and festivity the be all and end all of Christmas. We need to capture again the heart of the Incarnation, which is a mystery rooted in silence and wonder. The book of Wisdom reads ‘For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, the all powerful Word leapt from heaven, from the royal throne.’

Those words remind us that at Bethlehem there is that silence and wonder. The animals may rejoice to tell the Good News of the Incarnation at the Midnight Mass, but at the crib they gather with the Holy

Family and the shepherds. We are given no words of Mary and Joseph and the shepherds around the crib. The mystery of what was happening seems to have intensified their silence. They did not know what the future held for this new-born child, but they did know that God was acting in a special way. They were like people standing in the faint light of the dawn, and their response was an expectant and wondering worship.

It is at the heart of this month’s beautiful and moving setting of some words from the matins of Christmas morning, ‘O magnum mysterium.’ ‘O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in the manger. Blessed Virgin, whose womb was found worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia.’ The words were set by the American composer, Morten Lauridsen in 1994 and first performed a few days before Christmas in Los Angeles. Since then, the setting has been sung by choirs, both professional and amateur, around the world.

Morten Lauridsen has composed many works for the human voice, and all of them are sensitive and heartfelt responses to the words chosen. No more so than in ‘O magnum mysterium.’ After the opening chord, the altos introduce us to a motif that pervades the work: D to a rising 4th,

Continues over page...

Nigel Beeton writes:

What quite terrifying is the amount of work that has to go through so many kitchens in preparation for Christmas! Spare a thought (and lend a hand) to those who work so hard to prepare our festive fare!

The Christmas Kitchen

The kitchen is, at Christmas
A very busy room!
Lots of work in such a rush
Or Christmas Day will loom.

First there is the cake to bake
And many pastries too,
Mince pies and biscuits, festive fare
There is so much to do!

Then comes the day, the kitchen fills
With wondrous cooking smells,
As turkey roasts and parsnip toasts
The cooks must work their spells.

The dinner's on the table
We gather round and eat,
But someone has to wash the pots
And make the kitchen neat.

So have a happy Christmas,
Enjoy the festive fare,
But grab a towel and help the cook,
And show them that you care!

By Nigel Beeton



Continued from previous page...

and a falling 3rd that lights on A. It is like the movement of the heart, rising in praise and resting in hope at the mystery of the Incarnation. The joy is inner and deep and suffuses the music as it reaches a climax with Alleluia. The final words are that all this glory lies in a manger, where the animals gather.

The world will call us in this month to a frenzy of doing and buying amid

a clamour of noise and muzak. 'O magnum mysterium' by Morten Lauridsen invites us to step into the stable again and join the animals, the Holy Family and the shepherds to find a joy and a wonder there that can nourish the soul. At the crib we can know 'the silence of eternity interpreted by Love' and with the choir we can respond Alleluia.

Reflecting Faith:

Christmas Tree Decorations

The Revd Dr Jo White considers tree decorations

Over the decades the decorations on my home Christmas tree have come and gone. From an eclectic colourful mix of baubles and home-made items when the children were young, to a radical change to 'contemporary' and 'sophisticated'. It didn't last long, as quite frankly they seemed a bit dull, lifeless and lacking real meaning.

We quite rapidly added mementoes from holiday places to the mix to jazz it up a bit.

In more recent years we've been receiving and proudly displaying creations from the next family generation - so we come back to the start.

How about your tree?

And what about the tree decorations you have in your church? What is the story behind those? Are they identical or very different?

In 1957 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Danville, USA, Frances Kipps Spencer thought that the traditional, brightly coloured Christmas ornaments were not fitting for a worship setting, so she started

thinking about a way to reflect the Christian faith through ornaments.

The first ornament was the name of Jesus and His title: Christ. The Greek *Chi* (X) *Rho* (P) is the monogram for the Greek word *Christos* (Christ).

There followed over the years a whole collection symbolising the life of Jesus and His ministry.

These ornaments even have their own name: 'Chrismons,' which comes from the words *Christ* and *monogram*.

Just as wall paintings and stained glass in churches tell the Christian story these Chrismons are a clever way to communicate the same key ideas of the Christian faith particularly to annual church visitors.

Chrismons are white and gold, representing purity and value. When used with an evergreen Christmas tree, symbolising eternal life, and white lights covering the tree, symbolising Jesus as the light of the world the whole gives a story just in its use of colour with no words required.

This month:

Have a look at the tree decorations in a church near you. What does the overall effect say? and are there any 'Chrismons' on it?

Remembering the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004

Tim Lenton looks back to a major disaster that shocked the world...

Twenty years ago, on 26th December 2004, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also called the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

Waves generated by the earthquake and travelling at up to 500mph were believed to have been up to 50ft high in places, and the cost in lives and damage was so extensive because detection and warning systems were relatively primitive, as this was not a prime area for such events. Scientific monitoring and warning plans, led by Australia, have since been considerably improved, but the unpredictability of tsunamis remains a major problem.

The massive surges of water in 2004 swept away buildings and people, and some effects were felt as far away as Somalia on the east coast of Africa, nearly 2,800 miles (and seven hours for the waves) west of the epicentre. Nearer coastlines were hit in as little as 15 minutes.

Aftershocks continued to shake the region daily for up to four months after the original earthquake. The raising of the seafloor reduced the capacity of the Indian Ocean, resulting in a permanent rise in sea level globally by an estimated 0.1 mm.

Since 1900, only two earthquakes have been recorded with a greater magnitude than the Sumatra Boxing Day event. One was in 1960 at Valdivia, Chile (magnitude 9.5) and the other in 1964 in Prince William Sound, Alaska (9.2). Both spawned tsunamis in the Pacific, but the death toll (1655 and 131) was sharply less, because of much lower population density where they came ashore.

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.

Meditation on the Incarnation

*After the bright beam of annunciation
fused heaven with dark earth
His searing sharply-focused light
went out for a while
eclipsed in amniotic gloom:
His cool immensity of splendour
His universal grace
small-folded in a warm dim
female space*

This extract from Luci Shaw's poem *Made Flesh* captures something of the wonder of the moment when the second person of the Trinity became an embryo.

How does a single cell turn into an infant, and what does that process say about us – and God? These are the questions that Professor Jeff Hardin, a developmental biologist, asks himself. Having studied theology as well as science, he has a unique perspective on embryonic development.

A new-born baby is made of around five trillion cells. These cells come in hundreds of different types, each of which must be in the correct place for the child's body to function properly. Every new life is the result of intricate and highly ordered

processes. Three things must happen as an embryo develops.

The first important process is for cells to take on their identity as types of muscle, bone, nerves, and so on. The second is when each cell learns which part of the body it belongs to. Third, those cells are moved around to form the different tissues and organs. These three are not discrete stages, but they all happen at around the same time, building up gradually like the different aspects of a picture coming into focus.

All three of these processes are driven forward by the movement of cells, the connections between them, and the signals they pass to each other. Jeff studies a sort of cellular glue which is involved in joining cells together. Making and breaking these adhesions can affect how cells move and signal to each other, their identity in the body, how they are organised as groups, and ultimately their survival. This glue is found on the surface of cells throughout the animal kingdom, including the small worms Jeff's lab studies.

For Jeff, peering down a microscope at tiny worm embryos can be an act of worship. It is also an exercise in art appreciation, as he learns to appreciate the created order. Understanding the complexities of development, while also being aware that God knows that process intimately both as Creator and

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created, fills Jeff with a profound sense of awe, wonder and worship.

Does the minute scale of our early development, compared to the incomprehensibly vast and ancient universe, give us a sense of insignificance? Psalm 8 says, “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of

them, mortals that you care for them?”

For Jeff and the Psalmist, such feelings can be a positive experience if they serve as a reminder to be humble in the face of a universe that is vastly complicated but also deeply meaningful, made by a God who loves each one of us.

The Colours of Christmas

There are several colours that we traditionally associate with Christmas. They are green, red, and gold, and to a lesser extent, white and blue.

Green: Evergreen plants like holly, ivy and mistletoe were used for thousands of years to decorate buildings during the long dark winters. The Romans exchanged evergreen branches in January to wish each other good luck. The ancient Egyptians brought palm branches into their home during the mid-winter festivals. In Europe during the Middle Ages, the ‘Paradise tree’ which figured in plays about the loss of Eden, was normally a pine tree with red apples tied to it.

Red: This is the colour of holly berries, and it reminded people of Jesus’s blood when He died on the cross. Red is also the colour of bishops’ robes, which is how St Nicholas came to be portrayed wearing red. Red is also the colour of fire, which keep you warm during cold dark nights.

Gold: This is the colour of the Sun and light. It was the present of one of the Wise Men, and traditionally, was the colour of the star over Bethlehem.

White: This is the colour of purity and peace. It is the colour of the altar cloth at Christmas.

Blue: This is the colour of Mary’s robe. It is also the colour of the sky and heaven.

Christmas

Geese

Canon Paul Hardingham gives thanks to the God who comes among us...

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything,

despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''.* Matthew 1:23.



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November
solution



December
Sudoku



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What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

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

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

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total

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

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

NATIVITY SCENE *(Smile..)*

"Here's a king!" announced the five-year-old as he unwrapped a figurine from the Christmas decorations box. "Here's a donkey!" he added a moment later.

Then he removed the tissue from another figure, finding the infant Jesus moulded permanently into the little manger. The child exclaimed, "And here's Baby Jesus in his car seat!"

Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

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 and Boxing 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
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Hedgehog extinction fears grow as population plummets

The status of hedgehogs in western Europe has recently been downgraded to “near threatened”, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

If European numbers decline any farther, hedgehogs will be listed as being at risk of extinction. Numbers have shrunk in more than half the countries where hedgehogs live – including the UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria. Some national declines have been as much as 33 per cent.

Our rural population of hedgehogs here in the UK has fallen by up to 75

per cent since 2000, although city-dwelling hedgehogs are doing a bit better.

But the combined pressures of intensive agriculture, domestic pesticides, garden strimmers, busy roads and urban development have taken their toll. An eighth of all hedgehogs in the UK die every year just as roadkill.

Now a national hedgehog conservation strategy has been launched by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).





THE CAVENDISH CLUB

The Cavendish Club is a wonderful facility for the people and associates of Chatsworth, located at the rear of the Estate Office building opposite Edensor village.

All Estate pass holders, tenants of Chatsworth, and Chatsworth sports club members are granted automatic free membership of the Club and are welcome to come along and enjoy the great atmosphere with their guests. We serve classic pub dishes and fabulous local beers and wines all of which are very reasonably priced in accordance with the core Chatsworth value of looking after our people.

We are open: Tuesday 16:00 - 23:00
Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 11:00 - 23:00
Saturday 16:00 - 23:00

Lunch options and light bites 11:00 - 14:00 Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Evening meals available 17:30 - 21:00 Wednesday - Saturday

Check out our Facebook page for details on our monthly quiz nights and special evenings

For enquiries, bookings and any other business just give us a call on 01246 565392 or email Andrew.Garrod@chatsworth.org. We look forward to seeing you!

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CAVENDISH VILLAGE HALL, BEELEY

Looking for somewhere with bright modern facilities to hold your event and at reasonable cost? Beeley Village Hall is the place for you.

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- Small meeting room seating 12 persons.
- Main hall seating 100 persons.
- Situated within a well maintained garden.



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Available for ½ day, full day or evening bookings.

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

The growing menace of shop-lifting

Christmas shopping this year will be done by two sorts of shopper: those who intend to pay - and those who don't.

And the 'those who don't' category is now so huge that stores across the country have been reporting on average two thefts each and every minute. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), that equates to more than 9,000 reported offences a week, or 1,290 a day.

Retailers warn that the crisis adds at least 6p to every store transaction, and the losses stand at £1.8 billion of stolen goods each year, according to the British Retail Consortium. A further £700 million is having to be spent on extra security.

But the police-recorded figures are only a fraction of the total amount stolen, as most shops only report the crime to the police when they catch the offender in the act, or have CCTV or other evidence.

READINGS & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2024

| <u>ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY</u> | | | <u>FLOWERS & BRASSES*</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 3pm | Family Communion | Fiona Swain |
| 8 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Fiona Lichfield |
| 15 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | “ “ |
| 22 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| 24 | 6pm | Service of Lessons & Carols | |
| 25 | 9.30am | Holy Communion for Christmas Day | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| * Brasses only during Advent | | | |
| <u>ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR</u> | | | <u>SIDESMEN</u> |
| 1 | 10.45am | Holy Communion | Diana Walters/John Caws |
| 8 | 10.45am | Holy Communion | John Bowns/Mike Pindar |
| 15 | 10.45am | Matins | Mr & Mrs Gordon |
| 18 | 7.30pm | Service of Lessons & Carols | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| 22 | 10.45am | Holy Communion | Mrs Jackson/Mrs Bradshaw |
| 25 | 10.45am | Holy Communion for Christmas Day | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| 29 | 10.45am | Holy Communion | Mr & Mrs Wardle |
| <u>COFFEE</u> | | <u>CLEANING</u> | <u>FLOWERS</u> |
| 1 | Clive & Joy Thrower | Mrs Day | <i>No flowers - Advent</i> |
| 8 | Jane Dickson/Kate Green | Trevor & Jackie Grimshaw | “ “ |
| 15 | John & Gill Caws | Mr & Mrs Wardle | “ “ |
| 22 | Mr & Mrs Sherwood | Fabulous Cleaners (17 th) | “ “ |
| 29 | <i>to be arranged</i> | Nadine Harrington/Kate Green | Christmas Decorations |
| <u>READINGS</u> | | <u>ST. PETER'S</u> | <u>ST. ANNE'S</u> |
| 1 | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36 | Mike Woodcock <i>Advent Sunday</i> | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| 8 | 2 Philipians 3:1-11 Luke 3:1-6 | Christine Robinson <i>Advent 2</i> | Sarah Porter |
| 15 | Zephaniah 3:14-20 Luke 3:7-18 | Roger Wardle <i>Advent 3</i> | Rupert Turner |
| 22 | Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-55 | Trevor Grimshaw <i>Advent 4</i> | Fiona Lichfield |
| 25 | Isaiah 52:7-10 Luke 2:8-20 | John Bowns <i>Christmas Day</i> | <i>to be arranged</i> |
| 29 | Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52 | Gloria Sherwood <i>Christmas 1</i> | Claire Cadogan |

THE CAVENDISH HOTEL



Fresh food *sourced* from the land

Our curated menus tell a story of the land with Chatsworth Garden fruits, vegetables and herbs, and ingredients from some of Derbyshire's best suppliers.

From the natural interior touches and views across Chatsworth Park, to the seasonal ingredients we serve, The Garden Room celebrates a strong connection to the surrounding landscape.

The Gallery Restaurant is a serene space to enjoy an ambitious take on the very best local produce. We look forward to welcoming you for lunch, dinner or afternoon tea soon.



For bookings and enquiries call 01246 582311
or visit cavendishhotelbaslow.co.uk

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