

PARISH MAGAZINE

£1

December 2024



December
2024



PARISH MAGAZINE ALL SAINTS BELVEDERE

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

REGULAR SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

EVERY SUNDAY 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

1ST, 3RD, 4TH & 5*TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 am Community Worship (CW)

4 pm Holy Communion

4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

4 pm Evensong

EVERY THURSDAY 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

***5th Sunday—Healing Eucharist**

During the Vicar Vacancy. We will seek to maintain all services as advertised, but on some occasions a substitute service may be put in place, on rare occasions, we may have to cancel a particular service

VICAR

Post Vacant WEF 8 Aug 23

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Belvedere, DA17 5JE

Telephone: 01322 432169

Email:

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HALL BOOKING SECRETARY

Jemima. Initial contact via email

Email: allsaints4hall@gmail.com

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Val George Val.george1943@gmail.com
Treasurer

Sarah Bowes

Email: allsaints.belvedere.treasurer@gmail.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

We're always pleased to know when a visit would be appreciated, especially in the case of sickness or those who are new to the Parish or Church.

For pastoral matters please contact The Parish Office, Revd Canon Barry Wright, or the Churchwardens..

Enquiries for Baptisms and Marriages to Cheryl in the Parish Office, any notices for pew sheet by Wednesday evening.

ADVERTISEMENTS

We are not responsible for the content of advertisements placed in this magazine and reserve the right to refuse or edit any advert as appropriate. The inclusion of an advert is not an endorsement nor do we recommend, represent, warrant, undertake or guarantee that the information in any advert is correct, accurate, complete or is not misleading and we will not be liable in respect of any special, indirect or consequential loss or damage.

Costs of Advertising

	6 months	12 months
Full Page	£56	£100
1/2 Page	£28	£50.
1/4 Page	£14	£28
1/8 Page	£7	£14

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ernie Feasey

Email: allsaintspm@gmail.com

Contributions for the next edition of the Parish Magazine to be with the editor by 26th of the Month preceding publication. Contributions by email or left in the PM Slot at the back of church. Those received late, may be held over too the following month.

We are on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBelvedere/>
Twitter @allsaintsbelvedere

Subscription material from "the Parish Pump" are included in this edition

Subscription material from @DaveWalker and Cartoon Church are may be included in this magazine.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE VICAR OF ALL SAINTS BELVEDERE

The Bishop of Rochester, in consultation with the Diocesan Board of Patronage, is pleased to announce that **The Revd Ethlyn Malfina Roy-Johnson** is to be the next Vicar of All Saints, Belvedere.

Ethlyn completed her curacy at St Augustine's, Slade Green, and she knows the Erith Deanery well. There are many parallels between the benefice of Slade Green and the church here, and her experience at St Augustine's will certainly hold her in very good stead as she begins her ministry at All Saints.

It is important to Ethlyn that the local church is 'outward looking' with a strong and visible presence in the community it serves. She is looking forward to strengthening the already excellent links in the parish and developing new ones.

Alongside her priestly role at Slade Green, she has worked since 2017 as the Team Administrator within the Diocese's Mission & Ministry Development team. Her role has provided some invaluable experience to reinforce her administrative and communication skills, as well as provided opportunities to deliver some of the Diocese's training, for example as a co-tutor on some of the Lay Ministry course modules. This has given her a deep passion for recognising and nurturing the gifts and talents of lay members in the Church, something that she is looking forward to doing as she gets to know the congregation at All Saints. Ethlyn is also an Honorary Priest Vicar of Rochester Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese, where she assists with leading services.

Away from her priestly ministry Ethlyn is a keen gardener, and also enjoys music and dancing, engaging with people of all ages, reading and jigsaw puzzles.

Ethlyn says: *"I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to serve as your next Vicar. I look forward to being part of the parish, Deanery and wider community. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will endeavour to carry out God's mission to which we are called in and around Belvedere. I send my warm wishes and prayers meanwhile."*

Please pray for Ethlyn as she prepares to move to The Vicarage in the coming months, in preparation for her licensing service on Wednesday, 26th February at 7pm.

Voice from the Empty Vicarage

Dear Friends,'

The 1st of December marks the beginning of a new church year and the start of Advent, which marks the liturgical run-up to Christmas. The word advent comes from the Latin "adventus" which means "a coming". It is a season of expectation and preparation, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lead-up to Christmas will invariably mean different things to different people. For many, it is a time of excitement and happiness, surrounded by friends and family; for others, it can be a difficult time. Whatever the situation you're in, all are invited to celebrate because at the centre of it all is someone who is joy and love. All are invited to come and meet Jesus Christ, in whom we find love and healing. Jesus underpins our lives and gives us a sense of purpose He gives us hope.

It is with joy that on the 1st of December, we're having a service of Baptism and Confirmation led by the Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Gibbs, the Bishop of Rochester. Together, we will be celebrating Rosalyn, Gabriella, Chloe, Tife, and Naomi, who have answered the call to meet Jesus and make Him the centre of their lives.

We can also celebrate further because we are now in a different type of Advent as we await the coming of the Revd Ethlyn Roy-Johnson. She has recently been announced as the next incumbent and will be licenced in February. Revd Ethlyn joins us from St Augustine's, Slade Green, where she is currently a curate. She has supported us during our vacancy by taking some of our regular services as well as officiating at special services including a wedding. Please do look out for further announcements as we prepare to warmly invite her into our Church family.

In the meantime, everyone is invited to the many Advent services we're running, which are listed at the back of the magazine.

From Sue and me, your churchwardens, the PCC, and all the ministry team at All Saints' Belvedere, we wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With love and blessings,
Liam

Editorial

We are now in December which is perhaps, after Eastertide the busiest and important season in our Church life. I often think back to Christmas in my childhood, particularly when we were in Care from 1953 to 1960. We were local in two homes run at Sevenoakes Road in Orpington. St Josephs Convent for Boys and St Annes for Girls.

In 1955 we were gathered into small family type units with other groups of siblings. Christmas was something to look forward to, dominated by the "Mass" and serving at the Altar from the age of five or so. But we got Christmas gifts, which I remember as an Apple and an Orange and a few nuts. One year a kind Lady who had been visiting us as a family, she was a volunteer got agreement for all three of us to spend Christmas Eve to the day after Boxing Day with her family. I remember the excitement we felt all getting into her car and being taken to her family home in Reading.

We were spoilt rotten by them and then had to face returning back to the more austere life in the Convent. Her act of kindness and generosity is the main memory, and act of charity, to one group of children, who had not seen their birth family since entry to the Convents.

So, at this time of year I remember and pray for all children in care. Whether foster or residential, including the hundreds of separated children in Europe, hoping to join their family members who have permission to be in the UK. And we can only hope for a more compassionate response from our Government who are responsible for all matters concerning refugees seeking sanctuary in the UK, we can only hope that they are listening.



full story of the Establishment is at <https://www.facebook.com/OrpHistOrg/posts/we-recently-obtained-some-internal-images-of-st-anns-rc-orphanageschool-from-the/4701316683277692/>

Terminally Ill Adults Bill

On Wednesday, 16th October 2024, Kim Leadbeater MP (Labour) introduced her 'Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life)' Bill which would make it legal for over 18s who are terminally ill to be given assistance to end their own life. The second reading of the Bill is scheduled for Friday, 29th November.

The requirements are:

- They must be resident in England or Wales and be registered with a GP for at least 12 months
- They must have the mental capacity to make the choice and be deemed to have expressed a clear, settled and informed wish, free from coercion and pressure
- They must be expected to die within six months
- They must make two separate declarations, witnessed and signed, about their wish to die
- Two independent doctors must be satisfied the person is eligible
- A High Court judge must hear from at least one of the doctors and can also question the dying person, or anyone else they consider appropriate. There must be a further 14 days after the judge has made the ruling

Under the bill, a doctor could prepare the substance, but the person must take it themselves. Though Leadbeater's Bill will limit assisted dying to those who are terminally ill, there are reports that 50 MPs support a bill not only for those who are terminally ill but for all those in 'intolerable suffering' (this could include those with physical disabilities, depression, anorexia, dementia, or autism).

General Synod

Importantly, General Synod has recently voted twice on the legalisation of assisted dying, each time Synod has overwhelmingly voted against (2012 and 2022). Theologically the opposition to

assisted dying is rooted in a concern for the most vulnerable in society, for the widow, the orphan and the stranger: for older people, those living with dementia or in poverty, those whose disability puts them at risk, and those in coercive relationships. More broadly, the opposition to assisted dying seeks to recognise every human person as a gift.

There is no point at which a person stops being a gift, stops being valuable. Neither illness nor suffering diminish the value of human life, nor can they diminish the image of God in which human beings are created. As St Paul says, nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:38-39). The role of the Church as it cares for those approaching the end of life is, therefore, to recognise and celebrate the giftedness of every human being at every moment in their life, to minister to the sick and to prepare the dying for their death. **International comparators**

There are a number of jurisdictions which have legalised assisted dying. These include: Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Canada, Oregon (USA), New Zealand and Australia. The two most frequently cited examples in the public debate are Oregon and Canada. In 1997 Oregon legalised assisted dying for those who are terminally ill under the Death with Dignity Act. Oregon is the jurisdiction most favoured by advocates of assisted dying because it has not expanded the law to include 'intolerable suffering'. However, since 1997 Oregon has expanded the diseases which Oregon allows assisted dying for, now including diseases which are not generally considered terminal (e.g. arthritis, diabetes, and liver

disease). In practice therefore there has been an expansion of eligibility criteria. Worryingly, Oregon has also seen a significant increase in people who elect for assisted dying saying that they feel like a burden: from 12% in 1998 to 43% in 2023. The example of Oregon suggests that the legalisation of assisted dying can *make* people feel like a burden. Canada has had the most concerning legalisation of assisted dying, with a clear example of a 'slippery slope'. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) was introduced in 2016 for those whose natural death was foreseeable. A challenge in the courts expanded this, making anyone with a 'grievous and irremediable medical condition' or disability eligible for MAiD. Worryingly, this has included two cases of people with severe skin allergies who were unable to afford housing which did not aggravate these allergies. These cases have become emblematic of the significant expansion in eligibility criteria, as well as the intersection between assisted dying, poverty, and disability. In short, it appears that people are electing assisted dying in Canada because they have insufficient medical, social and emotional support.

Arguments against legalising assisted dying

The key arguments against the legalisation of assisted dying are:

- **Transforming people into burdens:** in Oregon, almost half of people who elect for assisted dying say that they feel like a burden. Amidst, a crisis of funding in adult social care in the UK there is a real threat that people may elect for assisted dying because they do not want to be a burden to friends or families, and because of financial

financial pressures as a reason why people elect assisted dying. Canada's MAiD program does not record data on financial pressures; however, that poverty is a factor in people electing assisted dying is reflected in case study evidence. Polling has indicated that this is the most powerful argument in changing public opinion on assisted dying.

• **Impact on the most vulnerable:** research shows that there is significant abuse of older people in the UK. Legalising assisted dying would put people over the age of 65 under additional risk of life-threatening coercion and control. Similarly, a third of female suicides are linked to intimate partner violence. For those who are most vulnerable assisted dying creates a huge risk of coercion and control.

• **The doctor-patient relationship:** there are also significant worries that the legalisation of assisted dying would undermine the doctor patient relationship. Professor of Medicine, Farr Curlin talks about the principle of 'do no harm' as the boundary which allows those in palliative care to trust their doctor. Were assisted dying to be legalised, doctors would have to present this as a 'treatment' option to patients. In other countries we have seen examples of people who are terminally ill, or disabled, approach doctors anticipating medical care and instead being offered 'assisted dying'. This can severely undermine trust in doctors and related institutions. It is relevant that only 10% of palliative care doctors surveyed by the BMA say they would participate in assisted dying were it to be legalised.

• **A better death:** Professor of Palliative Care, Baroness Finlay has powerfully made the case that palliative medicine can manage death better than assisted dying. While the UK hospice sector needs more funding, the quality of care that it delivers is world-leading.

Were palliative care, mental health, and community support services to be properly funded, then a 'good' death would be within reach for everyone.

Response to arguments for legalising assisted dying

• **People should have a choice about the end of life:** People do not make choices in the abstract, they make them in the context of relationships and amidst very real funding restrictions. The prevalence of abuse, manipulation and control amongst vulnerable groups will significantly impact the choices they make. Making assisted dying a possible choice risks opening these groups up to significant abuse. Moreover, given the funding challenges facing adult social care, and the hospice sector, legalising assisted dying risks introducing choices which could create disastrous financial and structural incentives.

• **The current law is unsafe:** advocates of assisted dying argue that the current law is unsafe because it 'compels' people who are in 'intolerable suffering' or who are terminally ill to attempt suicide in an unmedicated and uncontrolled environment. Any suicide or attempted suicide is tragic and society must do all it can to support those who are in despair and at risk. It is important to note though that the legalisation of assisted dying does not reduce the un-assisted suicide rate. Indeed, in some jurisdictions the un-assisted suicide rate has increased following the legalisation of assisted dying.

• **Assisted Dying is the compassionate response:** It is completely understandable to want to end suffering. Where pain can be treated medically, palliative care is excellent at managing it. No doubt palliative care's proficiency in treating pain could be further enhanced through additional research. It is

worrying that almost half of the people who have used life-ending drugs in Oregon said that they felt like a burden to friends and families. This emphasises that the end of life is not only a medical reality, but a social, emotional and spiritual one. *A good death will require a response to the end of life which recognises and caters for these varied dimensions.* The most compassionate response must be the one which protects the most vulnerable in society, and will require the proper funding of palliative care, mental health and community support services. The policies we pursue for the end of life must be those which engender hope, and which work towards a good death for everyone.

Statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury

12/11/2024

Having sought the gracious permission of His Majesty The King, I have decided to resign as Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Makin Review has exposed the long-maintained conspiracy of silence about the heinous abuses of John Smyth.

When I was informed in 2013 and told that police had been notified, I believed wrongly that an appropriate resolution would follow.

It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long and re-traumatising period between 2013 and 2024.

It is my duty to honour my Constitutional and church responsibilities, so exact timings will be decided once a review of necessary obligations has been completed, including those in England and in the Anglican Communion.

I hope this decision makes clear how seriously the Church of England understands the need for change and our profound commitment to creating a safer church. As I step down I do so in sorrow with all victims and survivors of abuse.

The last few days have renewed my long felt and profound sense of shame at the historic safeguarding failures of the Church of England. For nearly twelve years I have struggled to introduce improvements. It is for others to judge what has been done.

In the meantime, I will follow through on my commitment to meet victims. I will delegate all my other current responsibilities for safeguarding until the necessary risk assessment process is complete.

I ask everyone to keep my wife Caroline and my children in their prayers. They have been my most important support throughout my ministry, and I am eternally grateful for their sacrifice. Caroline led the spouses' programme during the Lambeth Conference and has travelled tirelessly in areas of conflict supporting the most vulnerable, the women, and those who care for them locally.

I believe that stepping aside is in the best interests of the Church of England, which I dearly love and which I have been honoured to serve. I pray that this decision points us back towards the love that Jesus Christ has for every one of us.

For above all else, my deepest commitment is to the person of Jesus Christ, my saviour and my God; the bearer of the sins and burdens of the world, and the hope of every person.

Finding support

If you or anyone you are in contact with are affected by the publication of this report and want to talk to someone independently please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056 or visit safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk.

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the [diocesan safeguarding team in your area](#) or the National Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@churchofengland.org.

There are also [other support services](#) available

THE BEXLEY BOX PROJECT

The Bexley Box project will see some of our most vulnerable adult housebound residents receive a special box filled with goods designed to keep them warm and well over the winter months. The project, [that was launched in November](#), has been established to try to address some of the impact of the Government's Winter Fuel payment withdrawal.

The Council is taking other actions to help with the withdrawal as set out set out in the winter Bexley Magazine being delivered across the borough from 18 November and on the [cost of living](#) pages.

We are already working with some local businesses and partners to help us fill the boxes. If you would like to help you can donate small items to go inside the boxes you can find them at the [Civic Offices](#) or at [one of our libraries](#).

Donations

- We are looking for donations of new:
- Small fleece blankets -Hats Gloves
- Scarves, Socks, Insulated Mugs
- Torches, with batteries, or windup Torches, Heat Patches. Microwave, Wheat filled

Food

We are also looking for non-perishable long-life food, such as:

Packet or Tinned Soup, Instant Porridge packs, Tinned Rice Pudding, Canned Vegetables various, Tinned Fruit, Pasta and Tomato Sauce, Cereals, Biscuits, Jams and Marmalade, Marmite.

Microwave Savoury Rice, Sponge Pudding, Custard, UHT Milk, Sugar, Tea, Coffee, Long Life Milk, Long Life Juices, Hot Chocolate, Small Christmas Cake, or Individual Christmas Pudding.

Please can you ensure that all tins use ring pulls to open them wherever possible.

If you would like to get involved, or you know someone who would benefit from a Bexley Box or to find out more, email bexleybox@bexley.gov.uk or call 020 8187 7613.

If you would prefer to donate funds to the Bexley Box project to enable us to buy goods please get in contact using the details above.



Railway Mission

Railway Mission



Here's a neat idea if you're travelling by train: book your tickets via the Railway Mission and they'll get a commission on the sale.

Never heard of them? Nor had I until a friend on Facebook/ gave them a shoutout: they provide chaplaincy services to rail users Main website: <https://www.railwaymission.org/>

Ticket site: <https://tickets.railwaymission.org/>

Who We Are

Railway Mission is a Christian faith-based charity offering independent, confidential, impartial pastoral care to the railway community and members of the public affected by rail operations. Each of our regionally-based chaplains aims to be an impartial 'friend' for those who work on the railways. Regardless of faith, gender, or sexual orientation, our chaplains offer face-to-face year-round support, especially during an individual's time of loneliness, stress, depression, bereavement or illness.

Many are experiencing family breakdown, mental ill-health, bereavement, financial difficulties, being victims of crime and much more. Rail staff approach a chaplain for support through these difficult times as a friend and colleague, rather than phone a stranger to receive counselling support to talk through personal difficulties. But railway chaplains have also supported railway staff and police in the aftermath of major incidents, such as train crashes or terror attacks.

News from the Wider Church

Archbishop of Canterbury warns against legalising assisted suicide

This, the Archbishop's statement on assisted suicide below, was made ahead of a recent new Private Member's Bill introduced in the House of Commons.

"Though our society might be divided over the question of assisted suicide, we all ultimately want the same thing for those who are suffering. We want compassion offered to those in deep distress and we want our loved ones to be able to die with dignity. My concern is that however well-intentioned, the Private Member's Bill being introduced in the House of Commons today will not achieve those things.

"The introduction of this Bill instead serves as an important call to properly fund and resource palliative care, community support services and mental health provision. As we listen to many of the heart-breaking experiences of those who have lost loved ones, it is important to remember that dying in pain is not inevitable. Good palliative care can provide us with the dignity and compassion we are all searching for as we reach the end of our lives. This proposed legislation risks eroding funding for palliative and hospice care.

"Furthermore, legalising assisted suicide would disproportionately impact many millions of vulnerable people, who might perceive themselves as a burden on those around them and the health service. My concern is that once you can ask for assisted suicide, it soon becomes something that you feel that you ought to do. Permission slips into being duty. This does not represent true choice for all, and I worry that no amount of safeguards will ensure everyone's safety at the most vulnerable point of their lives.

"A good death and compassionate care should be available to everyone, but the Bill being introduced will not achieve that."

Teaching the Lord's Prayer across the North of England

The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell plans to teach the Lord's Prayer across the North of England throughout 2025, a priority of his vision for Faith in the North.

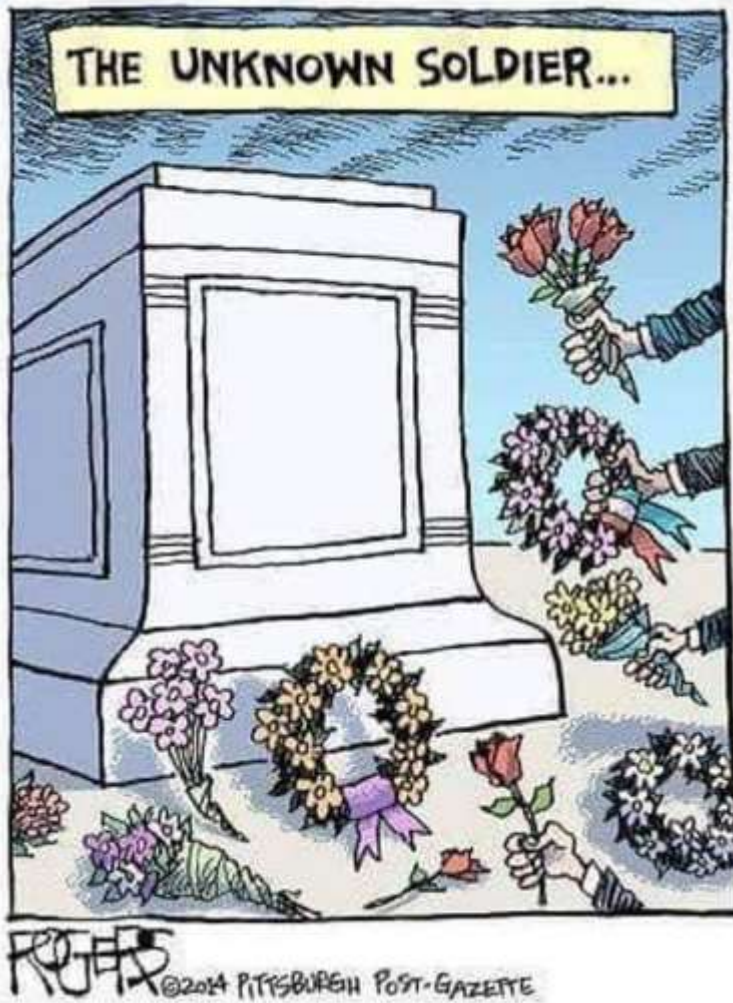
Archbishop Stephen is to visit dioceses in the Northern Province of the C of E where he will be sharing the relevance of the Lord's Prayer to our world today, encouraging people to pray and live by this, as part of their missionary discipleship.

Archbishop Stephen is encouraging prayer, storytelling and church planting inspired by the Northern Saints such as Hild, Cuthbert, Bede and Paulinus. The aim is to foster deeper connections with the Christian faith across the north and renew the Church's missionary purpose to share God's love with all.

Archbishop Stephen said "In less than 70 words, Jesus gives us a prayer to learn by heart and a prayer that gets inside our hearts, shaping the way we live. The Lord's Prayer surely is the best place to start. It is said in just about every church service, from the coronation of the King to the christening of a child. It's a challenging prayer and when we say this prayer together, we become part of God's movement of change, of bringing God's heaven to earth. It teaches us how to pray. But it also teaches us how to live".

Current Dates of the Lord's Prayer Tour 2025

Friday 7th March - York Minster Monday 10th March - Chester Cathedral Monday 17th March - Liverpool Cathedral Friday 21st March - Wakefield Cathedral Friday 28th March - Hull Minster Tuesday 1st April - Manchester Cathedral Tuesday 17th June - Carlisle Cathedral Wednesday 25th June - Sheffield Cathedral Sunday 6th July - Isle of Man/ Peel Cathedral Thursday 18th September - Newcastle Cathedral Friday 3rd October - Durham Cathedral Friday 10th October - Blackburn Cathedral *To learn more about Faith in the North visit www.faithinthenorth.org*

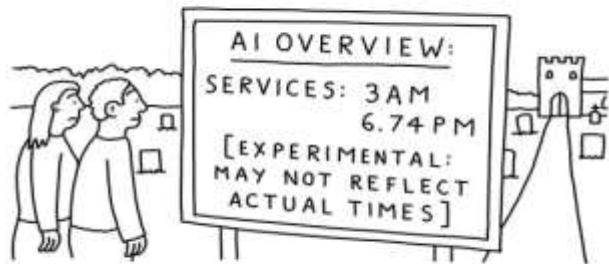


ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

HOW IT CAN HELP



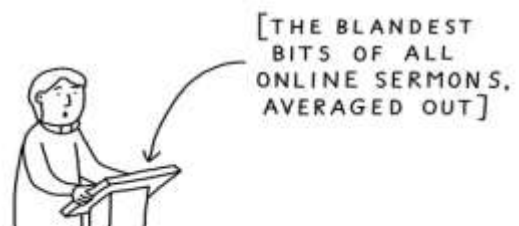
A SOURCE OF PHOTOS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE



JAZZING UP THE NOTICEBOARDS



ASSISTING WITH TARGETED COMMUNICATIONS



TAKING AWAY THE SERMON-WRITING BURDEN

Situations Vacant

We have a number of opportunities at All Saints Belvedere for individuals who have time to spare either during the working week or during services either on Sundays or Midweek on Thursday BCP service.

Potential Volunteers are asked to consider the following posts; more information via the Church Wardens, Ernie or Cheryl in the Parish Office.

Readers of Scripture during services. *Training is available for less confident readers.*

Sides People and Welcomers for services on Sundays, 8 am, 10 am and 4pm
This includes responsibilities for Security and Safeguarding and some mandatory safeguarding training.

Cleaners to assist with cleaning of the church on a Regular basis. Preferably on a Wednesday morning when the Church is cleaned between 8 am and 9.15 am.

Cleaning materials are provided.

Chalice Assistants at Sunday Holy Communion And persons who administer the Chalice will be authorised by the PCC and the Diocese of Rochester.

Intercessory Prayers Leaders. At Sunday 10 am services. *Training will be provided for those with no experience of praying prayers in public worship.*

Grounds and Fabric Committee members people with an interest in maintenance or skills or an interest in such matters to join the committee and be available when needed. You do not have to be on PCC for this role. Handy with tools is helpful.

Social Committee Volunteers who are willing to assist in organising social events periodically or to support these activities, providing a service to assist the events to run smoothly. You do not need to be on PCC for this function.

Parochial Church Council members to be on the PCC, you must be on the Parish Electoral Role and be available for an average of 4 meetings each year at approximately quarterly intervals. Candidates stand for election at the Annual Parish Meeting and can opt to service for one, two or three years. The roles requires individuals to be suitable to be a Charity Trustee and to take part in Safeguarding Training. A proportion of members stand down each year.

Win £20 vouchers for your waste-reducing actions!



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month!



bexley.localgreenpoints.com

Join [#BexleyGreenPoints](https://twitter.com/BexleyGreenPoints) today to earn rewards for your waste-reducing efforts ♻️

Every month they give away £20 vouchers to the top recyclers! Sign up today

at bexley.localgreenpoints.com [#GreenBexley](https://twitter.com/GreenBexley) 💚

Smile Lines

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?"

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "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!"

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

Christmas carols

"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!"

Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard

As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,

The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,

But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.

The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,

For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alkaseltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto, He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,

Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,

And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,

The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

Christmas play

The Sunday School Christmas play was in full swing when the teacher prompted: "And what was it that guided the Wise Men from the East?" Right on cue, the pre-schoolers turned their large white letters to face the audience. However, the last four children in the lineup had somehow reversed their sequence, and so the answer was: C H R I S T M A S R A T S.

Nativity scene

"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!"

Snow

One snowman said sadly to the other, "All our friends are flakes."

Fragile Nativity

A couple visited their son and his family for Christmas, and admired their beautiful nativity set in the hallway. The grandfather asked his young granddaughter if she knew what it was. "Oh yes," she said immediately. "Of course I do. It's breakable."

Holly

Knock, knock! Who's there? Holly. Holly who? Holly-days are here again!

Sign for Christmas

An old country preacher wanted a sign that told people driving on the nearby dual carriageway about the miracle of Christmas. So he sent a short message to the general store in the village.

This story picks up at the sign-making company and the astonished clerk who received the message. The message that she read was: "Unto us a child is born, 6 ft long and 3 ft wide."

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

You can tell

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is 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 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.

Quotes for December

Quotes

Thoughts on the Incarnation

The Son came out from the Father to help us to come out from the world; He descended to us to enable us to ascend to Him. - *Anthony of Padua*

Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is. - *Athanasius*

I hope your Christmas has had a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next – but that after all is the idea! - *Evelyn Underhill*

God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. - *CS Lewis*

My brother heard a woman on the bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it, Oh Lor'! They bring religion into everything. Look – they're dragging it even into Christmas now!' - *CS Lewis*

Surely royalty in rags, angels in cells, is not descent compared to Deity in flesh! - *H Law*

The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable. - *Ralph Sockman*

For anyone with relatives coming to stay this Christmas...

An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly. - *Gene Perret*

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. - *Anon*

When we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over. - *George MacDonald*

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone. - *Anon*

Nothing is often a good thing to say. - *Will Durant*

Our children await Christmas presents like a politician getting election returns. - *Marceline Cox*

The best baby-sitters, of course, are the baby's grandparents. You feel completely comfortable entrusting your baby to them for long periods, which is why most grandparents flee to the south coast. - *Dave Barry*

I Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. - *Anon*

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild. - *Welsh proverb*

As for giving generously over Christmas:

Let us give according to our incomes lest God make our incomes to match our gifts. - *Anon*

The world provides enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed. - *Gandhi*

If we have God in all things while they are ours, we shall have all things in God when they are taken away. - *Anon*

It is easier to renounce worldly possessions than it is to renounce the love of them. - *Walter Hilton*

Nothing influences a man so much as that which he calls his own. - *C H Spurgeon*

Observations for anyone travelling over Christmas and New Year...

How does the chap who drives the snow-plough get to work? Why are there flotation devices in the seats of planes instead of parachutes?

A camel is a horse designed by a committee.

Miscellaneous observations

To some people, religious freedom means a choice of churches to stay home from. - *Anon*

The best way to succeed in this world is to act on the advice you give to others. – *Mother Teresa*

The great thing is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. - *Anon*

Although we leave Your house, we don't leave Your Presence. - *Anon*

Advertising: The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. - *Stephen Leacock*

Suffering with truth decay? Brush up on your Bible. – *Anon*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 20 Languages

Apache (Western) - Gozhqq Keshmish

Arabic - I'D Miilad Said ous Sana Saida

Croatian - Sretan Bozic

Danish - Glædelig Jul og godt nytår

Farsi - Sal-e no mubarak

French - Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année! German - Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr!

Greek - Kala Christougen-na Ki'eftihismenos O Kenourios Chronos Hawaiian - Mele Kalikimaka & Hauoli Makahiki Hou

Hebrew - Mo'adim Lesimkha. Shana Tova Hindi - Shubh Naya Baras

Iraqi - Idah Saidan Wa Sanah

Jadidah Irish - Nollaig Shona Dhuit

Iroquois - Ojenyunyat

Sungwiyadeson homungradon

London Borough of Bexley Support for Cost of Living Costs

The London Borough of Bexley has been allocated a grant of £1.54m to support residents most in need.

The funds are the latest allocation of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Council will work with voluntary and community partners to distribute the funding.

The funding will have a particular focus on providing support to older residents following the decision taken by the Government to remove the Winter Fuel Payment from most pensioners in Bexley.

Other changes to the distribution of funds following the Winter Fuel Payment decision include the support for warm spaces.

Approximately 34,000 older residents in Bexley are set to lose the annual payment.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr David Leaf said:

"We know 1,000s of residents in the borough are preparing to feel the pinch in the next few months, following the Government's cruel and mean decision to scrap the Winter Fuel Payment. While we are not able to cover the cost for everyone affected, we are looking to provide support to those who are most in need. The HSF funds will be available to those residents in the same way as before, via our partners. Together we will make sure that the people who need it most receive our support."

The funding will be used to provide a range of support including:

Free School Meals in the school holidays

Housing Services

Adult Social Care and organisations specifically focused on supporting older people

Organisations providing support for unpaid carers and young carers

Local organisations supporting people affected by domestic abuse

Local foodbanks and community pantries/fridges
Local community organisations that specialise in the provision of white goods and furniture

Local organisations that support with debt and benefits advice to households

Local organisations who are offering warm spaces during the winter months

Part of the HSF funding will go towards additional welfare and debt advice capacity and a wide ranging information campaign.

The funding will shortly be allocated to local groups to distribute. Details on the groups involved with more information will be available on the Council's website. Details of organisations that can offer information and advice for anyone struggling with the cost of living can be found on our [cost of living pages](#).

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

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

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, 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.

Prayers & Poems for December

Everyday Christmas

(Mal 4:2, Mt 1:23)

Light a candle,
Look into the light,
Pray.

*Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings*

As the flame rises,
Smooth, bright,
Know the comfort of Christ
In the carol speaking
Afresh.

Bringing Jesus
Into heart and prayer.

Emmanuel, God with us.
Light of the world,
Out of the stable
Into our situations.

Because of Jesus
Christmas is everyday.

The Lord is here.
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching

Prayer for December 2024

Father, the days are short; darkness deepens in December and this year it seems to reflect the darkness in so many parts of the world. We think especially of the land You came to, all those years ago, and other nearby lands where so many are suffering.

Father, thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and

minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.

Thank you that, in Jesus, You have conquered death and darkness; that one day, everyone will bow before Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, whose Kingdom shall never end.

Help us, in thankfulness and love, to share Your Christmas Light and Hope and Joy. Hallelujah! In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Christmas Trees

Norway sent a Christmas tree
It marks the Saviour's birth,
The incarnation manifest
As God came down to earth

A babe born to a virgin
Would grow up as a man,
Yet still divine, such mystery,
To implement God's plan.

Another tree was put in place
A sacrifice was made,
As on that cross He gave His life
That all men could be saved.

So celebrate that wondrous day
When Jesus left His home,
To bring salvation down to man,
And claim us as His own.

By Megan Carter

Nolite Timere (Do not be afraid)

Do not be afraid
Of angels in the sky
Nor of the Babe in manger laid
Or of the death He'd die.

Do not be afraid
Of magi bearing gold

Their clothes of velvet and rich braid
As mysteries unfold.

Do not be afraid
Of Herod's fatal rage
Or soldiers on a killing raid
On those of tender age.

Fear not, instead rejoice!
For joy the angels bring!
Good news is in the angel's voice
Of Christ, our Saviour King!

By Nigel Beeton

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

All in the Month of December

It was:

1750 years ago, on 25 Dec 274 that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded 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, 25th December began to be celebrated by the church in Rome as the birthday of God's Son.

500 years ago, on 24th Dec 1524 that Vasco da Gama, Portuguese explorer, died of malaria. He was the first European to reach India by sea.

200 years ago, on 21st Dec 1824 that James Parkinson, British surgeon and politician, died. He was the first person to describe Parkinson's disease, in 1817.

125 years ago, on 5th Dec 1899 that Henry Tate, British sugar merchant and philanthropist, died. He established the Tate Gallery in London.

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

Also 125 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1899 that Dwight L Moody, famous American evangelist, died.

80 years ago, from 16th Dec 1944 to 16th Jan 1945 that the Battle of the Bulge (Belgium) took place. German forces launched a surprise assault on the Allies in the Ardennes Forest – their last major counter-offensive operation of the war.

75 years ago, on 13th Dec 1949 that Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, replacing Tel Aviv.

60 years ago, on 19th Dec 1964 that the first coordinated nationwide protests against the war in Vietnam were held in the USA.

60 years ago, on 31st Dec 1964 that Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record, and became the only person to break both the land speed record and the water speed record in the same year.

50 years ago, on 5th Dec 1974 that the last episode of the TV comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* was broadcast in the UK. It had begun in October 1969.

50 years ago, on 24th Dec 1974 that British politician John Stonehouse was arrested in Australia (on suspicion of being Lord Lucan.) He had faked his death on 20th November by leaving a pile of clothing on a beach in Miami Florida.

40 years ago, on 3rd Dec that the Bhopal disaster took place in India. A poisonous gas leak at a Union Carbide pesticide plant killed thousands of people and left at least 120,000 with long-term health problems.

Also 40 years ago, on 19th Dec 1984 that the Sino-British Joint Declaration was signed by Britain and China. Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on 1st July 1997.

Also 40 years ago, on 31st Dec 1984 that the Bank of England stopped producing one pound notes. They remained legal tender until 1988.

30 years ago, on 9th Dec 1994 that Sinn Féin held its first formal talks with the British government. This eventually led to the IRA ceasefire, the Good Friday Agreement, and the establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998.

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 2nd Dec 1999 that the UK devolved political power in Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee.

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.

20 years ago, on 26th Dec 2004 that 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.

Christmas Cards by Pamela Nowell

If you were wondering whether or not to send me a Christmas card thought I would mention what I do. As in recent years I won't send individual cards but put one in church for all with a "Christmas box" to All Saints, others might send to charity, I'm happy not receive under these circumstances.

Christmas Quiz 2024

1. This year was a Leap Year. Were 1900 and 2000 Leap Years?
2. What is Whamaggedon?
3. Alan Bates hit the headlines in January? He shares his name with a famous actor but why is he well known?
4. HRH Duke of Edinburgh met a special resident at S Helena in January who had also met his grandparents. Who is he?
5. A young actor, fresh out of drama school, was told by Arthur Lowe, “don’t worry if there’s not a lot of lines. They’ll come. In the meantime get yourself a funny costume and stand near me”. Who was the actor who passed away this year and starred in this classic sitcom?
6. Why did a family photo taken for Mothering Sunday lead to a lot of media speculation?
7. Why did North Korean television object to Alan Titchmarsh and his trousers?
8. How did a black cat called Matins get into trouble on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey
9. Where was the Carnation Revolution fifty years ago?
10. What product manufacturer (a byword in usefulness) announced in 2024 they would introduce the first bladeless version?
11. Which Oxford Don applied unsuccessfully to be a code breaker in the 1940s? there was a note by his name “keen”
12. Where is the Elephant and Bear Line?
13. What is Election purdah?
14. What was Gamblegate?
15. 17th July was National Emoji Day. One of the most popular is known as ROTFL. What does that mean?
16. In this year’s Olympics the Philippines gold medallist Carlos Yulo got an unusual reward as well as the medal. What was it?
17. In August a north Italian city advertised for people to learn an ancient skill. The job requirements include being 18 or over, having a high school-level education, knowing how to swim, and possessing a medical certificate that proves “a healthy and robust constitution”. What job was this for?
18. What music celebrated its 200th anniversary? Liked by many and Karl Marx though “it a solemn mass of earthly joy”?
19. Why might you be looking forward to not looking back in anger?
20. What types of special judges were cancelled after 147 years’ service and replaced electronically?

Christmas Quiz Solution

1. This year was a Leap Year. Were 1900 and 2000 Leap Years? *The year 2000 was a leap year. But 1900 was not. Every 4 years is a leap year.*
2. What is Whamaggedon? *Whamageddon is a game played during the 24 days before Christmas in which players try to go from 1 December to the end of Christmas Eve (24 December) without hearing "Last Christmas" by Wham!.*
3. Alan Bates hit the headlines earlier this year. He shares his name with a famous actor but why is he well known? *Sir Alan Bates has been very active in trying to address the Post Office scandal.*
4. HRH Duke of Edinburgh met a special resident at S Helena in January who had also met his grandparents. Who is he? *A giant tortoise.*
5. A young actor, fresh out of drama school, was told by Arthur Lowe, "don't worry if there's not a lot of lines. They'll come. In the meantime get yourself a funny costume and stand near me". Who was the actor who passed away this year and starred in this classic sitcom? *Ian Lavender, who played Pike.*
6. Why did a family photo taken for Mothering Sunday lead to a lot of media speculation? *The photo taken by HRH Princess of Wales had been not very successfully altered.*
7. Why did North Korean television object to Alan Titchmarsh and his trousers? *He was wearing American style jeans.*
8. How did a black cat called Matins get into trouble on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey. *The cat fell asleep on the Coronation throne.*
9. Where was the Carnation Revolution fifty years ago? *Portugal.*
10. What product manufacturer (a byword in usefulness) announced in 2024 they would introduce the first bladeless version? *Swiss Army knife.*
11. Which Oxford Don applied unsuccessfully to be a code breaker in the 1940s? There was a note by his name "keen". *JRR Tolkein. The word "keen" may have been a misspelling of his surname.*
12. Where is the Elephant and Bear Line? *Near Coventry from Nuneaton down to Royal Leamington Spa.*
13. What is Election purdah? *The rule that civil servants and others will normally observe discretion about making new announcements or decisions that could influence voters.*
14. What was Gamblegate? *The allegations that some politicians took bets on when the general election would be when they had insider information.*
15. 17th July was National Emoji Day. One of the most popular is known as ROTFL. What does that mean? *Roll on the floor laughing.*
16. In this year's Olympics the Philippines gold medallist Carlos Yulo got an unusual reward as well as the medal. What was it? *A lifetime of free colonoscopies.*
17. In August a north Italian city advertised for people to learn an ancient skill. The job requirements include being 18 or over, having a high school-level education, knowing how to swim, and possessing a medical certificate that proves "a healthy an robust constitution". What job was this for? *Gondolier.*
18. What music celebrated its 200th anniversary? Liked by many and Karl Marx though "it a solemn mass of earthly joy"? *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.*
19. Why might you be looking forward to not looking back in anger? *The news that the group Oasis are performing again.*
20. What types of special judges were cancelled after 147 years' service and replaced electronically? *Line judges at Wimbledon.*

Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible, which will run until the end of 2025.

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: John

'John's Gospel is like a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim. It is for the beginner in the faith and for the mature Christian.' (Leon Morris).

The Apostle John is usually credited with the authorship of this Gospel, writing in Ephesus at the end of the First Century. His purpose is *'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'* (20:31). Throughout he stresses the deity of Christ and presents Jesus as the Son of God.

In the prologue (1:1-14) Jesus is presented as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God revealed by the Father. It also highlights how He has come as light into the world, so that those who believe in Him will not remain in darkness (cf [12:46](#)).

The heart of John's narrative contains 7 *signs* or miracles, which demonstrate who Jesus is and demonstrating His transforming power over creation and people: turning water into wine (2:1-11); healing the royal official's son (4:46-54); healing the paralytic (5:1-18); feeding the 5000 (6:1-14); walking on the water (6:16-21); healing of the man born blind (9:1-41) and raising Lazarus (11:1-44).

After these signs, the story moves into the upper room discourses followed by the story of His death and resurrection. The whole Gospel is a revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father. It can be well summed up in the famous verse: *'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).

Quiz on John's Gospel

Why was John the Baptist sent from God?

To perform miracles and signs

To bear witness of the light

To explain the writings of the prophets

What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus?

Behold the Saviour of the world!

You are the true Son of God

Behold the Lamb of God!

Where did Jesus see Nathanael?

Under the fig tree

Under the almond branch

Within the house

What happened at the marriage of Cana?

Jesus healed a crippled man

Jesus turned water into wine

Jesus forgave the couple's sins

To whom did Jesus say, "Ye must be born again"?

Nicodemus

Simon of Cyrene

Joseph of Arimathea

What did Jesus say He could give the woman of Samaria?

Bread of life

Living water

Eternal life

How long had the infirm man lain at the pool of Bethesda?

1 year

25 years

38 years

Which of these is not declared as a witness of Jesus?

Nature and creation

John the Baptist

The work God gave Jesus

What teaching of Jesus did the Jews not understand?

The kingdom of God is nigh at hand

I am the bread which came down from heaven

He who is not for me, is against me

What did Jesus say to those who accused the adulteress?

He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone

Take her and stone her

What has she to do with me?

Which two signs, or miracles, are also recorded in other gospel records?

Feeding of the 5,000, raising of Lazarus

Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus walks on water

Raising of Lazarus, the catch of fishes

How did Jesus heal the blind man?

He touched his eyes and scales fell off them

He anointed his eyes with oil

He anointed his eyes with clay and told him to wash

Which profession does Jesus compare Himself to spiritually?

Shepherd

Fisherman

Carpenter

What are the names of Lazarus' sisters?

Answers to Gospel of John Quiz

To bear witness of the light (John 1:6-7)	Warming himself at the fire (John 18:18,25)
Behold the Lamb of God (John 1:36)	Purple (John 19:2)
Under the fig tree (John 1:48)	153 (John 21:11)
Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-10)	
Nicodemus (John 3:1)	
Living water (John 4:9-10)	
38 years (John 5:5)	
Nature and creation (John 5:31-47)	
I am the bread which came down from heaven (John 6:41)	
He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone (John 8:7)	
Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus walks on water (John 6)	
He anointed his eyes with clay and told him to wash (John 9:6-7)	
Carpenter (John 10:11)	
Martha and Mary (John 11:19)	
Washed their feet (John 13:5)	
Peace (John 14:27)	
Father-in-law (John 18:13)	

PART 3. A Victorian Gentleman. 1834-1926)

I had great ideas of becoming a farmer, and was always very fond of the country and an open-air life. However, the ruling of my parents was that I should leave school, go to London to the office of my uncle, and live with an old connection of the family in Queen Street, Covent Garden.

Before continuing the story of my personal experiences and vicissitudes, it would be interesting to give a short description of the conditions of life, travel and work prevailing in London at this time. 1848. My earliest memory of London was of a city which was, I suppose only third the size it is now. Open country for at least five, sixths, of the way to Woolwich. In going down the river from London Bridge there were unoccupied country to the sea with the exception of a few manufactories and the towns of Greenwich, Blackwall, Woolwich and Gravesend. Up the river the character of the towns on its banks has not changed to the same extent. To the south one got into the country in a very few miles, and Regents Park and Paddington were on the northern outskirts. I believe the population in the forties was about two and a half millions. There was no system of sewage, all night soil being carted out during the

hours of darkness in numbers of covered tank vans.

There were numerous regular starting places for the coaches, and it was a very pleasant sight to see them off. The Coach horses, at least to my judgment, were very fine animals and well handled and kept in excellent condition. The changing of the teams being always very smartly done. The city itself has not changed so much as to other parts of London, except that the buildings are considerably higher and larger. Many of the Merchants still lived over their offices in the city, after spending the first hours of the day at business,

Then went out, returning in time to get their letters off by the evening mail. The Royal Exchange was burnt down during my childhood. January 10th, 1838, but I remember the opening of the present building. The old House of Parliament was burned down in the year of my birth. I was several times taken to see the new buildings during their construction, and remember the opening ceremony. There were not nearly as many theatres as in my childhood. Drury Lane was the first of the present time. It being the first I knew much about. As I used to be taken there as a child by my Uncle. Later when in London on my own account, I went frequently to Drury Lane, when this theater was under the management of Augustus

Harris, I attended a very lively supper after the performance, at the invitation of a friend of his. At one time Harris and Miss Louisa Pine had the management, and together produced some very good English Operas. Miss Pine had a home very near our home in Kent, and I often had the pleasure of hearing her sing.

Covent Garden was also a big house where opera was produced, and during the winter months fancy dress balls were held, which I occasionally went to. This theatre was destroyed by fire in the Fifties, but was soon rebuilt. Her Majesty's theater was also a considerable size. One that I did not have much knowledge of, was Sadlers Wells, it became a very great favorite.

The streets were much narrower in the fifties, then they are now. The first wide one I remember being made was New Oxford Street, which cut through, and opened up a rather bad part of London. Canon Street in the city was another great improvement. This was followed by the widening of many streets in the West End. Along with the making of Trafalgar Square, But the greatest of all improvements, was the Thames Embankment. Until this was constructed the river at high tide came very much further inland. Low tide left foul mud all along the foreshore. The railway constructed under the reclaimed

was the first underground line in London.

Covent Garden Market is the only place which I do not think has improved much. Smithfield Market as I first remember, was an open space where cattle were sold as they are now in most country markets towns and districts near Petticoat Lane, where these places were fearful slums. My old uncle, who was always ready to buy any cheap ground rents, saw some advertisement to pay a high percentage. They were secured on some buildings near Petticoat Lane, and he sent me to look at the property, and then report to him. After some little trouble and with the help of a policeman. I found the property, but was told by the policemen that it was not safe for me to enter unless I was accompanied by him, so we went together. I was taken up a narrow passage to a square yard or court, in which there were eight houses used as rest houses for the poorest of the poor. An old man who was in charge told me that these paid very well, paying one penny an hour for anyone wanting a rest. There was not a stick of furniture, and the floor was literally covered with people who were in for a rest. Some of these people having with them the goods they had been offering for sale in the streets. They were protecting their goods they had by sitting on them with their arms outstretched. There were Men, Women and Children all together with no sanitary arrangements, and all looked very white, haggard, and most unhealthy. There are sure to be some places which are rather bad now, but I should think nothing to equal the squalor and misery I saw in this place.

To be continued.



Auditorium of the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, London, in 1808

The Auditorium and Stage of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in 1808 - From Microcosm of London, [New York Public Library Digital Collections](http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/DruryLane.htm#4) credit <http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/DruryLane.htm#4>

David George Wedgbury *Belvedere Boy*, Photographer of the 1960's Pop Scene
1937-1988



John Tracey wrote .

Samuel Pinkerton Kempe's (Centre) skiffle leanings lead to an interest in stringed instruments per se. Sighting a German chord-harp in a junk shop near his home in Rugby Warwickshire home, he paid just 15 shillings (75 pence asking price and taught himself to play. Incorporating it into his beat group's act proved a novelty to interest Pirate Radio chief Reg Calvert already managing fellow mid-landers the "Fortunes" - who adopted a similar role for the loudly dressed Pinkerton's "Assort" Colours and invited DECCA house producer, Tony Clark - destined for greatness with the New Look "Moody Blues" to hear them. He did, they were signed and Pinky, Barrie Bernad (bass). Tom Long (lead) Dave Holland (drums) and rhythm guitarist/vocalist Tony Newman (Second from left) Taped the latter's Mirror, Mirror, on 22 November 1965 to be rushed out on 10th December. It hit no 9, a follow-up Don't Stop Loving Me Baby, stalled at 50 and their "moment" was over, though Newman keeps a line-up on the cabaret circuit, while Holland rattles traps in famous hard-rock bands

FUNDRAISING APPEAL ALL SAINTS CHURCH BELVEDERE

As you may imagine All Saints has running costs, which assist in the Mission and Ministry of the parish. Our costs are high despite our striving to keep them down and to raise the funds required via fund raising or good will giving by members of the Church. We receive no external funds are are required to meet all of our own costs.

Our costs in 2023 averaged out over a month) were £201.65 per day (including utilities) to run the church. (£1411.58 per week). Income was £60 K against £73 k outgoings.

Average daily income was £166.44 per day (with gift aid) so a daily shortfall of an average of £45 per day. It is difficult to meet our costs when income is so unpredictable. These are not normal times and we know that everyone is suffering, but our income this year could be similar or higher than 2023. We are grateful for the generosity of those who continue to give, regularly, week in week out by Standing Order which if gift aided but this reduced income is not sufficient to pay the ongoing bills.

our building is old and requires ongoing maintenance and utility bills, in common with everyone continually increase, albeit offset during the summer months by the warmth meaning heating isn't required. But given the age of the building, but in the winter the building needs minimal heating to be on to prevent the fabric of the building going down hill through changes in temperature which cause damp in a large building with a high vaulted roof without any way to insulate. The likelihood of our streams of income being restored to previous levels in the short to medium term are unlikely. So while we know that many people reading this are also struggling financially, we ask those who consider All Saints to be part of their life, whether you attend or not, could you give a little? As a large business slogan goes "Every Penny Helps".

1 If you feel that you can help, there are ways of giving: where any sum donated will be used to sustain the ministry, mission and outreach of All Saints, if you are able to gift aid, that would also help as it adds an additional 25 percent from HMRC to your donation.

Our Bank Details are;

Lloyds Bank PLC

We have a giving option on our facebook Public and Group pages. Via **"Give a Little"**

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/e136828c-27b7-4a38-8eab->

Our preferred method of payment as there is no cost to the donor or to the Church is via a **Bank Credit Transfer (BCT)** which can be done simply through online banking or by telephone to your bank branch

Account name - PCC All Saints Belvedere

Account No— 56749468 Sort Code 30-90-76

If you would prefer to pay by cheque, Cheques should be made out to PCC All Saints Church Belvedere, and put in an envelope addressed to Treasurer, All Saints Church, Nuxley Road, DA7 7JE. If you would like to gift Aid it, included a Slip of Paper, with your name and address and saying that you are a UK Tax Payer and signed and dated. Envelopes can be posted or put through the vicarage letterbox. If you would like a receipt or acknowledgement of your donation, please indicate as such on the note with your cheque.

There is now an automated Cashless "Pay Station" in Church for use to donate, which includes the option to "Gift Aid" a donation. This machine is available whenever the Church is open for

Poems by Cliff Wedgebury



"Bike-Lane or Pavement?"

I used to be a cyclist,
Throughout my teenage years.
Time-Trials, Track or Mass-Start,
Seaside spins, on all ten gears.
But now I've reached that vintage age,
I enjoy a gentle stroll,
Through the streets of this fair city,
Each step, secure and in control.
But the once safe pavements,
Have now sadly passed,
With speeding cyclists,
Skimming so fast!
Cycle-Lanes seem empty?
Ignored, yet costly to install,
For the safety of each cyclist,
Now it's pedestrians who fall!

"Memories That Stay"

(Like Actors in an Old Fashioned Play)
Memories stay with us, increasing as we grow old.
Happy times and sad times, like pages which unfold,
Our "Book of Life" continuing, scenes acted in a play,
As the final curtain beckons and loved ones slip away.
But scenes of village life return,
And come to mind once more,

From Christening Font in All Saints' Church,
To school, in our memories store.
Bedonwell to Bedwell, then on to Picardy School,
For failing that "Eleven-Plus" and feeling a bit of a fool.
But Village life continued and the sun would often shine,
On soccer pitch and cricket field with team-mates sharing time.
Swimming Baths at Erith, enduring the Arctic cold,
With chattering teeth and shivering, in those primitive days of old.
Waiting outside "Dorman's" for "The Evening News" to come,
Then running home with the paper, to give to Dad and Mum.
Listening to "The Archers," and "Overseas Requests."
The B.B.C. our lifeline! "National Service Boys," we blessed!
David served in Germany, four years in Airforce Blue,
I remember the Christmas he came home,
With a kit-bag of gifts to view.
An electric razor for our dear Dad,
Perfume for our dear Mum,
Generous gifts for one and all, long ago, when we were young.
Mum worked up by "All Saints' Church" serving in a chemist shop.
Dad collected insurance, from "door to door" he'd knock.
David became a photographer, taking iconic L.P. shots.
Employed by "Decca Records,"

When "Del Shannon" was top of the pops.
Molly went off nursing to "The Brompton" up Kings Road,
In a beautiful cloak and uniform, happy in her new abode.
I became an office-boy, running errands up Park Lane,
For an elderly Solicitor, in sun and wind and rain.
A teenage lad of just fifteen, commuting every day,
On bus and train and underground, for very little pay.
But now that seems a bygone age, "Acting-out" those ancient scenes.
Performed upon the "Stage of Life," Joy and grief, hopes and dreams?

Same Sad December

It is the same sad December every time in Iraq, no change, no hope. Really sad thing.

--What I wrote in December 2017

You sit there, on that branch with my dream, but I cannot see your beauty because my eyes are soaked in the redness of December. I am a red man from the land of wars; my blood is shed and my soul is broken. No flowers here, no spring, only red December. (From "Red December" poem)

--What I wrote in December 2018

These streets have been made by the rough fingers of our December where the nights are weepy, and the moons are colorless. You can't see anything here in December just violent and shameless faces. (From "Stormy December" poem)

Anwer Ghani



Cliff sent me a copy of this album which has 12 Songs written and performed by himself and others.

You can stream all of the tracks from Cliff's website at

<https://cliffwedgbury.bandcamp.com/>

If you like to listen to original music without filters, this and other album tracks can be purchased individually online.

Adapted from a Book

Beautiful Guitars

And other poems

Pages 78 and 79

Cliff Wedgebury

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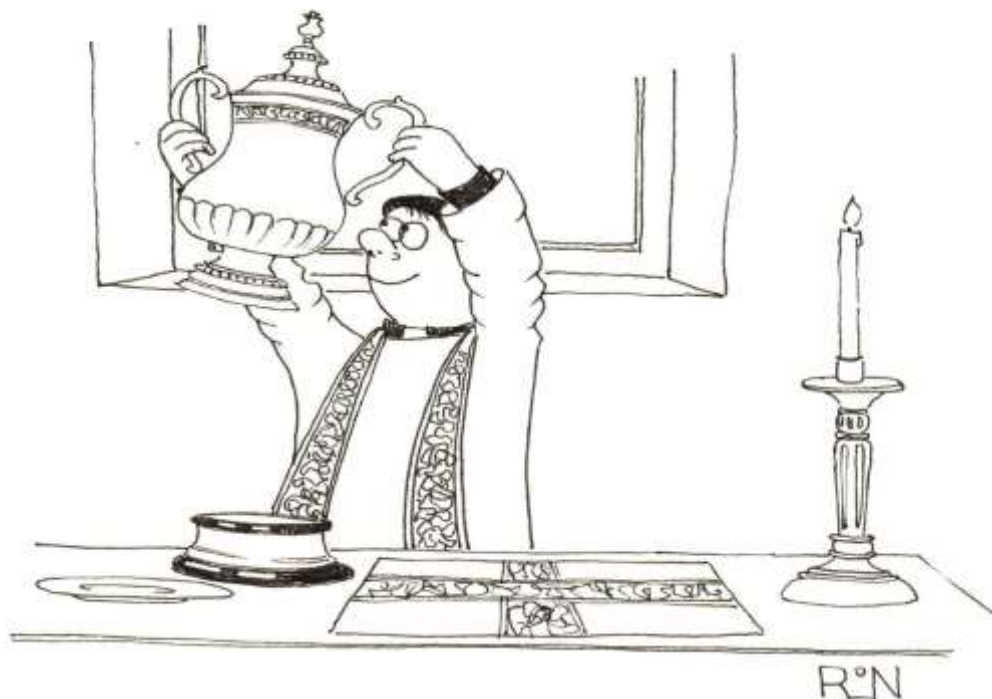


Cliff Wedgebury is a Native of Belvedere, who is a noted, Published, Performing Artist, Broadcaster Poet, Musician and raconteur. His poems particularly of living and growing up in Belvedere, of his family and life experiences finds a wider audience outside the Village. He has an active facebook presence <https://www.facebook.com/cliffwedgburypoet/> and a web page <https://cliffwedgbury.bandcamp.com/> He says "I was christened at All Saint's Church in 1946 and for many years have been writing nostalgic poems about my home village"



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*We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*



*The special silverware only came out
once a year*

Adverts



Are you looking to get fit or fitter?8

Kettlebell classes at All saints Church Hall

All fitness levels welcome & run by an ex-England Ladies Football Captain

Tuesdays 6.30pm-7.30pm & Saturdays 10am-11am

£6 per class, pay as you go

For further info, please get in touch

Tel: 07763 276 422

Nuxley Village W.I.

All Saints Church Hall

Nuxley Road, Belvedere

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday
of each month
1.30pm



Interesting speakers
Competitions
Luncheon Club
Walking Group
Theatre
Outings

A warm welcome awaits you
Why not join us.

Further details from our secretary
Rosemary Webdale - 01322 442856

All Saints Art Club

Please join us at All Saints Art Club in the church hall on Wednesday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00



Do you like to paint or draw?
Maybe you would like to learn or
are looking for a new hobby?

Come along & join our friendly group.
All abilities welcome.

Donation of £2 to cover materials and tea/coffee

For enquires please contact
Janice Guyton - 07734 152 608



TIME TREK MOBILE DISCO

A genuine retro disco serving London, Kent, Essex & Surrey.
Available for parties and celebrations of all types - birthdays, reunions, work events, weddings and more.

Music from this year's top tunes to the hits of yesterday.
Fully licensed, insured, safe, reliable & experienced (30 years).



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£8

BEYOND SHAPE

SADIE INVITES YOU TO JOIN

BELVEDERE YOGA CLASS

EXPLORE THE WISDOM OF THE BODY

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
7 Nuxley Road
DA17 5JE

WEDNESDAYS
6.30PM - 7.30PM

KEEP FIT EXERCISE CLASS

THURSDAYS - 9.45am to 10.45am
at All Saints Church Hall,
Nuxley Road, Kent, DA17 5JE

This Friendly Keep Fit -
Exercise to Music Class

blends strength (using bands or small
weights), balance and co-ordination
making it a great way to improve your
functional (everyday) fitness.

£5 per class

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your place - Tel: 07429 614724

fitwithfuller.co.uk
LEYS - 4 SPECIALIST FITNESS INSTRUCTORS
fitwithfuller@outlook.com

Church Sitting is keeping the Church Open during the week between 9 am and 12 am. If you have an hour or so to spare weekdays Monday to Friday and could be in church to welcome visitors please contact Ernie all-saintspm@gmail.com to find out more

Volunteers Needed for All Saints Memorial Gardens Rose Beds

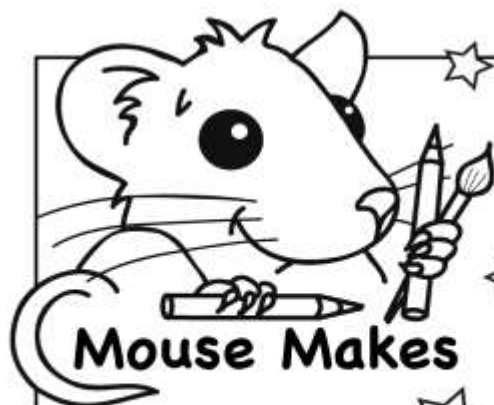
At present three volunteers Church members are looking after the grassed areas of the Church ground and eight Rose beds in the memorial gardens.

This becoming too much for them as they are all in their eighties. One volunteer is looking after seven Rose beds. Ideally, each Rose bed should have a named carer who will look after it throughout the year. This would probably only need around an hour of ad-hoc work every couple of weeks.

The Roses need regular dead heading during the flowering season, the beds weeded and the edges trimmed.

If your are able give an hour of your time for this important work to keep our church grounds looking lovely, *please contact Mrs Janet Newton on 01322 445010

Your help will be very much appreciated



Mouse Makes

"Jesus said,
I am the ____ Y
and the ____ U ____
and the ____ I ____.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H ____ , the
____ of ____"
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S ____
____ who is
____ R ____
the ____ R ____"
Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

B L I G H T L O
R A Y W O J J R
E M M A N U E L
A B Y J E S O
D S A V I O U R
S A V R J S D

O H O L Y O R C R T U
S O N O F M A N H A R T
N L S H E P H E R D U
O Y A E P E R G I F T G
C H R I S T M A S T H S
R E S U R R E C T I O N

JESUS
THE
GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!

P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

Dec24 © deborah noble @ parishpump.co.uk

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The Roman Empire charged the countries
it had invaded taxes, based on the
number of people and what they earned.

Emperor Augustus gave
orders that all people
in the Empire
were to be
registered
so they
could be
taxed.



This census was before
Quirinius became
Governor of Syria *
(* whose own
census
started
riots -
Acts 5:37)



When the order came,
Mary and Joseph were
living in Nazareth.

But Joseph was descended from King David, who had
been born in Bethlehem...



so Joseph took
Mary to Bethlehem to stay with his family.

Come and meet
everyone!



A normal home in Bethlehem.



While they were staying
there, Mary's baby was
born.



There was no space in the
guest room to put a new baby!

So they made a snug
bed for Jesus in one
of the mangers.

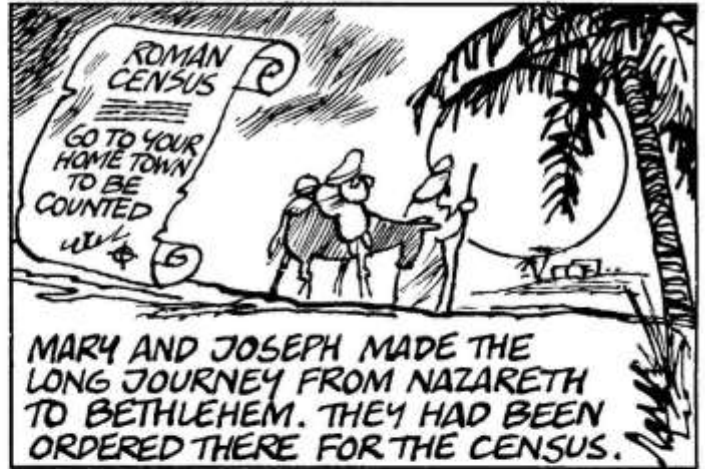


A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



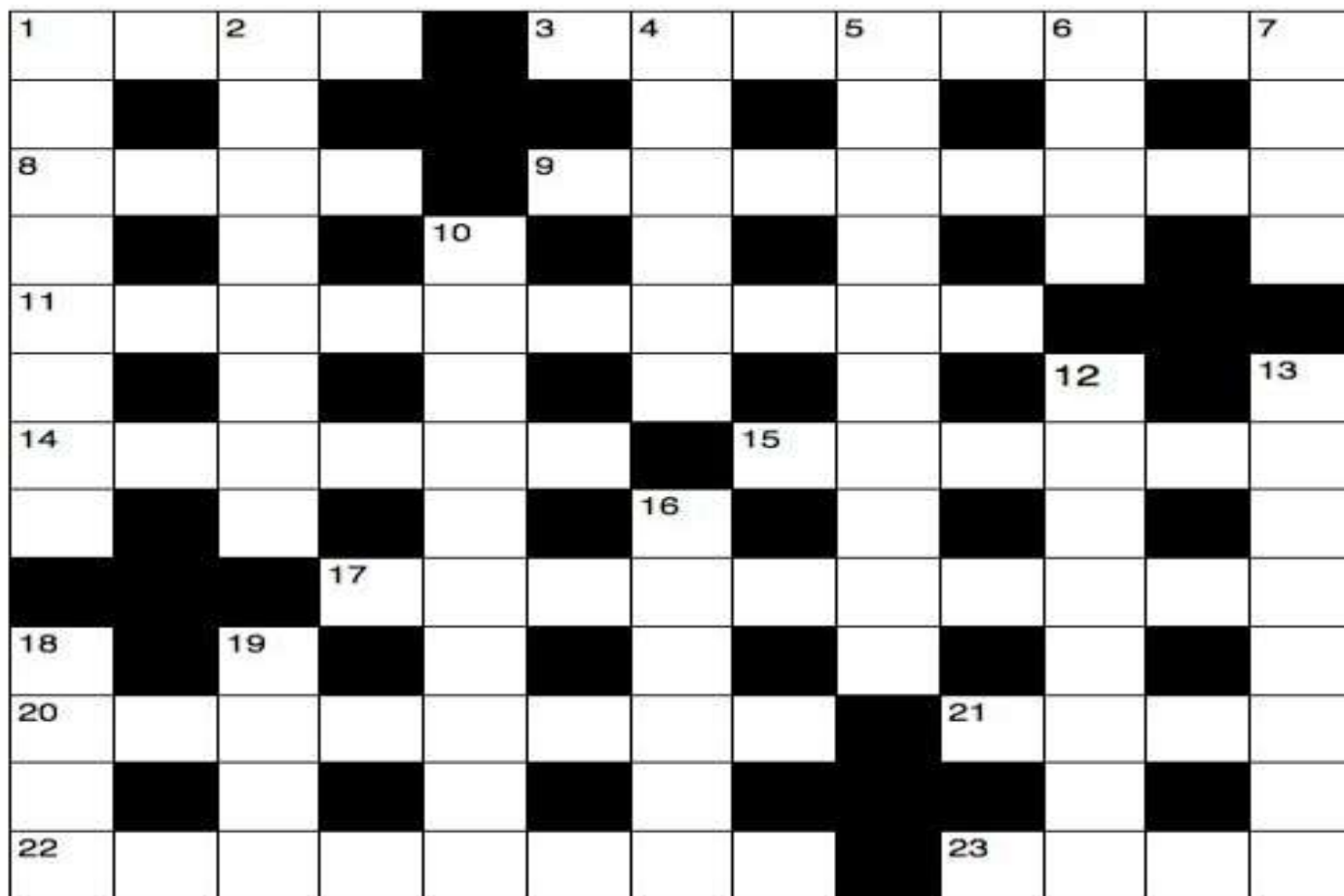
THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

Crossword Grid and Clues



Across

1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)

3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)

8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)

9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)

11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)

14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)

15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)

17 Because Israel lacked

one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)

20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

21 Rite (anag.) (4)

22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

(4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)

5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)

6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)

7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)

10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

(8)

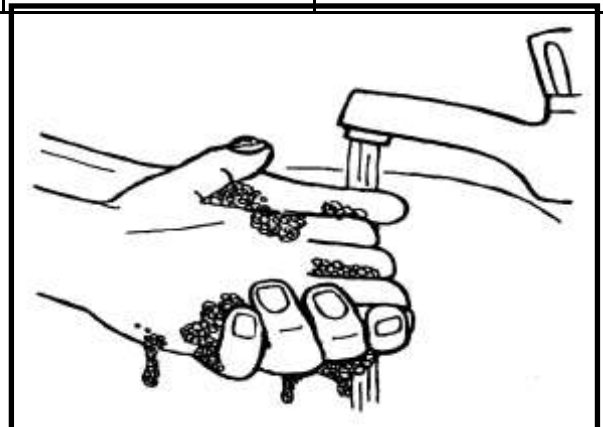
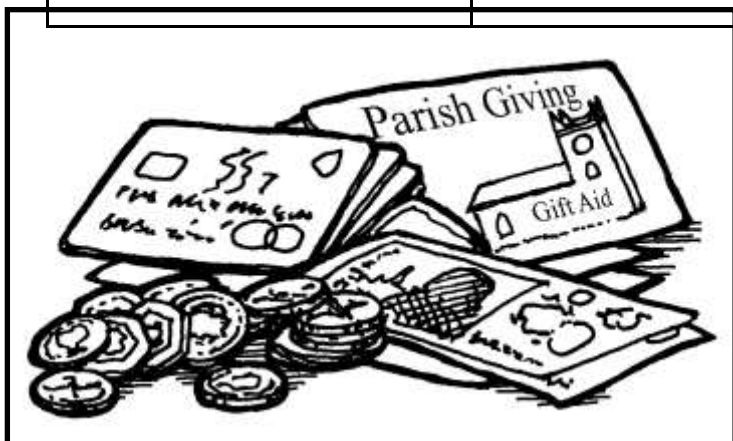
16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

**From the Registers - Advice of the current month's
Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Burial of Ashes**

Baptisms	Funerals	Marriages	Burial of Ashes
4 th August 2024 Matilda Elizabeth MONK		24 th August 2024 Douglas James O'DWYER & Michele Lorraine HARDEN	15 th August 2024 Carol Ann MAY Died 22 nd June 2024 Aged 71 years 1
	17th October 2024* Daisy May Rutherford 7Age 85 Died 17/9/24/ In Church than Burial at Erith Cemetery		19 th August 2024 Thelma Gwendoline FINCH Died 11 th July 2020 Aged 92 years



Handling Cash - In post pandemic avoid handling Cash where possible, if you handle cash, wear protective gloves and frequently wash hands

Answers ACROSS: 1, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18,	East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysopraxe.	DOWN: 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14,	Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.
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Regular Clubs and Organisations

Mondays:

6:30pm BEAVERS: Ages 6-8 yrs: Hoddesdon Road Scout Hall

Contact: 01322 403765

7:30pm: Heron Hill Dogs

Tuesdays:

7pm 'Fit N Fearless': Kettlebell Exercise Group

Contact: Tara: 07763 276422 or tara@fitnfearlessexercise.co.uk

Wednesdays

10am Art & Crafts Group: Beginners + all levels: All Saints' Church Hall

Contact: Janice on 01322 536379

1.30pm Nuxley Women's Institute (3rd Wed of month)

6.30—7.30pm "Beyond Shapes (Yoga)

Sandra Marshall phone tbc

Thursday

0945-1045 Keep Fit all ages All Saints Church Hall, Contact Organizer on 07429 614724

5:00pm RAINBOWS: Ages 5-7yrs: All Saints' Church Hall Contact:

Megan Heald: 01322 445551

6:15pm BROWNIES: Ages 7-10 yrs: All Saints' Church Hall Contact:

Michelle Conroy: 07710270002

7:00pm CUBS: Ages 8-10 yrs: Hoddesdon Road Scout Hall]

Contact: 01322 403765

Fridays

0930 to 12 noon 'The Coffee Pot Café in the Church Hall

1730 pm CHOIR Practice: Age 6 1/2 yrs +: All Saints' Church

Contact: Sue Moore: 020 8859 6997

7pm GUIDES: Ages 10+ yrs: All Saints' Church Hall

Contact: Megan Heald: 01322 445551

7pm SCOUTS: Ages 10 1/2+ yrs: Hoddesdon Road Scout Hall

Contact: 01322 403765

Saturdays

10am 'Fit N Fearless': Kettlebell Exercise Group

Contact: Tara: 07763 276422 or tara@fitnfearlessexercise.co.uk

Sundays

9:45am SUNDAY CLUB: Age 4 to 11yrs: First Sunday: Meet in Church than go to

All Saints' Church Hall after the "Collect" Contact: Ernie on 07971684902

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained.
8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Bur-
densome. 14, Crafty. 15,
Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20,
Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing.

23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main
road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish.
6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence.

12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16,
Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

		CALENDER OF SERVICES & READINGS December 2024	
Day/Date	Time	Sunday Name/Feast/Service Type	Readings
Sun 1st		1st Sunday of Advent	
8 am	No service		
10 am	10 am	Confirmation with Bishop of Rochester	Jeremiah 33;14-16 1 Thes 3;9-13 Luke 21;25-36
Thu 5th	10 am	HC BCP	Isaiah 26;1-6 Matthew 7;21,2-27%
Sun 8th		2nd of Advent	
	8 am	HC BCP	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3;1-6
	10 am	Community Worship Nativity	Luke 3;1-6
	4 pm	HC BCP	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3;1-6
Thu 12th	10 am	HC BCP	Isaiah 41.13-20 Matthew 11.11-15
Sun 15th		3rd of Advent	
	8 am	HC BCP	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Luke 3.7-19
	10 am	HC CW	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Phlippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-19
	6.30 pm	9 Lessons and Carols	Tbc
Thu 18th	10 am	HC BCP	Judges 12.2-7.24 Luke 1.5-25
Sun 22nd		4th of Advent	
	8 am	HC BCP	Micah 5.2-5a Luke 1.39-45
	10 am	HC CW	Micah 5.2-5a Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-45
Tue 24th		Christmas Eve	
	4 pm	Crib Service/Christingle	Tbc
	11 pm	Midnight Mass	Isiaih 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-12 John 1.1-11
Wed 25th	10 am	First Eucharist of Christmas	Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.41-52
Sun 29th	10 am	1st Sunday of Christmas HC CW	1 Samuel 2.18-20.28 Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.41-52