

December 2020 75p

# *connected*

*The Parish Magazine of St Wilfrid's Brayton*

*Includes news from the Local Ecumenical Partnership  
at the Church of St Francis Thorpe Willoughby,  
and the Methodist churches at Brayton and Burn*



# HOPE IS BORN



[www.StWilfridsParish.com](http://www.StWilfridsParish.com)

# #WhenWeWereVeryYoung...

Editing this edition of *Connected*, in my shed whilst the rain lashes down, and in the midst of Lockdown 2.0, I find myself thinking about family outings to Dalby Forest and Filey and wondering when we will return to normal. If the audio works then Zoom is ok, but it's a poor substitute for actually meeting people.

So having been stuck in "Chez Nous" during November I have no pictures of the Parish this

month, but Tony Williams kindly supplied me with these images of Parish walks from the past. Most pictures were of folks eating butties, but there were a few of the actual walk. I'm particularly impressed with the Humber Bridge outing – it's a good 35 miles to the bridge from Brayton. What a marathon that walk must have been!

John Clarke †



# Welcome

to the December 2020 edition of *Connected*.

This month Revd. Rodger Place shares a poem by Arnold Kellett and implores us not to leave Christ out of Christmas.

Tony Service writes about all matters Methodist, and includes a piece about the annual Bridge Walk which this year involved structures in the Selby area.

This month we say hello to Pat Jarvis who has been appointed as Churchwarden at St Wilfrid's (no doubt from a host of applicants) and we mark the soon-to-end period of Revd. Hannah Suekarran's term as Assistant Curate, also at St Wilfrid's. We wish them both good wishes for the future.

Karl Jarvis provides a helpful update in the hopefully soon reopening of the Parish Hall. The

Churchyard Tidying Team are with you on this one Karl!

Finally there is news of the St Wilfrid's Advent Calendar Window Trail that is being organised for the month of December, and I update everyone on the sale of goods by the St Francis & St Wilfrid's Crafty Folks.

The Brayton Parish Website ([www.StWilfridsParish.com](http://www.StWilfridsParish.com)) sends out notices of Services and events in St Francis and St Wilfrid's, but only to subscribers. It is easy to subscribe on the website, so why not use this method of staying up-to-date on news in the Parish? It is of course free.

Printed copies of *Connected* delivered to your door cost £5 a year (£4 for pensioners), or you can pick up a single copy for

75p from any of the Churches mentioned within these pages. Subscriptions run from June each year. Thanks to those who have already paid the 2020 annual subscriptions. These subscriptions almost cover the cost of the paper and printing. If possible please pay the person who delivers your *Connected* by cheque made out to 'Brayton PCC', or by online payment.

You may also download *Connected* free from the St Wilfrid's website [www.StWilfridsParish.com](http://www.StWilfridsParish.com).

Articles for *Connected* are always gratefully received, by the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month please.

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“With Christmas in mind – believe in God and you’ll believe in miracles. Believe in the baby of Bethlehem, and you’ll experience one

# Memories of Seasons

The changing of the season from summer to autumn brings colour all around

Yellow turns from green to gold to red and bronze

The canvas of nature is a spectacle to hold

Leaves have all gone as autumn fades and winter descends

The days are crisp and the skies are blue, evenings are chilled by winds from the north

Daylight passes quickly as night takes a hold

We all dream of spring and the early morning dew's glistening in the sun

With winter descending our thoughts turn to Christmas,  
Oh to be a child again.

Children's voices can be heard playing in the fresh crisp snow.

A solitary snowman stands proud and strong. Tears appear as the warmth

From a bright shining sun warms a chilly day.

Cries of joy from children begin to fade and gradually all goes quite  
Except for the sound of a lonely snowman crying in the snow

Spring is in the air the sun shines bright and the leaves are green

Mist slowly creeping along the meadows weaving among the trees

The early morning frost is battling against the rays of the sun

Gradually fading as the sun rises higher bringing a glistening shine to the meadows below

The sound of dripping frost echo's in the silent early morning

The birds singing brings warmth to our hearts

As they announce the arrival of spring

Summer is here at last the days get longer and the nights shorter

Colour appears everywhere, skies are brilliant blue and the sun burns orange red

Fields of yellow wheat and brilliant red poppies sway as the warm gentle wind's blow

Birds, bees & butterflies are in abundance as Mother Nature works her magic.

**Mike Bunn 17<sup>th</sup> December 2001**

# Dear Friends



Kelly Sikkema

I'd like to share with you a poem I first came across some time ago and which I've treasured ever since. It's by a Yorkshire poet called Arnold Kellett and it goes like this:

If Jesus had never been born,  
There'd still be a Christmas by  
some other name.  
We'd brighten mid-winter, and  
feast just the same,  
With corpulent turkey, and  
puddings and pies  
And all the brave glitter that  
art can devise.  
With satisfied stomach and  
contented mind  
We'd purr with the pleasures  
of pagan mankind,  
With greetings and gifts round  
the evergreen tree,  
Like the jolly old Romans did,  
ages BC.  
But we'd have no bright carols,  
no pealing of bells,  
No tidings that Christ now in  
Bethlehem dwells.  
No babe in the manger, no ox  
in the stall,  
No angels, no shepherds, no  
good-will to all;  
No Mary, no Joseph, no Wise  
Men who came  
To worship a King of  
unparalleled fame;

No Gospel to cheer us, no  
news to refresh.  
No glad proclamation that  
God's become flesh.  
Then let us keep Christmas,  
the birth of the Boy  
Who floodlights our darkness  
with infinite joy,  
For God is now with us, to  
seek and to save,  
To die for our sins, and to rise  
from the grave,  
To help us, to heal us, to bring  
us to bliss.  
Yet poorer than pagans, if blind  
to all this,  
We grope through our winter  
depressed and forlorn....  
Just as if Jesus had never been  
born.

You see, what we are celebrating at Christmas is precisely not a mid-winter festival, or yuletide, or any other piece of modern escapism from the darkness of winter and the current darkness of the Covid pandemic. Arnold Kellett is right: if Jesus had never been born, we would undoubtedly have a secular feast this month just to cheer ourselves up, lockdown or no lockdown. But Jesus WAS born so we shall celebrate this Christmas because of the simple conviction, firm and

strong, that in Jesus of Nazareth God entered decisively into a dark and fallen world, a world of fear and disease, of tyranny and war. And if he came into it then, he can come into it today, to save the world and give it peace and hope and healing. All that needs to happen – but it is ALL – is that we allow Jesus to be born in ourselves and to live and grow and rule in our hearts and minds.

The stable stands for no more and no less than the human heart, your heart and mine, and it is into our hearts that the Christ-Child longs to be born at Christmas. And he will be, if we will have it so!

So please, don't let us leave Christ out of Christmas, this year or any year.

Every blessing to you and yours – and be safe!

**Revd. Rodger Place** ✝



# Methodist News

## “I wonder how we shall remember Christmas 2020?”

I'm sure with the Covid-19 situation, each one of us will have our own story that we will tell for many years to come. I have to admit that we don't always remember Christmas for very Christmassy reasons. For us, there was the year when the cooker broke down on Christmas Eve and we were expecting a family houseful on Christmas Day. Thanks to a very helpful tradesman, we found ourselves with a new cooker installed late in the afternoon. Then there was the Boxing Day when the drain blocked up causing a most unholy toilet smell and it cost us a fortune to call out a drain cleaning company. And will we ever forget the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and its consequences which are still vivid for most of us.

So, many Christmas memories don't seem to have much to do with the Christmas story itself. They're not about the carols or the Christmas Day sermon, but about things – happy and sad – that were going on in our lives and the world at the time. But that is part of the paradox of this time of the year. On the one hand is the Christmas story, which we like hearing again and again. On the other hand we have the real world; things going on for us, our neighbours and friends; things on the news, new cookers needed, drains needed to be cleaned out.

The real world. But that's the whole point! Christmas is actually much more about the real world than it is about a lovely story of far off places in far off times.

It's about a young unmarried mother. And our country has one of the highest rate of



teenage pregnancies in Europe. It's about a homeless couple and their young child out in the cold. Look on the streets of our cities. Think of the television pictures of refugees and immigrants.

It's about shepherds who didn't go to church and weren't all that respectable being there to witness how God was doing something new – while the churchgoers and the religious leaders weren't there. It's about wise men looking for a new king and finding him not in a palace but behind a pub. It's about Mary and Joseph having to escape with their baby, as sanctuary seekers. Who is to say they wouldn't have been desperate enough to hide themselves in the back of a lorry coming through the channel tunnel in their attempt to save their precious son? And what kind of a welcome would they have received here in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain? And for those who didn't escape, it's about innocent children being brutally killed. You don't get much more real than that.

And for Bethlehem in 2020, you could also read Iraq, Iran, Syria or other countries in the

Middle East we see regularly on the television. Christmas is about the real world – as we know it. And it's in that real world – at times very cruel, painful and dangerous – that God acts. Not in heaven. Not even in the temple. But right in the middle of human life at its toughest. People being born, people dying, people on the run, people with nowhere to go, people for whom there is no room.

Remember the meaning of the name Immanuel in Isaiah's prophecy? God is with us. That's the central part of the Christmas message. God is with us. And behind and within the lovely Christmas story is the truth of God with us in our world and in our lives. In good parts and bad, joys and pains, hopes and fears. Remember, too, that some people won't be able to suspend normal life for a few days over Christmas. If you are literally starving; if you are a refugee or a sanctuary seeker; if you are a child being abused in your own home, worried sick that your dad's going to be around more over the next few days – you can't suspend normal life, however much you'd like to.

If the gospel is really the good news it claims to be (and I believe it is) then it has to be good news for the hungry, the hurting, the oppressed, the abused. Good news. God is with us. Sharing that good news is a huge challenge – but it is also our great joy. May God be with you.

(Adapted from a Christmas message by the Rev David Gamble)

### **December the Christmas Month**

Or is it? As I write this early in November, we are in another lockdown period with a promise by Boris Johnson that we will come out of lockdown on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The lockdown in March was originally going to be for a few weeks but that was extended as the virus situation worsened. For me, as a high risk person, it was early August before I was allowed out of the house. No-one knows what will happen this time. Will this second lockdown be extended towards, or even beyond, Christmas? For us, Plan A will be a family Christmas as much as we can make it with six (?) people. If that cannot happen, Plan B will have to be a Christmas at home with just the two of us.

### **Christmas services**

We are hoping our Christmas services will take place, even with masks and social distancing if necessary. If Christmas services are allowed, there will be a Carol Service on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and a Christmas Eve service of Holy Communion at 8:30pm on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, both of which will be led by our minister, Rev Philip Macdonald. On Christmas Day, our supernumerary minister, Rev Derek Lund, will be leading a Christmas service at 10:30am



and on the following Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> there will be another Christmas service led by our own members.

### **Other Christmas events**

Brayton members have normally enjoyed an evening of Christmas music with the Brayton singers and participated in the Churches Together Carol Singing outside Wilko/Sainsbury and the Methodist Women in Britain visit to sing carols at one of the care homes in Selby or Snaith. It seems unlikely that any of these will take place, though there may be a limited version of carol singing in town?

### **A Bridge too far?**

38 years ago, Christian Aid supporters established the Humber Bridge Walk, most people walking from Hessle to Barton on Humber with the Lincolnshire stalwarts obviously doing the walk from the opposite direction. It was a means of requesting people to sponsor those doing the walk to raise money for Christian Aid and it has been a regular walk for many since that first walk.

Several of our Brayton supporters, together with others from around the Circuit, have enjoyed doing the walk, seeing the great views up and down the Humber estuary when the weather permitted it. There were some years when it teemed down with rain, totally obliterating the views but the fellowship of those

walking made up for the adverse weather conditions.

The walk was always done during Christian Aid Week in May but had to be cancelled this year because of the pandemic. However, in October, the organisers suggested people may like to do the Bridge Walk by themselves, suitably distanced if there were several of them, or do a more local walk.

So, Cliff and Carole Brook took up the challenge and decided they would not do a one bridge walk (the Humber Bridge being a bridge too far) but would do a three bridge walk! So early in November, they set off from their home on the Westbourne estate, traversing the myriad of houses near to where they lived, to the Dennison Road swing bridge, walking from there along the canal path to Brayton Bridge and onwards to Burn Bridge, returning home along the A19. Not surprisingly, their three bridge walk was much further than just doing the Humber Bridge (5½ miles instead of 3½ miles) but they had a great walk and, at the time of writing, are waiting for their sponsorship money to roll in.

If any of our readers would like to contribute a few £ notes of any denomination (or a few £ coins if preferred) to support Christian Aid (which is, if you don't mind me saying, is a fantastic charity and well worth supporting, especially

this year when their income has been so much diminished, and considering the work in which they are involved), please pass on your money to Cliff, to me or any chapel member.

### **To the "Connected" Team – Thank you**

As we come towards the end of the year, on behalf of all of us at Brayton Methodist Church, I would like to once again thank Rev Pete Watson and his members for giving us the opportunity to share with the Brayton parish and beyond our Methodist news and activities each month. John Clarke does a really fantastic job as Editor and I am very grateful for all the work he puts in for us, together with the team that puts it all together every month. Our grateful thanks to you all.

### **Christmas Greetings**

On behalf of our ministers, Rev Philip Macdonald (Brayton), Rev Peter Barnett (Burn), Rev Christine Gillespie (Thorpe) and all the members and friends at Brayton Methodist Church, may I wish all of you and your families every blessing and a very happy Christmas. May the love, joy and peace of Jesus, the Christ Child of Bethlehem, be with you all at this Christmas time.

**Tony Service** ✝

### **Christmas Thoughts**

**May the SPIRIT of Christmas bring you PEACE**

**May the GLADNESS of Christmas give you HOPE**

**May the WARMTH of Christmas grant you LOVE**

**For:**

**PEACE makes all things possible**

**HOPE makes all things work**

**LOVE makes all things beautiful**

# Christmas to Me

Christmas to me is nativity  
And the sound of carol-singing;  
But to others it is revelry  
And the sound of shop tills ringing.

Christmas to me is shepherds  
On a hillside attending their sheep;  
And the sound of angelic voices  
Over a town bathed in sleep.

Christmas to me is the Magi  
Who put all of their faith in a star,  
And in search of the little Christ child  
They willingly travelled so far.

Christmas to me is worship  
Giving thanks for the Saviour's birth;  
But to many of the folk I know  
Christmas has no real worth.

So what will YOU see this Christmas?  
Will you think of that baby so small?  
And recognise that the love of God  
Came to earth that first Christmas of all?

**By Colin Hammacott**

# The List



I

have  
a list  
of folks  
I know

all written  
in a book.

And every  
year when

Christmas comes,

I go and  
take a look.

And that is when  
I realise that these  
names are a part,  
not of the book  
they're written in,  
but of my heart.

For each name stands  
for **SOMEONE** who has  
crossed my path some time.

And in that meeting they've  
become the rhythm in each  
rhyme. And while it sounds

fantastic for me to make this claim,

I really feel that I'm composed of each  
remembered name. And while you may not be  
aware of any special 'link', just meeting you  
has changed my life a lot more than you think.

For once I've met somebody, the years cannot  
erase, the memory of a pleasant word or a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine,  
of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.

For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,  
it's because you are on the list of folks I'm indebted to.

For I am but the total of the many folks I've met.

And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.

And whether I have known you for many years or few, in some way you  
have had a part in shaping things I do. And every year when Christmas comes,  
I realise anew, the best gifts life can offer is meeting folks like you.

So may the Spirit of Christmas that forever endures, leave its richest blessing in the  
hearts  
of you and  
yours

Thanks to Tony Service

# Parish Hall: December Update

There's certainly been little, or no sunshine so far this month as the fog has made an unwelcome impact on some of our daily routines. No bonfire party gatherings and, for many of us, no chance to be with the loved ones in our family as the virus continues to have distressing impact on all our lives. And, no community gatherings in the Parish Hall. Closed since March, I'm writing this note to let you know how things are at this stage of the Pandemic.

It was all too surreal, coming hours after the enjoyable get together of User Group representatives, to close the Hall down at very short notice. Slowly, though, our Committee have been coming to terms with the implications of this emergency. Clearly, we would like to be 'open for business' as soon as possible. An eye has been kept on the building to make sure all is in order.

The Hall Committee members have met thanks to the wonders of 'Zoom'. With Revd. Pete, we have been working on a plan to reopen the building, whenever we get enough of a green light to do so. The term 'covid secure environment' has taken its place in the new language of our time. This means, of course, that we have to make the Hall as safe as is possible in these uncertain times. We have started to develop a plan that does this.

## Reopening the Hall Toilets

No services in November but by the time you receive your December magazine there may be better news. Sadly, funerals still take place regularly, and one toilet has been made available for the use of people who attend. The disabled toilet received a thorough cleaning on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, as did the entrance foyer and the



facility was first used the following day. This area of the Hall is closed from the main room and kitchen. Phase two will be to consider how the main room can be prepared for reopening.

## Plans for the Main Room

A number of things must be changed in order to give us a better chance of being Covid secure. Firstly, the Committee intends to replace the carpeted areas with a suitable hard surface floor. All the existing chairs, that are showing distinct signs of old age and are difficult to store will be replaced with new, easily cleaned, stacking chairs. During November we started to actively seek funding to pay for these new purchases.

There is also a need to remove all the items that are not essential and may be willing hosts for the virus. So, when we do reopen, for a time at least, you will see a room without some of the usual fixtures.

Our planning extends beyond these early necessities. They include, improved lighting in the main room so as to allow us to remove the free-standing uprighters, create an illuminated pathway from the 'fire exit door' to the main path at the front of the building and creating additional storage space for groups to use.

I will describe the plans we have for reopening the kitchen the next time I write to you.

## Actively seeking funding

Seeking funds is now a large part of our remit. The Hall is operated on a self-funding basis – it exists through donations and by raising income by hire of the Hall. Being closed means we have no new income. So, we are on the lookout for help from charity foundations and companies that support ventures like ours.

## New 'Facebook' Group

Sarah O'Flynn, the Hall Secretary, has recently opened a page on Facebook for the Hall. There's already a growing number of 'visitors' to site, and it will play an increasing role in communicating with the Brayton community. Thanks for the idea, Sarah and for setting it up.

And, finally, with the situation changing frequently, we just want to let you know that we will reopen for regular use as soon as we are able. Let's hope that is sooner rather than later.

Please contact me, by email ([karljarvis40@gmail.com](mailto:karljarvis40@gmail.com)), if you have any ideas or queries.

With my best wishes,

**Karl Jarvis**   
Parish Hall Manager

# Welcome Pat!

Dear All – as I cannot meet you all personally, I am writing to introduce myself as I take up the role of Church Warden at St Wilfrid's. My husband Karl and I moved back to Brayton in May last year after living in York for a few years and returning to St Wilfrid's has been a real homecoming for us. Our spiritual home, Brayton and St Wilfrid's seemed to draw us back here. Therefore, it has been wonderful to be welcomed back so warmly into the fellowship of our church community by friends old and new.

Some of you will know me from years ago, when Karl and I lived in Brayton and worshipped at St Wilfrid's with our children, Caroline, Andrew and Jenny. Like many of you, we found that the village, schools and church communities here in Brayton were a comfortable, friendly and safe place for us to bring up our family and we cherish the many wonderful memories we created for us all here. Now our children are all married with their own children, but don't live too far away. We have six grandchildren aged between four and seventeen and like all grandmothers I am happy to talk to you about them any time!

Before retirement Karl and I worked in education teaching and leading Primary Schools in the Selby and York areas. We have always been avid walkers

and returning to walk Brayton Barff again, to watch the seasons unfold along the canal and in the fields and lanes around Brayton has been a joy for us, especially during this very challenging year. Karl is an avid and very



knowledgeable gardener and has enjoyed creating a new garden for us which we love to share. I enjoy embroidery and textile art and I think Karl would also tell you that I enjoy meeting and talking to people and, to being an organiser!!

There have been many church wardens elected to St Wilfrid's during its long history but I guess none before will have taken on

the role when services cannot take place within the church. This does feel strange and I feel quite 'invisible' in the role just now and miss being able to physically meet and to share in our worship together. Therefore, until we can meet again, I will aim to keep in touch through *Connected* from time to time. On the plus side the current situation does give me time and the opportunity to learn about the church warden role and to find out more about our beautiful church and its upkeep. I enjoy being a learner and there is a lot for me to learn! Meanwhile I look forward to meeting you all again before too long and am proud of the opportunity to contribute to the continuation of worship at St Wilfrid's in the years ahead.

I am grateful to Claire for the help and time she has given me as she 'handed over' the Church Warden role and to the many other members of our church family who are sharing their knowledge of St Wilfrid's with me as I take on this responsibility.

With my best wishes

Pat Jarvis ✝



# Thank You

Some of you will be aware that the end of this year will also mark the end of my time as Assistant Curate here in the Brayton Parish. I began my curacy in the Benefice of Harton in 2016, took maternity leave in 2019 with our son, and in that time moved to Brayton so that my husband Rob could begin his role as 20s-40s minister, meaning I've had the privilege of completing the final year of my curacy here. And what a year it has been! Finishing my training post in the midst of a global pandemic has certainly been a learning curve – for a start I had virtually no experience of producing YouTube videos in March, and it has now become a regular part of my week!

But despite the restrictions we have all dealt with since the Spring, I have been made to feel really welcome in this Parish, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the part you have played in this



final year of my Curacy. It has been a privilege and a blessing to join in with God's ministry and mission in this place. I want to say a particular thank you to Rev. Pete, who has been incredibly generous with his time in his role as my Training Incumbent, and

from whom I have learned a lot and gained much wisdom. Thank you also to the PCC, Church Wardens past and present, and all those, lay and ordained, who play a role in the ministry of this Parish. I have so enjoyed getting to know you and ministering with you.

Some of you might be wondering what my next steps are going to be, and really it's a case of watch this space! I'm not sure what God is calling me to next, so my immediate 'next thing' will be to take a period of time out, during which I will pray and discern about the future. I will of course still be around as Rob's role here continues.

Thank you all so much again, and I hope you have a very peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Revd. Hannah Suekarran** †



# Putting On A Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this piece of cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours as I guard myself.

Christ Jesus. as my lips will be covered, uncover my heart that people may see my smile in the light of my eyes and in the

crinkles around them. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak more clearly, not only with my words but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth

be shield and banner and may each breath it holds, be filled with Your love. In that love and in Your name I pray. Amen.

**Revd Richard Bott** †

With thanks to Yvonne Green

# God in the Arts

## He gave us eyes to see them: St Kevin of Glendalough and the blackbird

2010 has been a year of contrast. In the months of lockdown and restrictions, many of us have used the time to look afresh at the world of Nature and have learnt to value it once again; to re-explore the beauty and wonder of our world in the rich variety of all creatures great and small.

built its nest in the saint's hand. The saint waited until the eggs were laid and hatched and the fledglings had flown.

One of the earliest depictions of this story is a marginal drawing in *The History of Ireland* by Gerald of Wales in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century and now in the British Library. He visited Ireland several times and was entranced by the marvels he saw and the tales he heard. To

So much has happened to us during this year for good and ill, and we wonder what the new year will bring. Perhaps St Kevin can inspire us to journey with faith and hope, and to travel through the months ahead with a renewed concern for the created order around. The Gaelic name Kevin means loved. Like him, we pray that we will love and cherish this planet, and care for the



When we look at the life of the 6<sup>th</sup> century Irish hermit saint, Kevin of Glendalough, we see someone who had that special relationship with the birds and animals. An otter, the wolf and a wild boar were his co-hermits. We are told that during Lent as he was kneeling in prayer in his cell, he held his arm out of the window. A blackbird mistook the arm for the branch of a tree and

accompany the story of St Kevin, an unknown artist drew the saint sat in his cell, cradling the blackbird gently in his left hand. Seamus Heaney captured the story in a poem in which he wondered if the saint was self-forgetful in all those months or perhaps in agony. The poet praises St Kevin because he sought no reward, but offered time and patience to care for this sign of new life.

wonder and beauty of birds like the blackbird and all the animals. Then we can rejoice with him in the wonder of Creation that displays the handiwork of God the Creator.

**Revd Michael Burgess** †

# God in the Sciences

## Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. I can't help thinking that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed in with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads?

the Andromeda galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.

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

Finally, the bright astronomical

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

I think it makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very



But what exactly was the star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

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

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

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all

significant physical event!

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz †

Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge



# Christmas Forgotten

**From untold glory to a manger of straw**

**Who could imagine such a thing?**

**From Eternity stepping down into Time**

**With very few to welcome Him in.**

**Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise men,**

**In His mother's arms the Baby lies,**

**Scripture describes these amazing events**

**As prophecy unravels before our eyes**

**The Books of the Bible all tell of His coming**

**His life, His death, redemption's plan,**

**The King of glory revealed in God's Word**

**Touching our earth in the form of a Man.**

**By Megan Carter**

# Brayton Advent Calendar Window Trail

St Wilfrid's Church presents...

## Brayton Advent Calendar Window Trail

We are inviting the people of Brayton to decorate a window, porch or external wall in their house to act as a 'door' in a Brayton Advent Calendar. So that each day, from the 1<sup>st</sup> December, somewhere in the village, a new door (or doors) will 'open' and remain illuminated until the 1<sup>st</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> December. As the windows open an Advent Calendar Window Trail will be created around the village for people to follow and share in all the Advent windows.

For more information, and to join in and become a part of our community Advent

will create a map of the streets in Brayton with Advent calendar 'doors' and post it on our social pages on Facebook (Brayton Parish Hall and The Parish of St Wilfrid), Instagram and posters around the village so that people can follow the Advent Calendar Window trail throughout Advent



January. Our aim is to create a Living Advent Calendar Window Trail with Christmas scenes inspired by Christmas Carols around the village for everyone to enjoy over Christmas.

This is an opportunity for the community of Brayton to celebrate Christmas and create wonderful Christmas displays full of light and colour throughout our village for all to see. We hope that there will be more than one 'window' for each date and like all Advent Calendars new 'windows' will open and light up from the

calendar, drop an email to [BraytonParishHall@gmail.com](mailto:BraytonParishHall@gmail.com) by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December if you can, to be allocated a 'date' for your Advent calendar 'door'. We will include a few ideas for decorating and a list of carols to inspire you, but please feel free to let loose your inner creative spirit!

We will ask you to 'open and light up' your Advent 'window' from the date you are allocated and then each evening from 4:00pm to 8:00pm until the 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Once the calendar is set up, we

and over Christmas.

Don't worry if you don't follow Facebook just email the link above to apply and we will make sure you receive all the information you need and a copy of the map by email.

We hope that lots of people take part to make this a successful community event which brightens up our village and brings some Christmas cheer to us all.

**Pat Jarvis  
and Sarah O'Flynn** †

# St Wilfrid's Parish Notices

## Swaziland Globes

I usually collect the Globes during the Autumn, but this year this is a bit tricky with the lock down during November. However I hope to collect the Globes during December, I will telephone those with Globes and then collect from their doorstep.

If anyone else is interested in donating to this worthy cause this can be done by bank transfers or cheque. Give me a call if you are interested in this means of donation

**Lis Middup** (01757 704414)

## Supporting Brayton Parish Online

Thank you to all those ensuring their regular donations are reaching our account – through standing orders, cheques, weekly envelopes etc. Just to remind everyone that we have enabled online giving through GiveALittle for one-off donations of any size. Donations can be made via our website [www.StWilfridsParish.com](http://www.StWilfridsParish.com) or the Parish pages on *A Church Near You*.

Please support our mission and service in the local community. Giving financially to our churches is as valuable now as ever. Although we may not be able to gather physically in worship at the moment, our mission to serve our communities here remains constant, and continues to need resourcing.

As churches we are seeking, as always, to be beacons of Christ's love and hope, offering prayer and various forms of support to meet people's needs during this difficult time. Examples of this include the wonderful work of our Volunteer Support Team; the various fellowship and support groups that are meeting online; and the worship resources we are making available both on and offline. It is the generous giving of others that will enable this mission to continue.

In addition, we continue to have to meet the ongoing costs of maintaining our buildings, paying our utility bills and considering longer term needs (e.g. tower restoration and heating repair).

We recognise that, like us, many other people and organisations are facing financial challenges at this time, but if you are in a position to give something towards enabling our mission and service of our local community to continue, we would be very grateful.

**St Wilfrid's PCC**



It is no use saying that we are born 2000 years too late to give room to Christ... Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.... and giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ.

**Dorothy Day**

# From the Parish Registers

## Funerals

We offer our love and sympathy to the relatives of:

### **23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Edward Slater (86) at St Wilfrid's

### **30<sup>th</sup> October**

(John) David Roe (63) at York Crematorium

Christine (Chris) Hissett (66) at St Wilfrid's

### **6<sup>th</sup> November**

Frank Lloyd George Turner (82) at York Crematorium

### **10<sup>th</sup> November**

Lorna Matking (91) at St Wilfrid's

### **11<sup>th</sup> November**

Eleanor (Nellie) Haynes (94) at St Wilfrid's

### **13<sup>th</sup> November**

Anthony (Tony) Joseph Burns (70) at St Wilfrid's

## Floodlights

The Church floodlights were illuminated on:

### **6<sup>th</sup> November**

In Loving Memory of Eric Chilvers

### **18<sup>th</sup> December**

In Loving Birthday Memories of Elsie Ellis

if you would like the church illuminated to celebrate a birth, baptism, birthday marriage, anniversary, or the life of a loved one please contact Pat Griffiths on 01757 705793

## Methodist Clergy

### **Brayton and Burn Methodist Ministers**

Rev. Philip Macdonald | Olive Grove, Goole, DN14 5AD

philipmacdonald@tiscali.co.uk (01405 765154)

Rev. Peter Barnett | 5 Lynwith Close, Carlton, Goole, DN14 5RR

revpb@revpb.karoo.co.uk (01405 869701)

# St Wilfrid's, Clergy & Officers

## Clergy

Rev. Pete Watson	The Rectory, Doncaster Road, Brayton, YO8 9HE	(01757 704707)
Rev. Rodger Place	rodgerplace17@gmail.com	
Rev. Roy Shaw	revroyshaw@protonmail.com	
Rev. Paul Finlinson	p.finlinson@outlook.com	

## Part-time Assistant Curate

Rev. Hannah Suekarran	hannahsuekarran@gmail.com	(07538 813079)
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## MULTIPLY 20s-40s Leader

Rev. Rob Suekarran	rpsuekarran@gmail.com	(07901 359208)
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## Reader

Jackie Jackman	porgles.pogs@icloud.com	(01757 706475)
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## Church Warden

Pat Jarvis	churchwarden@stwilfridsparish.com	
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## Ministry Team

Mel Allan	(01757 706068)	
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Lynn Allan	(01757 706068)	
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Sue Beevers	(01757 229515)	
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Pat Griffiths	(01757 705793)	
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Joan Howden	(01757 700942)	
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Sheila Newsome	(01757 705497)	
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Claire Nutt	(01757 712206)	
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Carol Sowden	(01757 703590)	
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Gordon Tute	(01757 707123)	
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## Sacristan

Sheila Newsome	(01757 705497)	
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## Officers

### PCC Secretary

Ruth Breeze	(01757 701911) ruthie5611@hotmail.com	
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### Treasurer

Jill Clarke	(01757 708646)	
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### Electoral Roll Officer

Margaret Seager	(07840 817005)	
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### Junior Church

Martha Harrold	(01757 291254)	
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### Friday Fun Club

Cathy Rodgers	(01757 704303)	
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### Parish Safeguarding Representative

Cathy Rodgers	(01757 704303)	
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### Craft Group

Linda Crackles	(01757 704944)	
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### Mothers Union

Lynn Allan	(01757 706068)	
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### Book Club

Rosalind Wilson		
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# St Francis' Clergy & Officers

## Clergy, Thorpe Willoughby Methodist/Anglican Church

Rev. Christine Gillespie	24 Tomlinson Way, Sherburn in Elmet LS25 6EQ	gillespiec39@gmail.com	(01977 682695)
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Rev. Pete Watson	The Rectory, Doncaster Road, Brayton, YO8 9HE		(01757 704707)
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Rev. Rodger Place	rodgerplace17@gmail.com		
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Rev. Roy Shaw	revroyshaw@protonmail.com		
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Rev. Paul Finlinson	p.finlinson@outlook.com		
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(The Revs. Rodger Place, Roy Shaw, and Paul Finlinson have the Archbishop's permission to officiate and we are very grateful for their help in the parish)

## Reader

Jackie Jackman	(01757 706475)	porgles.pogs@icloud.com	
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## Officers

### ECC Secretary

Jan Tetley	(01757 707987) tetleyjan@gmail.com		
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### Child Protection Representative

Jan Tetley	(01757 707987) tetleyjan@gmail.com		
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### Electoral Roll Officer

Shirley Croft	(01757 707380)		
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### Church Coordinator

Shirley Croft	(01757 707380)		
Rosemary Finlinson			

# Service Roster

You are more than welcome to join us in any of the Services in December below

## St Wilfrid's

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:30am Morning Prayer + Coffee & Catch up  
via Zoom

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Holy Communion (Said)  
10:30am Morning Prayer via YouTube

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Morning Prayer + Coffee & Catch up  
via Zoom

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Holy Communion at **St Francis**  
(Said)

10:30am Family Holy Communion via  
Youtube

5pm Alive@5 Christingle at Home Service  
via Zoom

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Morning Prayer + Coffee & Catch up  
via Zoom

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Holy Communion (Said)  
10:30am Celtic Communion via YouTube  
6:00pm Nine Lessons & Carols at Home via  
Zoom

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup>

5pm to 7pm Blue Christmas. Short service  
6pm to 6:30pm

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:30am Morning Prayer + Coffee & Catch up  
via Zoom

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm Crib Service via Zoom  
11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion (Said)

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Holy Communion (Said)  
10:30am Family Holy Communion

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Morning Prayer (Said)  
10:30am Holy Communion via YouTube

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Morning Prayer + Coffee & Catch up  
via Zoom

## St Francis'

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:00am Holy Communion (Said)

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>

10:00am Holy Communion (Said)

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am Holy  
Communion with St Wilfrid's (Said)

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

10:00am Holy Communion (Said)

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

10:00am Holy Communion (Said)

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion  
(Said)

### Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>

10:00am Holy Communion (Said)

## Methodists

### Brayton

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

10:30am Morning Worship

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>

10:30am Morning Worship

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm Carol Service

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)

8:30pm Service of Holy Communion

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)

10:30am Christmas Day worship

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

10:30am Morning Worship

### Burn

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

No service

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>

10:00am Morning Worship

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

No service

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

10:30am United Morning Worship @  
Hambleton

**During the Covid pandemic Services  
may be subject to restrictions.**

**Check the Parish website**

**[www.stwilfridsparish.com](http://www.stwilfridsparish.com),**

**A Church Near You**

**[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18922](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18922)**

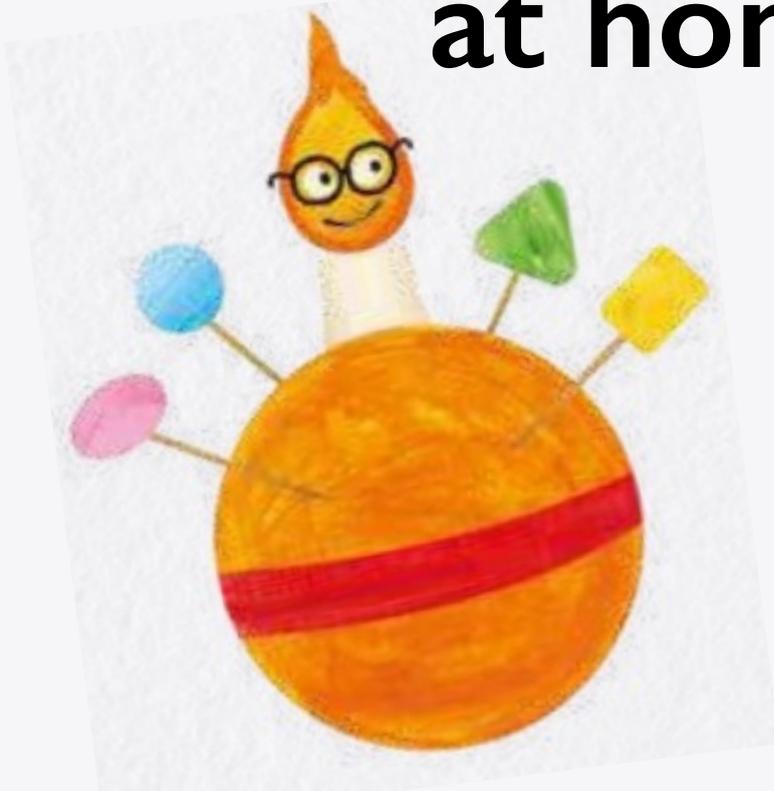
**or FaceBook page**

**[www.facebook.com/stwilfridsbrayton](https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridsbrayton)**

**for further details**

# Christingle

at home



Come and join us as we make our own Christingles, celebrate and have fun together, and support the work of The Children's Society

**Sunday 13th December**

**5-6pm, via Zoom**

Please email [families@stwilfridsparish.com](mailto:families@stwilfridsparish.com) if you plan to join us, so that we can get the Zoom details to you!



# Brayton Post Office

## Brayton Post Office

We are located close to Brayton crossroads in the centre of the village.



We offer the full range of services including Royal Mail Special Delivery and Parcelforce Express. We also offer the Post Office range of financial and insurance products, including the Post Office credit card. If you open an account online or over the telephone with the Post Office please quote Brayton Post Office 3203492 to ensure that we receive the credit for your purchase.



In our retail section we have some great new gift ideas. Scented Candles from the Littlecote Soap Co. and stunning Beach Art handmade glass pendants and silver bracelets. We also stock an extended range of figurines and a good selection of ladies purses and wallets. Our range of greeting cards for all occasions continues to grow, with many cards unavailable outside major towns and cities. Call in and browse our range of Gifts and Cards today.



We are open  
Monday to Friday  
9.00am to 1.00pm and  
2.00pm to 5.30pm,  
and also Saturday  
9.00am to 12.30pm.



01757 702156  
braytonpostoffice@aol.com

...at the ♥ of the Village

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

# Christmas Crafts Update

There is still time to purchase handmade crafts from the St Francis Crafters and St Wilfrid's Craft Group as highlighted last month.

This year I was hoping to add a crocheted Darth Vader to my collection of Star Wars characters. However June tells me that she doesn't do Darth Vader because he's all black and that is the worst colour for crochet and knitting, especially when her eyes are getting a little tired. That's me told! However I did buy some of Sheila's excellent jam, and I understand that my gym mate has bought 20 jars! That's around 72 hours on the cross trainer once the gym reopens for him then...

Overall sales are going well at the time of this article. So if you want anything now is the time for action – telephone Margaret Beal (01757 703892) or Linda Crackles (01757 704944) now!

I've also heard from Pat Griffiths, who has donated some items to the Christmas sale. I photographed the items, but not all of them made it back to Pat; Mrs Clarke opened her purse and some were snapped up. Pat has only a few items for sale as shown. Why not give Pat a call if you would like to buy anything?

John Clarke †



**St Francis Crafters**  
**01757 703892**

**Owl doorstop, height 9”  
width 6.5”, £7.50**



**St Wilfrid's Craft Group**  
**01757 704944**

**Crochet Star Wars  
characters, including  
Yoda, Han Solo and  
C-3PO. 3” to 4” tall. £2  
each**



**Pat Griffiths**  
**01757 705793**

**Cross stitch wall  
decoration £4**



**Pat Griffiths**  
**01757 705793**

**Cross stitch wall  
decoration £4**



**Pat Griffiths**  
**01757 705793**

**Cross stitch cushion,  
13”x13”, £5**





# Services in the Parish of Brayton this Christmas

**Sunday 13th December 5pm**

Christingle Service at Home via Zoom. For more information and a Zoom joining link email [families@stwilfridsparish.com](mailto:families@stwilfridsparish.com)

**Sunday 20th December 6pm**

Nine Lessons & Carols at Home via Zoom

**Monday 21st December 5-7pm**

Blue Christmas, for those who find Christmas hard. Quiet reflection with a short service between 6pm and 6:30pm. (Covid rules permitting)

**Thursday 24th December 6pm**

Crib Service at Home via Zoom

**Thursday 24th December 11:30pm**

Midnight Communion Service (said) @ St Francis. (Covid rules permitting)  
Midnight Communion Service (said) @ St Wilfrid's. (Covid rules permitting)

**Friday 25th December Christmas Day 9:30am**

Communion Service (said) @ St Wilfrid's. (Covid rules permitting)

**Friday 25th December Christmas Day 10:30am**

YouTube Family Communion (YouTube: [BraytonParishSelby](https://www.youtube.com/BraytonParishSelby))

**We really look forward to celebrating Christmas with you!**

**Zoom Services:** for more information and a joining link email [rector@stwilfridsparish.com](mailto:rector@stwilfridsparish.com)

