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Parish Magazine

St Paul's Church • Dosthill
December 2020



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Silent Night

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

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent	First	Christmas	Young	Melody
Night	Sung	Eve	Priest	Single
Loved	Stille	Father	Organist	Bing
Carol	Nacht	Joseph	Midnight	Version
Austria	Heilige	Mohr	Mass	Third

On reflection

Hello everyone, are you feeling a few twinkles short of a glitter? Then here's some comfort and joy.

I expect you've heard this Christmas joke before. Three wise women followed the star to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus. They didn't get lost on the way because they stopped at an oasis to ask for directions. They brought appropriate gifts like nappies. They cleaned the stable and fed the animals.

There were really only wisemen at the first Christmas, as I'm sure you know. The gifts given show who the baby was; gold- a king, frankincense- a priest and myrrh- a sacrifice (nappies -a human being!) Who and what was this baby who got such gifts? Was this baby just one of the billions of babies born to ordinary families who we choose to represent all babies? We hear the Christmas story year after year and perhaps we know the story too well and have stopped pondering on it in our hearts. Familiarity with it may have deadened our ability to hear what the story of that first Christmas is saying to us.

This is what the story is telling us; God became a human being, a baby, became one of us, became the person we know as Jesus. If you want to know who the true God is, look long and hard at Jesus. He didn't stay at arm's length, he got stuck in and came to rescue us by doing something wonderful: becoming human just like us and so the baby Jesus was born.

Joan Peacock,
Lay Reader



It is this Jesus, fully God and fully human, who still comes to us today. He comes to where we are, whoever we are, whatever we're like, whatever the circumstances both when we're well and happy and when we're distressed. Jesus is the living, saving God, here with us, like us in every respect and able to help us. When man made possibilities have run out, he offers us a new way forward.

And we don't need to perform a mental conjuring trick to believe that Jesus is the supreme God, we just need to swear allegiance to him. So, like the wise men, come to him by whatever route you can and with the best gifts you can find. You don't have to be born into a particular family or part of the world to do this. God wants people everywhere to be born into the family that began with Jesus.

Let's turn these thoughts in our hearts, turn them this way and that, let Jesus shout across our dreams and nightmares. Jesus the Friend above all friends is coming this Christmas to meet you.

These are the tidings of comfort and joy.
Love Joan

With thanks to Tom Wright

Here's a link to a Christmas video for you to watch. It lasts just a few minutes.

<https://youtu.be/lxC5ypIWUkk>

Youtube The Characters of Christmas

Wardens' Update



We hope you are all well and keeping up with the changes.

Unfortunately, last month was back to square one; after all the best laid plans for services in November, they all had to be cancelled because of the lockdown brought in by the Government.

However, we did manage to have an outdoor service for Remembrance Sunday.

This was mainly for the people taking part in the service and we are very sorry that we were not able to open it up to the church in general to come and take part; but it was not possible due to Government regulations. We were however able to live stream the service. In fact, I heard that somebody who was a former resident of the parish was able to receive the service in Hong Kong. So, this did mean that many of the congregation were able to see the service. Our thanks to Mark and Carolyn for leading our act of Remembrance to Joanne for playing the Last Post, to Rachel for acting as standard bearer, to representatives of the youth organisations and to Simon Gordon for live streaming the service.

So, last month it was back to private prayer on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings. We are hoping that restrictions will be eased on 2nd December and if that does happen, then we hope that we will be able to do the services that are planned for December which you can see on the page opposite. We also hope that some of

these could be live-streamed. Please look on Facebook and the church notice board for information on this.

Thanks to Mark for continuing to lead the online evening services.

Our 11.00 a.m. Zoom services continued in November, with good regular attendance and the young people taking an active part in prayer and readings.

The Youth and Children Group have continued to be in contact via Zoom and social media, enjoying an online film evening and bake off.

We do hope it will be possible to have some open tabletop sales next month.

If you would like to buy raffle tickets for our Christmas draw, please phone David/ Louise Lawrence on 01827 285421. All proceeds will go to church funds.

Lots of lovely prizes; the draw will take place on Saturday 12th December.

On Friday 4th December, the church Christmas tree will be delivered. During the following week it will be put up outside, in front of the church, where everyone will be able to share as it brings a little light into the community.

Please check our Facebook page or the church notice board for any changes that may be brought about due to Government regulations.

God Bless, Roy and Pauline

December Services in Church

6th	Evening service	6.30pm
13th	Christingle	10.30am
20th	Carols	6.30pm
24th	Christmas Eve	11.30pm
25th	Christmas Day	10.30am
27th	TBC	9.00am

Please contact the Wardens to book and for further details

(phone numbers on back page)



News & Views

Monica's Thanks

Well hello to my church friends, another month gone by! This lockdown is so stressful, not knowing when it will all end, but thanks to our evening prayer on Sunday nights it helps so much so thank you to everyone who has contributed to this. God bless all and hope you have a great Christmas and roll on 2021 for a better time for us all. Best wishes
Monica Ward x.

St Paul's Y&C

The youth group have been meeting on Fridays via Zoom during November and have had some fun evenings to come together in friendship and grow in God's



love. The activities kicked off on 31st October with a Light Party and since then have enjoyed a Kahoot quiz, a Netflix Party film night and a baking challenge where the children constructed an edible St Paul's! **Simon Gordon**





Remembrance Sunday

A few photos from last month's behind closed doors Remembrance service. Many thanks to Dave Peace for the photos.

This was also the first time we tried a Facebook live broadcast so people could join us virtually, whilst not able to attend in person due to government guidelines. The figures are quite astonishing for a first attempt: 27 people watched along live, with the video being clicked to watch a total of 72 times, it reached many more people though receiving 198 likes, 1900 (at least) 3 second views and in total reached the timelines of 3000 people!



Standard bearer Rachel Bishop and cornet player Joanne Fisher at the Service of Remembrance.



A Service of Remembrance at Dosthill. Led by Curate the Rev Mark Waterstreet.



A short Service of remembrance was held at the war memorial at St Paul's Church, Dosthill.



Dosthill and Two Gates Residents' Association and Dosthill WI

Hello everyone! As we approach the end of this strange and memorable year, we thought we'd join forces again to update you on a couple of things.

You will know that, since the Spring, we've been lucky to have a beautiful Fairy Glen in The Broom, which was the brainchild of Sue Hollis and her Husband Pete. Using logs cut from a fallen tree, Dosthill children and their families made over 180 fabulous fairy houses, many of which were dedicated to the NHS. They really brought our community together and cheered everyone up!

Due to Covid-19, there was no Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) In Bloom campaign this year. Instead, we were invited to submit information and photos of a community gardening initiative that we were proud of. Our Fairy Glen fitted this perfectly, so we entered, and are pleased to report that we've received recognition for our hard work from the RHS and also Heart of England in Bloom. We received four Certificates in total, two of which are on our Community Noticeboard at the Co-op on the High Street.

So, a very big 'Well done and thank you' to Sue, Pete, and all those who made this happen! You can still see the Fairy Glen alongside other features in The Broom, so why not go and take a look?

Finally, again, due to Covid-19, we've been unable to meet properly since February and have sadly missed out on so many of our events and fundraising activities. We've recently decided that we will not be taking part in this years Rotary Club of Tamworth Santa Sleigh Appeal, which is such a shame. We do however wish them well with their fundraising for the many worthwhile causes in Tamworth.

We pray that 2021 will be kinder to us all. We do hope that everyone manages to have a Happy Christmas and that our families can be together. Take care everyone and stay safe. **Julie Ward**

A Christmas thought from the other side of the world.

A picture of St Paul's – but not the same St Paul's as we know it.

St Paul's Anglican Church is in Paihia, New Zealand, set in a peaceful location in the picturesque Bay of Islands.

Pauline and David Peace spent a few quiet moments in this church during their travels in 2014. It serves to remind us at this time that Christmas is celebrated all around the world. **Pauline and David Peace**



Countdown to Christmas



There's something very special about the Advent Sundays leading up to when Jesus was born. Join in with these activities as we prepare for and celebrate Christmas – and as we remember the Comfort and Joy that Jesus brings to us all.



Comfort
and Joy

Date	What brings joy today?	Who needs comfort today?
29th Nov, the First Sunday of Advent	Counting down with excitement Look at your Advent Calendar – just 2 days until you can open the first door! Give a jump for joy or fist bump your family at the excitement of looking forward.	Those who are anxious about Christmas Look at the floor. Some people are anxious about Christmas. Ask God to be close to them in the coming days.
6th Dec, the Second Sunday of Advent	Being able to give presents to others Christians sometimes call Jesus 'God's gift to us' – that's why we give gifts to each other at Christmas. Make a list of the people your family will give gifts to this Christmas. Thank God for each person.	Those worried about money Christmas can be expensive. Some people are worried that they do not have enough money for gifts or food. Could your family help by giving a gift to your local foodbank?
13th Dec, the Third Sunday of Advent	Access to water Count the number of taps in your home. Pour yourself a glass of water and give thanks for access to clean water for washing, cooking, drinking, and cleaning. 	Children of the world Pour a glass of water. Add a teaspoon of mud to it, stir and place it in your kitchen. In some parts of the world children only have access to water like this. Each time you see your glass today, pray for agencies like Water Aid, trying to bring clean water to children across the world.
20th Dec, the Fourth Sunday of Advent	Health and people who care Draw a rainbow. Around it write the names of your local doctors, hospitals and pharmacies. Colour a heart by each one to show you are thankful for them.	People who are feeling sad Find a sticking plaster. Draw a sad face on it. Stick the plaster onto your bathroom mirror to remind you to pray for people who are sick or sad.
Carol Service	The gift of music What's your favourite Christmas Carol? Record your family singing it and send it to your wider family and friends.	Those who can't get to church Some people will be sad that they can't go to a carol service. Make a poster of your favourite carol to put in the window to cheer everyone up. 
Christmas Eve	Everything that makes Christmas exciting Gather round your Christmas tree and look at the decorations. Tell each other which is your favourite and why. 	Those who are home alone Do you know someone who will be home alone this Christmas? Surprise them with a phone or video call.
Christmas Day	The gift of God's love in Jesus Today we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Light a candle (safely) and sing Happy Birthday for Jesus before you open your presents. (Remember to blow the candle out!)	People who have no homes Some people don't have their own homes where they can celebrate Christmas. Pray for charities like Crisis who will provide safe space for them to eat and sleep today. 

Lynn's Recipes



As we approach Christmas in the knowledge of the governments latest rules for socialising, I'm positive that many of you will be struggling with knowing there will be family members and friends that you will be unable to see during the festive period. Therefore, as promised last month, what better way of saying,

"I'm sorry I can't be with you, but here is a homemade Christmas treat for you to enjoy, knowing that it is made with love for you", and for you to actually cook or bake the following, then package and leave them on your loved ones doorstep, in the hope that next year you will be able to spend quality time with them.

Clear bags for packaging, which are easily purchased online or possibly from the Range, Morrisons or Hobbycraft, and some pretty ribbon to secure the bag, and a label is all you need. I hope you have a go, as I know your thought and efforts will be appreciated and you may even have something left on your doorstep in return.

I want to wish you all the happiest Christmas you can have, but mainly to stay safe and well and let us all pray and hope for a much better 2021. Love to you all, Lynn

I love Biscotti, especially dipped into a lovely cup of coffee. It can be quite expensive to buy but a lot cheaper to bake. It lasts in an airtight container for up to a month so these would make a lovely gift.

Hazelnut & Orange Biscotti

Makes 24-30

250g plain flour

1/2tsp baking powder

240g caster sugar

3 medium free range eggs beaten

200g chopped hazelnuts

Zest of one large orange

1. Preheat the oven to 150c fan/gas mark 3 and line a large baking tray with parchment
2. Mix together the flour, baking powder and sugar in a bowl then add the eggs slowly to form a dough. Mix in the nuts and orange zest.
3. On a lightly floured surface knead the mixture gently and divide into two. Roll into logs, each approximately 25cm long. Place on the lined baking tray and bake for 25mins.
4. Remove from the oven, leave to cool slightly then cut each log into 1.5-2cm thick slices. Lay the slices on the baking tray.

5. Return the tray to the oven and bake for another 5-7mins. Turn over and continue to bake for another 5-7 mins until golden brown. Remove and cool on a wire rack. Package when completely cold.

Pistachio & Cranberry Cookies

I make these every year as they are easy and loved by all.

175g softened butter
85g golden caster sugar
1/2tsp vanilla extract
225g plain flour
75g pistachios
75g dried cranberries. (Or 75g each of chopped dark chocolate & dried cherries)

1. Mix together the butter, sugar and extract with a wooden spoon, stir in the flour, then tip in the nuts and cranberries. Use your hand to bring together as a dough. Halve the dough and shape each half into a log about 5cm across. Wrap in cling film then chill for 1hr or freeze for up to 3 months. Defrost in a fridge overnight then slice as below.
2. Heat oven to 160c fan/gas 4. Slice the logs into 1cm thick round, place on a baking tray lined with baking parchment and bake for 12-15mins or until just golden. Don't overcook! Cool completely on a tray then keep in an airtight tin and package when needed.

Chocolate & Brandy Truffles

Now we're talking! These are simply delicious, slightly messy to make but well worth it.

Makes about 450g in weight

100g good quality cooking chocolate (with at least 50% cocoa solids)
100g unsalted butter
275g sifted icing sugar
2tsps brandy (Or whiskey or Baileys)
Chocolate vermicelli, or smashed cadbury flake or finely chopped nuts or cocoa powder

1. Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a bowl of hot water
2. Cream together the chocolate with the icing sugar and butter.
3. Flavour with the alcohol then place in the fridge to chill for 40mins
4. Take out then form into small balls with teaspoons or fingers.
5. Roll the in your chosen coating and place into small paper cases and allow to harden in the fridge for a few hours.
6. Package when ready in bags or preferably small boxes and tell the lucky recipient to keep them in the fridge until eaten.

You could do several batches and change your alcohol in each. Don't forget to save some for yourself, you know you're worth it.

Happy Christmas x

Poetry Corner



by Bryan Choules

The Gift

What a wondrous gift we have
The world's for all to share,
A gift from God given with his love
So much beauty everywhere.
The ebb and flow of the oceans
The rising of the sun,
The joy when a little child is born
A new life has begun.

The vastness of the universe
What mysteries it holds,
The miracles that surround us
As each new day unfolds.
The enchantment of the night sky
Studded with stars above,
And Venus in her silver gown
The goddess of peace and love.

The joyful essence of nature
As the seasons come and go,
The forests annual colour show
Winter's glistening snow.
As the days grow longer we hear
The footsteps of approaching spring,
And very soon that morning glow
Only the summer sun can bring.

The beauty of a floweret
Gentle raindrops in the night,
The colours of a rainbow
A springtime morn so bright.
The world's so incredibly beautiful
Who could wish for more,
The inner joy it brings us
Makes hearts and spirits soar.

No sweeter music can compare
With the rippling of a stream,
As its timeless waters drift away
Like the memory of a dream.
As the world lies silently about us
Let your thoughts drift slowly away,
Life is just a moment in time
So treasure every day.

The print version of last month's issue was missing the last couple of verses, so here it is again with apologies to Bryan.

The Christmas Story

Beneath the boughs of glistening trees
In the swiftly fading light,
The plaintive cry of a distant owl
Breaks the eerie silence of the night.
As snowflakes gently drift to earth
Beneath the frosty sky,
And settle on the frozen ground
As silent as a sigh.

Memories of a winter's night
In a stable all forlorn,
In the little town of bethlehem
Where a baby boy was born.
This is the Christmas story
Well known to one and all,
That little child, the son of God
Lying in a humble stall.

Ring out, ring out joyous bells
Let all the church bells chime,
Ring out, ring out across the land
Ring out at Christmas time.
Carry your message far and wide
For everyone to hear,
Peel out your songs of peace and joy
Ring out loud and clear.

For now's the time to celebrate
It's Christmas time once more,
With Holly wreaths and mistletoe
Jack frost knocking at the door.
Gifts beneath the Christmas tree
Chestnuts roasting by the fire,
Greeting cards, the midnight Mass
Sweet singing by the choir.

Christmas is that special time
For everyone to share,
A time for giving hope and joy
To show the world we care.
Memories of times gone by
Warm thoughts to lift your heart
Bring deep peace and contentment
Go forward with hope in your heart.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!!

All in the month of December

from Parish Pump

It was:

400 years ago, on 21st December 1620 that the first landing party from the British ship Mayflower arrived at what would become Plymouth Colony (now Plymouth Massachusetts). They began building houses there two days later.

250 years ago, on 16th December 1770 that Ludwig van Beethoven, German composer and pianist was born.

80 years ago, on 29th December 1940 that Germany dropped thousands of incendiary bombs on London, causing the worst fire damage since the Great Fire of London in 1666. About 200 people were killed.

75 years ago, on 27th December 1945 that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were formally founded.

65 years ago, on 1st December 1955 that African American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama, violating the city's racial segregation laws. This incident led to the birth of the modern American civil rights movement.

60 years ago, on 9th December 1960 that the first episode of the television

soap opera Coronation Street was broadcast in the UK.

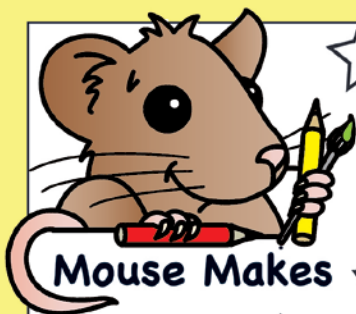
40 years ago, on 8th December 1980 that John Lennon, rock musician and peace activist and a member of the Beatles, was shot dead, aged 40, outside his New York City apartment by Mark Chapman, a deranged fan.

30 years ago, on 1st December 1990 that British and French construction workers on the Channel Tunnel broke through the last wall of rock separating the two halves, and Britain and France were linked for the first time in thousands of years.

25 years ago, on 13th December 1995 that the Brixton riot took place in south London. Hundreds of youths rioted on the streets following the death of a black man in police custody.

20 years ago, on 13th December 2000 that George W Bush finally claimed the US presidency, 36 days after the election was held, following a legal battle over disputed votes in Florida.

15 years ago, on 19th December 2005 that the Civil Partnership Act came into effect in the UK. The first civil partnership under the act was formed in Belfast, that same day. The first in England and Wales were on 21st December.



"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom
God is pleased".*

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas
story in Luke
1:1 - 2:21



A picture to colour
for Christmas. Colour in
one star each day as you
count down to Christmas!

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Church and Worship Online

Check on St Paul's Facebook Page and Youtube, if you can, for our weekly Sunday Evening Prayer Service.



tinyurl.com/stpaulsdosthill



facebook.com/stpaulsdosthill

There are also weekly services on the Church of England website:

www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online



Our Sunday Services

See page 5 for the latest details

November

Funerals

3 Bridie Murphy

6 Raymond Darkes

16 Patricia Ellis

26 Paul Matthews

Contact

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Curate

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Lay Readers

Carolyn Baker

01827 703541

Joan Peacock

01827 282850

Church Wardens
Roy Baker

01827 703541

Pauline Peace

(contact for hiring Norman Chapel)
01827 250676

Editor

Simon Gordon

07779 364303
simonjgordon@ntlworld.com

November's solution:

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

Article submission deadline:

3rd Friday of the month please

Quick Sudoku: Solution in next issue

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

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