

Harnham

PARISH CHURCHES

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

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DECEMBER 2024

50p

Living, Learning and Loving through Christ

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for visiting, reflection and prayer.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, LOWER STREET, SP2 8EZ

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, HARNHAM ROAD, SP2 8JH

Sunday Services in December (For Christmas see page 11)

1st	Advent Sunday and Gift Service	All Saints	10am
8th	Said Communion	All Saints	8am
	United Sung Communion	St Georges	10am
	Messy Church Christingle Service	St Georges	3pm
15th	United Sung Communion	All Saints	10am
22nd	Said Communion (BCP)	All Saints	8am
	United Sung Communion	St Georges	10am
	Parish Carol Service	All Saints	6.30pm
29th	Said Communion and Poetry	St Georges	10am

For lifts to church services or church events at St George's or All Saints
contact the Parish Lifts Scheme Coordinator

Pat Clegg - Harnhamparishlifts24@gmail.com. Tel: 07450 217091

Messy Church in the Parish Hall on 2nd Sunday 3pm - 4.30pm

Morning Prayer in All Saints' Churchyard every Tuesday at 9am
and in St George's Church every Wednesday at 9am

Pause for Prosecco in Parish Hall Meeting Room on 2nd Thursday at 7.30pm

Supporting the Parish online

We now have an online giving facility, so you can make donations from the comfort of your home (and Gift Aid them too)!

If you go to www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/harnhamparishchurches you can make a one-off donation with a credit or debit card, or set up a monthly direct debit. Scan the QR code below with your phone to go straight to the Parish online giving page

Of course you can still drop a cheque payable to Harnham PCC into the Parish Office, or make a bank transfer to Harnham PCC, sort code: 30-97-41 account no: 00557482. A reference would be helpful ie donation for general funds, hall fundraising etc.

**Views expressed in this magazine
are not necessarily those of the PCC
or staff of the Parish nor the production team.**

Some items in the magazine courtesy
The Parish Pump website

The paper used for this magazine is
PEFC Certified (www.pefc.org)
www.ecolabel.eu



From Katy Carter LLM



Dear Friends,

I wonder what Christmas means to you?

Perhaps it brings back memories of childhood – of going to see Father Christmas, of school nativity plays and carol singers knocking at your door, of Christmas day with family and the excitement and expectation of opening your presents.

Perhaps it means endlessly trying to find just the *right* present for all those family and friends you have to buy for. Perhaps it means a continual round of shopping for all that food which you don't actually need. Or, like the rest of the year, struggling to make ends meet.

Perhaps it means constantly checking the diary to make sure you're in the right place at the right time. With so many things happening in Church and in the community – not to mention the family, I know it's something I find myself doing a great deal at this time of the year! The weeks leading up to Christmas are invariably busy for most of us.

And I hope that for you it means too the opportunity to experience once more the wonder, awe and mystery of Christ's birth in that meagre stable in Bethlehem; to rejoice at God's coming to earth and his never-ending love for the whole of mankind.

Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas, should be one of the most joyful times of year, but it can become one of the most stressful. It's a season loaded with expectation, but sadly it can also be overtaken with disappointment or grief. It can become a time when all the demands and expectations that we experience each day can reach a peak.

Regularly at this time of the year I search my bookcase for a small book which was first published way back in 2008. It's written by the then Bishop of Reading and currently Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell and has the intriguing title 'Do Nothing Christmas is Coming'. Described as 'an advent calendar with a difference' the book doesn't literally advocate doing nothing, but suggests short, practical steps to help us slow down, take time out each day and resist the pressure of the Christmas whirl.

If you're feeling stressed at this time of year, take some time out and remember that Advent is not really about shopping for presents, decorating the tree, sending cards, enjoying parties and making lists. What it's really about is expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, joyful preparation and welcoming God into our lives each and every day.

Happy Christmas

With love

Advent in Harnham

There will be three talks around the theme of DO NOT BE AFRAID followed by a simple Compline, with singers, beginning at 8pm in St George's on Tuesdays in Advent.

December 3rd Canon Anne Long and Neil Turpin

'Fear Not. Fear the Lord.' What does fear of the Lord mean? Is it right that we do or don't?

December 10th Revd Michael Camp.

'Blessed are you Lord God of Israel for you have come to your people to set them free.' What does this mean in worship and life? Can we be free from fear?

December 17th Jacqui Brown and Katy Carter .

And the Angel Gabriel said 'Do not be afraid.' How can we listen to one another when there is fear-mongering?

Compline

During Advent we will be live-streaming Compline on YouTube Monday to Saturday at 8pm.

Please feel free to join us on the Harnham Parish YouTube channel at 8pm, or watch the recording at a later time.

If there are any specific prayers you would like us to include, please send a message to Matthew Stone (contact details on the back page).

December 1st - Advent Sunday

United Communion Service at All Saints 10am

This Sunday will also be our Gift Sunday when we collect Gift Vouchers to support the Salisbury Women's Refuge.

We are again collecting Gift Vouchers from supermarkets, chemists such as Superdrug or Boots, clothes shops etc for the Women's Refuge where they can be used as Christmas presents and throughout the year for the residents.

Please donate them in either £5 or £10 pounds denomination. They can be brought to the service or posted through the Parish Office door. Thank you.

Reverend Mike Badger

Revd Mike's last Sunday with us in Harnham will be December 22nd. He will be leading a special 10.00am United Communion Service at St George's.

If you would like to make a small donation towards a farewell present please donate in an envelope marked 'Mike's leaving donation' through the Parish Office door or in an envelope clearly marked and given to one of the wardens.

Services in December

Please note that throughout December there will be a united Communion service each Sunday at 10am alternating between the two churches. Please see inside front cover for full details.

The Epiphany service on January 5th will also be a United Communion also at 10am at All Saints.

Beer and Carols

Thursday December 12th at 7pm The Old Mill, Town Path.

Once again we will be meeting at the Old Mill for a fun outdoor carol singing event with traditional and modern carols and Christmas songs. Why not come along, grab a beer or special drink at the outdoor bar and join in.

Singers to lead the carols are especially welcome and if you would like to be part of a small group to that end we will be meeting at All Saints on Saturday 7th December at 10am for a short 'practice'. Do come along if you can.

Carols in the Care Homes

It is planned to visit our three homes to sing carols in the first week of December.

At the time of printing Harnham Croft has been arranged for Sunday 1st at 1.30pm and Brympton on Friday 6th at 11am. Willowcroft has still to be finalised.

Anyone would be welcome to join us to lead the singing.

Please see weekly notices for further information.



FIRST WEDNESDAY TALKS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4TH AT 7.30 PM

We round off our 2024 series of Wednesday Talks with our very own Malcolm Sturgess who will enchant us with " A HISTORY OF CAROLS ". Much audience participation, with some wine, a festive Advent atmosphere and a few surprises!

Don't miss it.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

And so our First Wednesday Talks come to an end.

Will there be more next year ? It really depends on whether someone comes forward to be the new Organiser. Please volunteer for this little job - much help and support will be given but we do need a volunteer NOW if a good programme is to be arranged. Don't be bashful - it could be YOU ! What are you waiting for ?

J. M. DAVIDSON

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Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

At our meeting held in October, Liz Goater led a lively discussion about what had encouraged members to join Mothers' Union and what we valued about it. We welcomed Lucy to the meeting, a member from Nigeria, who has been staying in Harnham with her daughter and family for a couple of months. She talked about the MU and how it was important and much valued in her country. Whilst staying here Lucy has joined in the life of our parish for Morning Prayer and on a Sunday and we wish her God's Blessing as she returns to Nigeria.

Mothers' Union will be 150 years old in 2026 and our branch will be 131 years old that year. There was much discussion about how we should celebrate the occasion.

Dates for your Diary.....

16 days of Activism against Gender Based violence continues until Dec10th.

**Friday December 13th at 2.30pm Christmas Meeting in the Parish Hall.
N.B. Friday**

This will be a service of Carols and Readings led by Canon Michael Goater, followed by Christmas Tea. All are welcome to join us for this whether members or not.

If you require transport, please contact Katharine Callard on 01722 501200.

As we face a future of uncertainty with the threats of climate change, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East let us look forward in hope to the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas time and that we may find joy and happiness in our lives. I wish you, your families and friends a happy and peaceful Christmas.

With love
Pat Davidson

Angel Tree Project

Volunteers wanted to wrap Christmas presents for Angel Tree, a charity that sends present to prisoners' children. We will be doing this in the Meeting Room on Friday 6th December between 2pm and 4 pm. All welcome to join us. Bring your own scissors. Email lizgoater@hotmail.com to let her know you are coming or just turn up on the day.

Angel Tree, in partnership with the charity Prison Fellowship, supports prisoners by funding Christmas presents that are sent to their child or children. This is a charity supported by the Mothers' Union nationally whose members fundraise, purchase, wrap and post the presents.



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ECO CHURCH

“Unity is the only hope for our world”

As we look forward to celebrating Christmas, with all the ‘hope’ the Christ-child brings, let me share information, which is full of hope for our planet.

I have written previously about the ‘Earthshot Prize’ organisation, which has now announced the 15 winners for 2024. They are young pioneering visionary people from across the world, who have set up projects, which will either revive and restore our oceans, work towards constructing a waste free world, protect and restore nature or work towards clean air for all.

I expect some of you, like me, may feel the mighty Amazon has almost reached a tipping point of no return and contemplated the dire consequences for humanity. So, I was particularly drawn to ASHA ‘The Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance’, which is transitioning the Amazon from an ‘extractive economy’, with all the logging of timber, the mining, the extraction of oil, to a ‘regenerative bioeconomy’.

Since its inception in 2017, ASHA now has 28 member organisations, most of which are indigenous groups from Ecuador and Peru. Their vision includes pathways to improve livelihoods, safeguard collective land rights, and strengthen indigenous territorial governance.

Let us reflect on the wisdom of these indigenous people, who have always seen themselves as defenders and guardians of the natural ecosystem. Many of these people have spiritual connections with their waterfalls, mountains, trees and rivers, and feel they are united with them, as they live their lives in harmony with the natural world. They see the intruders into their land as having no understanding or awareness of their spiritual connectedness, and have no respect for Mother Earth.

ASHA has two prongs. One is a nature-based economy as it works with these guardians of the rainforest, who have already reforested 160,000 plants across ten communities. They continue to offer programmes on territorial monitoring and governance, food security, sustainable livelihoods, inter-cultural health and education, and renewable energy. The second is ‘EVA, the Living School of the Amazon, which aims to equip the next generation with the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to tackle the region’s challenges. Graduates receive certification in governance, human rights, and ancestral knowledge. Some of the first 30 graduates are already serving in positions of leadership at both local and regional levels. There are more than 40 new scholarship students currently enrolled in this year’s programme.

The funding from the Earthshot prize will help projects such as this to ‘transform the world for good’, as they are full of possibility, hope and optimism. As one of the indigenous leaders has said ‘Unity is the only hope for our world’.

May our gift for the world this Christmas be to live in unity with ‘all God’s creation’.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 22nd December

Parish Carol Service with guest choir
All Saints 6.30pm

A service of lessons and carols service with guest choir.



Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

'Blue Christmas'
St George's 4pm



A reflective service, with beautiful music and candles for those who find Christmas difficult. We gather to remember a loved one or a difficult situation as Christmas nears.

All Age Nativity service with carols
All Saints 4pm

An interactive fun Nativity service with carols and songs and some dressing up! Pop along for the pop up Nativity.



Midnight Mass with carols
St George's 11pm (note time)

The first communion of Christmas Day.

Wednesday 25th December

All Age Communion with carols and children's talk.



St George's 9.30am
All Saints 11.00am

All Welcome.

Messy CHURCH

A fun time for families.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Fun, Craft, Food, Songs, Bible Stories
A Christingle Celebration.

St George's Church, Lower Street, Harnham.

Sunday 8th December
3 to 4.30 pm

For further information contact :
The Parish Office at 07925 108856 or harnhamparish@btinternet.com

Harnham
PARISH CHURCHES
Registered Charity No. 1193768

ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

Living, Learning and Loving through Christ

Recycling at Harnham Parish Hall Update

Thank you to everyone who has recycled for Medic to Medic (M2M) at Harnham Parish Hall over the past year. The amount of material recycled continues to increase which is great news for both M2M raising funds to support students training to be Health Care Professionals in Malawi and for the Planet reducing the amount of landfill.

If you have been using the facility lately you will have noticed several changes. This is due to changes to the terracycling that companies will accept from M2M. There are several items we can no longer accept; these include Pens, and other writing implements and Plastic coffee packaging apart from Individual Cup Sachets. Pens are accepted at Rymans in Salisbury so please continue to collect and recycle there.

To replace those items, we now accept old cables and plugs, Marigold and disposable gloves and Kinder packaging. A full list of accepted items can be found below.

Please only recycle those items on the list below. Please note we cannot take Toothpaste tubes (accepted by Boots Salisbury and you can earn points in return) Crisp, Popcorn, Pretzel or Nut packets, Vegetable/Pet Food plastic bags, (which can be recycled at larger supermarkets), Confectionary wrappers or Deodorants.

Items that can be Recycled at Harnham Parish Hall

Bread plastic bags, Warburton wax bags and all bread product packaging. (crumb free and left flat)

Dental Products - any toothbrushes/heads, interdental sticks/brushes, empty floss containers

Beauty, make up, personal care, moisturiser and skin care plastic packaging - any brand.

Biscuit, Sweet and Crackers any brand, All Jacobs and Mc Vities packaging including Twiglets and Mini Cheddars. All brands of cake bar wrappers, Sreen loaves, Cereal Bar and flapjack wrappers.

Kinder Packaging and Toys

Individual Cup Coffee packaging, All brands of plastic large bags of Tea bag and loose tea packaging

Laundry and Home cleaning packaging - any brand

Disposable and Marigold gloves

Cables and Plugs

A wider range of products can be recycled at Hollows Close and Coombe Rd in Harnham and for a full list of products and recycling points and other relevant information please visit <https://www.facebook.com/recycle4m2msalisbury/>

Keep Recycling and thank you.

Annette Phillips October 2024

Post Early for Christmas

Post Boxes will remain in both churches until Wednesday December 4th so you can post cards when churches are open (8.30am until dusk).

For last minute stamp requirements please ring me on 01722 421882.

Ian Davidson

St George's Sunday Coffee

Since we began serving coffee after the morning service in August of last year, not only have we enjoyed the chance to chat to old friends and make new ones, but thanks to the donations (and the generosity of the coffee team who rarely claim their expenses), we have been able to donate £340 to Church funds as well as paying for the coffee used.

A special thank you to the coffee team!

Katharine Callard

Salisbury South Sudan Medical Link

invite you to a Christmas Fundraising event 'An Evening with Call the Midwife'.

Stephen 'Dr Turner' McGann and series creator Heidi Thomas OBE share behind the scene stories and pictures from the beloved show.

Saturday December 7th at St Francis Church at 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Tickets £20 to include a complimentary drink
from SalisburySudanML@salisbury.anglican.org

Magazine Pricing Changes

As from the January 2025 edition the magazine cover price will rise to £1.

The annual subscription will rise by three pounds to £8 including free delivery.

If you would like to start an annual subscription please email your name and address to Mrs Pam Ashley - pamelakashley@hotmail.com



Please Note

The deadline date for items for
the January magazine
Is SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER.

It will be assembled for distribution
on Tuesday 17th December

A BUMPER YEAR FOR FUN AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS!

Do think back over the past year, and celebrate the fun we've had in our local community while raising over £11,000 for Parish funds.

Isn't it great to have events and activities that draw people of all ages from across our community, and beyond, to build friendships, bring smiles to children's faces, spark new interests, provide entertainment, offer bargains and unexpected prizes – and raise funds!

Outstanding, as lively community events, have been the monthly First Wednesday Talks, organised with such care and imagination by Michael Turner, supported by the Social Committee and a stream of generous wine sponsors. The amazing array of local but so varied speakers has been greatly enjoyed by a very loyal group of people from across our community. Then in November a cast of 18 pooled their talents to present an unrehearsed but moving reading of *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas, followed by a spirited presentation of an amusing short play by Saki, *The Baker's Dozen*. The funds raised by the end of the year should reach a brilliant £4,500.

Music was another popular focus, with a stimulating Organ Recital in All Saints in June, once again featuring the current Organ Scholar at the Cathedral, this year Benjamin Mills, and a varied concert of a *capella* music in July brought to us by Noteworthy, a talented group including our very own Revd Julian. All Saints Church also hosted a two week event in Salisbury's Art Trail, which showcased local artists and craftworkers, and encouraged people to drop in and see a 'living church' in action.

We were treated to two more Vicarage Quizzes, on Shrove Tuesday and at Harvest, masterminded by Neil Turpin as Quizmaster and Revd Becky as Caterer/Organiser, and in September, Richard and Julie Scott kindly opened up their beautiful garden for all to enjoy.

Much fun was had by all, in beautiful sunshine, at our annual 'We Love Harnham' Fun Day and Parish Fete, in July, which was again organised with generous support from Salisbury City Council and Wiltshire Council Housing. It was a great family day out, with the climbing wall and Dion and his children's disco as star attractions. The stalls, sideshows, refreshments and donations on the gate raised a brilliant £3,300 towards the fundraising total for the year.

The experimental Table Top Sale we held in September attracted a lot of interest from sellers, many of whom were pleased with what they made and want to come again! And we also managed to find homes for some of the books and bric-a-brac left over from the Fete!

Finally there was the Twilight Winter Fair on Saturday 2nd November in the Parish Hall, with crafts, art, refreshments, various stalls and musical entertainment by Maere Folk and the Salisbury Pluckers to warm the soul.

So a huge thank you to everyone who organised, baked, served, set up tables and chairs, or helped in other ways. You know who you are! But it is true to say

that much of the organisation falls on a few shoulders, often people also directly involved in carrying other responsibilities within the churches – CAN YOU HELP SPREAD THE LOAD, AND HAVE FUN AT THE SAME TIME?

We need to put together a similar programme of events for 2025, book the Hall and make sure events are well spaced throughout the year, and offer something for everyone. This needs a small planning group to share ideas and plan a programme – COULD YOU BE PART OF THAT GROUP?

We need different organisers for particular events:

- Someone to organise a sequel programme to this year's First Wednesday Talks. We need someone to take the lead. COULD THIS BE YOUR THING?
- The Pet Festival has been a real family occasion in past years, but we didn't have the capacity to organise it this year. ARE YOU A PET-LOVER? COULD YOU TAKE THE LEAD IN 2025?
- It would be good to repeat this year's successful Winter Fair – COULD YOU HELP MAKE IT EVEN BETTER NEXT YEAR?
- The Fun Day and Parish Fete needs an organising team – WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?
- If you get a buzz from Table Top Sales, or Music Evenings, or Quizzes, there's definitely an organising role going for you!
- And of course there are always lots of supporting roles on offer!

So please give it a thought, and if you think you might be able to help in any way, or just want to share ideas. Please contact me at charleswoodd46@gmail.com or on 07962 213494. Thank you.

Charles Woodd,

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT ON THE NIGHT.....

.....or rather on the morning of Monday December 9th 10am at the Memorial Hall to be precise!

Spire u3a, with some stellar guidance from members Michael Turner and Rosemary Duffy, is planning a homegrown, seasonal entertainment to precede the Christmas Lunch at *The Rose & Crown*. David Davies and members of the u3a choir will be on hand to provide the musical element.

The new CEO of u3a says: "I understand how important it is to remain active and social....I know the positive impact on members' health and wellbeing that comes from joining organisations like u3a. I have had the opportunity to see, in practice, the benefit of the skill sharing and volunteer-led model that is unique to u3a."

u3a is a vibrant movement simply due to the impressive contribution made by members past and present: Spire u3a, based in Harnham, is part of that.

To find out more come along to the December meeting, have a coffee, read the noticeboard, stay for the meeting and ask for a membership form - or phone the Membership Secretary 0790 2846 161

EIGHTY YEARS IN CHURCH MUSIC - Part 2

a short reflection from Malcolm Sturgess

(Continued from November magazine)

.....I can only assume that the words of *Hark, hark, my soul* reflected our own situation in late 1944.

We had had a difficult five years – bombed out four times, and my little friend Pamela killed by a bomb just over the fence at the bottom of our garden; I'd been to six schools in five years. Now, here at Brookwood, although it was still seven months to VE Day, there were no more sirens; no more of that terrifying whistling noise as a bomb fell nearby; no more bangs, gunfire or searchlights; no more doodlebugs. We could sleep at night and by day I could begin to learn how to live more like a normal little boy. Maybe the Vicar had his own reasons for feeling the same way, and chose this hymn frequently.

Ten years and two choirs later I learnt the hymn *Jesu meek and lowly*. I was still only a teenager, but I had begun to pay some attention to the readings and sermons, as distinct from going to church just for the music. At Holy Trinity we had a really good choir. We appeared on radio and TV. There were also about 300 communicants at Easter, and we sang a selection of hymns and anthems as they processed up in front of us. One of them was a lady who, in retrospect, I imagine must have had Parkinson's Disease. She only came at Easter. Supported by two others, she took about a six-inch step forwards, then rocked back three inches. Painfully slow progress. On Easter Sunday 1953 or '54 she was just in front of me as we sang, "There behold me gazing at the sight amazing; pleading here before thee, helpless – helpless – I adore thee". I couldn't sing any more; I choked up. There had to be something in this, something very powerful which caused that lady to make such a superb effort.

God certainly moves in a mysterious way. "Suffer little children to come unto me". In October 1944 my mother suffered me to join Walter Horswell's village choir. Eighty years later, I'm still here. To the end of my life I shall remain grateful for being able to complete 80 years in church music. I wish I could start again tomorrow. Deo Gracias.

DO YOU NEED CHRISTMAS CARDS?

Grateful thanks to all the kind people who have given us cards to recycle and have already bought cards at our Card Sales. We were delighted to make nearly £600 profit from the Great Card Sale for the Sudan Medical Link.

If you need more cards do please ring us on 01722 501200. Come and choose cards from us or we will gladly bring to your door.

David & Katharine Callard.

Gift Aid Envelopes

It has been decided that yellow Gift Aid envelopes will not used going forward.

Monetary Donations are automatically subject to Gift Aid. If you need a receipt use the Sum Up machine.

HO! HO! HO!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.
Knock, knock! Who's there? Holly. Holly who? Holly-days are here again!
One snowman said sadly to the other, "All our friends are flakes."

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.

The 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 high."

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."

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 in from next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day 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 turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter,
Cos he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime dad was blotto,
But 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.



Prayer Diary for December

- 1 The many arts and craft groups that meet in Harnham Ancient Way, Rowbarrow Close and Rowbarrow Mews
- 8 Our Messy Church Team Millenium Close and Viking Way
- 15 The Livestock Market, the people and activities there Salisbury Womens' Refuge Andrews Way and Longhill Drive
- 22 The Pause for Prosecco Group Christopher Close and Harvard Close
- 29 Those who find this season difficult Halfpenny Road and Wellworthy Drive

+++++

A Prayer for December

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.

Crossword answers (p26)

ACROSS: 1, Lame; 3, Obtained; 8, Omit; 9, Merchant; 11, Burdensome; 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.



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All in the month of December

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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.

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.

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

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.

also 50 years ago, on 24th Dec 1974 that British politician John Stonehouse was arrested in Australia (on suspicion of being Lord Lucan.)

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 Fein 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.

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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 seven *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).

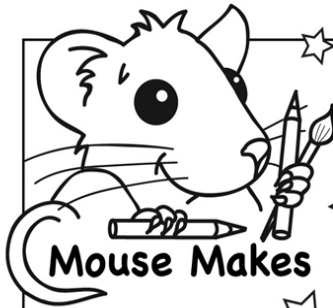
After these signs, the story moves into the upper room discourses followed by the story of His death and resurrection. The whole Gospel is a revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father. It can be well summed up in the famous verse: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

Working for justice.

The Makin Review and Archbishop Justin's resignation

Bishop Stephen, alongside Bishop Andrew and Bishop Karen, has responded to the review and the resignation of Archbishop Justin. He said: "I, together with Bishop Karen and Bishop Andrew, respect the decision of Archbishop Justin to step aside from his role as Archbishop of Canterbury and will continue to pray for him and his family. Archbishop Justin has taken personal and institutional responsibility to enable deeper change."

"The Makin review has exposed horrific abuse and misuse of power over many years. Questions out of this report must be addressed by the Church in a trauma-informed way, which places victims and survivors at the centre of it. In recent days the focus of debate has moved away from this, so I would ask us to refocus our attention back to the experience of victims and survivors and the lessons we must learn from doing so. In this Diocese we will continue to work to implement good safeguarding practices, supported by clergy and volunteers in our parishes, advised by our professional safeguarding team. We remain committed to engaging with victims and survivors of abuse."



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

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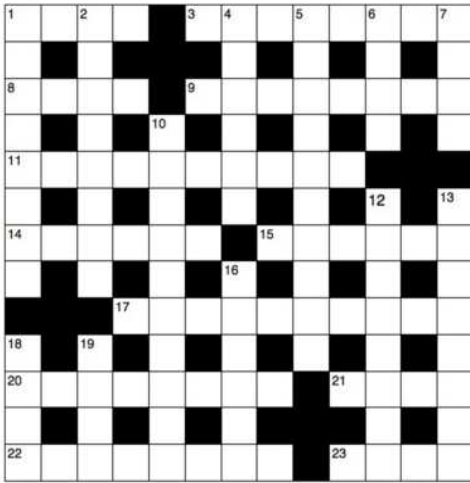


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Find the words from the Bible verses too!

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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)
 - 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)
 - 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)
- *****

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

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

1	Advent Sunday and Gift Service <i>Forefathers and Foremothers</i> Jeremiah 33:14-16	Luke 21:25-36
8	Second Sunday of Advent <i>Prophets</i> Isaiah 63:1-7	Matthew 11:2-11
15	Third Sunday of Advent <i>John the Baptist</i> Zephaniah 3:14-end	Luke 3:7-18
22	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Mary</i> Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:39-45
24	Christmas Eve Communion Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-14
25	Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10	John 1:1-14
29	First Sunday of Christmas Luke 2:41-end	

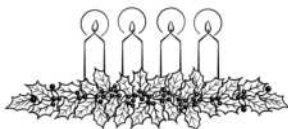
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WHATS ON IN DECEMBER (E&OE)

***For all Sunday Services see inside front cover and
for all Christmas Services see page 11***

Coffee and Chat every Wednesday & Saturday in Meeting Room 1000 -1200
Wellbeing Walks (30mins) 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10am from Parish Hall

1	Carols at Harnham Croft	1330
4	First Wednesday Talk in Parish Hall (see p5)	1930
6	Carols at Brympton	1100
6	Angel Tree present wrapping in Meeting Room (see p7)	1400-1600
6	Harnham Garden Society AGM and Christmas Social	1930
7	Beer and Carols practice at All Saints	1000
8	Messy Church Christingle Service at St Georges	1500
9	u3a meeting in Memorial Hall	1000
9	Uniformed Organisations Carol Service at St George's	1845
10	Harnham WI in Parish Hall. Christmas Party	1900
12	Beer and Carols at The Old Mill	1900
13	MU Christmas Service in Parish Hall	1430
17	Magazine Collation in Meeting Room	1330



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Enquiries regarding Wedding, Baptism and Church Hall bookings
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or email: harnhammagazine@btinternet.com no later than 15th of the month

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