

**O Come
Let Us
Adore
Him**

**Bumper
Christmas
Edition**



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The start of Advent and the 'run up' to Christmas 2015.

May we take this opportunity of thanking all our readers for supporting the church magazine and a big thank you to all those who take some part in its production and delivery.

St Giles Review raises funds for the church thanks to the loyal advertisers and your subscriptions. This month we have produced a 'bumper

edition' and we hope you enjoy reading the extra content.

Please keep supporting us and suggesting to tradespeople and companies that we are a good cheap advertising medium!

We wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Gill & Marion

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From the Vicarage

Happy Christmas to everyone, I hope that you are blessed with a warm and loving Christmas.

In our busy world the run up to Christmas gets more and more of a whirlwind of preparation. Friends ask each other: What are you doing for Christmas? How many of you are gathering at home or away? Have you done your shopping, or put up your tree? The question you are unlikely to be asked (especially if you are a vicar) is would you like to come with me to church this Christmas?

The message of Christmas was spread originally by people being so excited about their faith that



they couldn't resist telling their family, friends and neighbours about it; so that the faith went from a few hundreds to the billions of disciples today.

So in all the excitement of your Christmas preparations can I ask you to be excited about one more thing? Your faith, faith in Jesus Christ, his birth and the reason for Christmas. Talk about Jesus' birth to your friends, family and neighbours. Our services and events tell the exciting story of the birth of God's son born in a stable, come to bring the wonderful gift of love from God and come to bring Good News for all people. If you don't think that the story of Jesus' birth is relevant and exciting then you need to remember that Jesus was born in poverty in a stable, he was visited by both shepherds and kings and then his parents took him and fled from the country as refugees to escape an oppressive and cruel ruler.

If you want to read the story for yourself read Luke 1 & 2 and Matthew 2.



Luke's account of Jesus' birth is the most beautiful and detailed with the story of the angels and shepherds. Matthew's account the most exciting with the arrival of the Magi and the escape from Herod.

You will hear the full story of Christmas at our services and events throughout December. Everyone of whatever age or tradition is welcome. We will tell the story through music,



singing the carols we all know and love, through reading the bible and the children will tell it in our Nativity play. As Christians we should be excited to let people know about Jesus who came to bring the Good News of God's love.

May the excitement of Christmas be with you, may it inspire you to bring your family and friends to hear the wonderful message of God's love for us all and most of all may it inspire you to share that love.

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25th October

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Funerals

11th November

Dora Smith

Baptism Anniversaries

Freya Elisabeth Burdon

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Enquiries regarding



baptisms, weddings and
funerals should be made to

Rev Janice Smith

0113 203 7523

or revjanice.smith@gmail.com

Diary for December 2015

- 1 Tues Circle Dancing 7.45 pm
- 2 Wed Toddler Praise 10.00 -11.00 am
- 2 Wed Luncheon Club 12.15 pm
- 2. Wed Mothers' Union 2.00 pm
- Advent Service
- 2 Wed Alpha Course 7.30 pm
- 6 Sun Messy Church Christmas Party 3.00- 5.00 pm
- 9 Wed CATS 9.15 – 11.30 am
- 9 Wed Women's Fellowship 8.00 pm
- Christmas Market in aid of Wheatfield's Hospice
- 10 Thurs Men's Supper Club 6.30 for 7.00 pm
- Rev. Gordon Day 'Holy Land Experiences'
- 13 Sun Toy Service 9.30 am
- 15 Tues Circle Dancing 7.45 pm
- 16 Wed CATS 9.15 – 11.30 am
- 16 Wed Open House 2.00 - 4.00 pm
- 20 Sun Fair Trade Stall 10.30 am
- 21 Tues Crafts for Christmas 9.30 am - Noon
- 24 Thurs Christingle Services at 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm
- 29 Tues Circle Dancing 7.45 pm



50 50 Club

November Winners

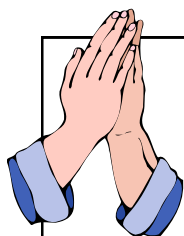
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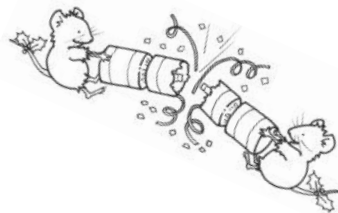
**Annual Super
Draw
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December**



Please ask your friends or relations to let us know if you wish for someone to pray with you and/or bring Holy Communion whilst you are ill or in hospital and unable to get to Sunday Worship. In the first instance they should contact:
the Vicar, Rev Janice Smith 203 7523 or Bryan Bunday 267 8534

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A Christmas quiz



1. According to the 1st chapter of Matthew, 'Immanuel' is interpreted to mean _____.
2. The Moabite widow, Ruth, is mentioned by name only 12 times in the book named after her, and not again until Matthew 1:5. What makes this woman's life so significant to the birth of Jesus Christ?
3. An angel of the Lord told Joseph, Mary's betrothed, 'Do not _____ to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'
4. What caused Elizabeth's unborn baby to leap for joy in her womb, when she was visited by her relative Mary?
5. What was the angel's name who visited Mary to tell her she had been chosen to be the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ?
6. What does Bethlehem mean?
7. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
8. What did the angels say to the shepherds?
9. What did the chief priests tell Herod that worried him so much?
10. Why was 'a voice heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning'?

Answers on page 29

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The story behind the hymn: O Come, All ye Faithful

Nobody knows who wrote this well-loved Christmas carol. It was originally a Latin Christmas hymn, 'Adeste Fidelis'. It seems to have first 'surfaced' in English due to a John Francis Wade, who lived in the 18th century, and who made his living copying manuscripts and, sometimes, music by hand. Wade was a Roman Catholic, and all services in the church at that time were conducted in Latin, and so he knew the language well.

The story goes that in about



1750 he slipped this hymn into a manuscript he was copying for the English Roman Catholic College in Lisbon, Portugal. 35 years later, in 1785, it turned up in the Portuguese Chapel in London, where it became known as the 'Portuguese Hymn'. From there the hymn appears to have 'travelled' across to the Margaret Chapel in London's West End. Young William Ewart Gladstone, who later became

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;

British Prime Minister, greatly appreciated the services at this church. He said that the congregation were "the most devout and happy that I have ever seen." The minister at that time was Frederick Oakley, one of the leaders of the 19th century Oxford Movement, who was later to convert to Roman Catholicism. Oakley believed strongly in the power of religious symbols and fine

music, and before he bade farewell to the Margaret Chapel, he introduced this hymn to the congregation. Having started as 'Adeste Fidelis', and been for a while 'The Portuguese Hymn', this hymn soon became known – and loved worldwide – as 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'.

Prayer for Christmas Presence

Generous Father,

At this busy time of year, help us to remember the important things. In all the rush of sending cards and giving presents may we make time to be still, to acknowledge your sending and giving of the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Thank you that he didn't stay in the stable in Bethlehem, but lived and died and became the Saviour of all who put their trust in him. May we receive afresh the gift of your presence with us in Jesus, now and for ever, with great thankfulness. In his name, we pray.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching



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The Reeves Family

Lesley grew up in Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough whilst Andy grew up in Sheffield. Lesley graduated from Cambridge University (Downing College) and Andy graduated from Sheffield University, both with law degrees. We met each other in our first week at the College of Law in York (studying for the postgraduate diploma in Legal Practice) and have been together ever since.

After completing our postgraduate exams, we had a 4 year 'long distance relationship', which saw Andy spending most weekends travelling up and down the country on the East Coast Main Line as Lesley was training with a London solicitors' firm whilst Andy's training was based in Leeds. We both qualified as solicitors with big City firms - Lesley specialises in commercial real estate and Andy in commercial dispute resolution. Andy still works at the same firm at which he trained and Lesley joined one of the other large solicitors' firms in Leeds city centre. Since our eldest, James, was born, we have both worked part-time so that between us we can take our

children to and from school each day.

In October 1999, we were married in Nunthorpe and that was the cue for me to move to Leeds, ideally located half way between each set of parents. We began married life by renting a flat in Moortown and after some months of scouring vast swathes of North Leeds and beyond, we eventually chose Bramhope where we have now lived for over 14 years.

We have been coming to St Giles since we moved here in 2001. Lesley was confirmed at St Giles and both our children, James (now 11) and Charlotte (now 8), were born in Bramhope and baptised at St Giles. We come to the All together services and the 4th Sunday family communion services. Lesley attended confirmation classes and Lent courses over the years and has also been a member of the PCC for the past year. Lesley plays the keyboard in the 2nd Sunday band and is on the sidespersons' rota for the 4th Sunday service.

James attended the Kids Together after school group at



Bramhope Primary School but is all grown up now and duly started high school in September 2015. We all regularly attend Messy Church, Christmas and Easter crafts, where Lesley plays the piano and helps with the crafts. James plays the violin whilst Charlotte plays the piano and has also just started learning to play the flute so we have a little Reeves musical ensemble!

With demanding careers (and demanding children!), it can feel that life is always too busy and that time goes far too quickly. We feel really fortunate to have settled in such a nice part of the world and to be part of such a vibrant church community.

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Musings on *Messiah*

You don't appreciate what you have until it's missing – I recently learnt how true that is when I lost my voice – a nuisance to most people but I also miss singing; at choir, in worship, and simply singing goodnight to my children.

I loved being a member of St Giles' Church choir from about the age of 13 till I left to go to University. What kind of teenager willingly does two services every Sunday and a Friday night rehearsal – it definitely wasn't for the pocket money and I doubt it was very worshipful either! I fondly remember choirmasters Stanhope, Brian and Mr Baker (never Henry) and of course Len (my co-alto) and all the other back row gents. 25 years later I'm still in touch with some of the other children.

Pounding out alto hymn lines at St Giles' certainly taught me to sight-sing which opened up amazing experiences at University, where although I hugely appreciated the peacefulness and familiarity of Chapel Evensong twice a week I was singing for mainly for music and the excellent social scene! Through singing I have met some of my best friends, my (tone-deaf) husband, sung in some of the most famous cathedrals in Italy, the USA,

Tunisia, at many big London venues, and even sung live on stage with Lee Evans at Wembley Arena!

After a child and career-induced singing break I leaped at the opportunity to augment my current church choir to sing *Messiah* at Easter last year. Having children certainly made me assess my faith in new perspectives and so now I also was singing with my 'Christian head'. I was astounded how many lyrics of the 'Messiah' - the story of Jesus' life, are actually prophetic passages from the Old Testament.

That performance of *Messiah* on Easter Sunday was unforgettable - not the most professional but by far the most spiritual. *Messiah* is often sung at Christmas; however it's only once I finally got to sing the Hallelujah Chorus actually on Easter Sunday that I really 'got it' – awesome.

The great British choral tradition has opened up so many doors for me and I really believe all children should be encouraged and given opportunities to sing if they wish. If you know a young person interested in music then encourage them to come to hear Harrogate

Choral Society perform the *Messiah* this Christmas or even to find a choir (St Giles?) and make friends for life. Perhaps they might google The Halcyon Youth Choir – launched by John Rutter, the king of church music himself in Harrogate this autumn.

Just praying my voice recovers in time for the Christmas season now – it's not quite Christmas if I can't attempt some good old carol descants!

Whether you bring a 'Christian head' or not, performances of Handel's *Messiah* provide an awesome experience, so come to one of the local performances which include Harrogate Choral Society's at St Aidan's on 5th Dec at 7.30 and Otley & Ilkley Choral Societies' at St Margaret's, Ilkley on 12th December. Tickets on the door.

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How Father Christmas got where he is today



One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time, and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls

whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas

enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

Christmas Eve

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year which is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The English are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the English are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

Church rules

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

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

December

December, December,
A month to remember,
A month full of darkness and light,
A month full of rushing
And sharing and hoping,
A month full of one special night.

Daphne Kitching



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Angels from the realms of glory!

Street Angels have helped so many hundreds of people in the 19 years that it has been going....it is getting ready to celebrate 20 years.

Angels will be making an appearance on streets and in night-clubs across the country this Christmas.

Not the dressed in white, halo and wing type you see on Christmas cards and in Nativity plays but more like the 'here to help you' type!

Street Angels first landed on the streets of Halifax in West Yorkshire in November 2005. With a vision to do something within the weekend of the night-time town centre, that had gained a Wild West of West Yorkshire reputation, a few local Christians set out to open a 'safe place café' on Fridays and Saturdays between 9pm and 3am. Amazingly 50 people also turned up to help, and the group took flight out of the café into the town centre to help and connect with those out and about.

The scheme worked - hundreds of people received help, violent crime was reduced by 42% in the first 12 months and the Street Angels became a massive part of the answer in changing the culture of Halifax town centre.

Other towns started to look at Street Angels for themselves. By 2008, Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Network was launched to support and resource anything the church was doing to reach out to the night-time economy. We discovered a group in Belfast who had put a table out serving hot drinks since 1995, and a group in Dundee patrolling the centre since 2000.

CNI Network-linked projects now operate in 120 towns across the UK and in Spain. Each week we are out with flip-flops, lollipops and water offering safe people and safe places to the tens of thousands of people who enjoy a night out. We are there for anyone - those wanting a chat, the vulnerable (be it elderly people leaving a theatre to a young person waiting for the last bus home), the homeless, those who work in town centres at night as well as the clubbers. These angelic teams are making the difference and have changed a culture - recent reports show that over the last decade alcohol-related violence and A&E



admissions have reduced year on year.

So as you sing "Angels from the realms of glory" this Christmas spare a thought and a prayer for those teams of Angels on the streets, in the night-clubs and in the parks who are modern-day shepherds watching over the flocks by night!

For more information and to download the eBook visit:
www.cninetwork.org.uk

Mothers' Union

We had a most interesting talk by Beryl Lee from 'The Grandparents' Association'. As she explained when, families split up or Grandchildren go into care the Grandparents are often forgotten and lose contact with the children. On the other hand sometimes Grandparents become full time carers and need extra support.

Next month we shall have an Advent service and please can we remind members that membership fees are due, plus booking for our New Year lunch on 15th January.

St George's Crypt



Some members of St Giles MU had a busy morning putting together the gift bags for St George's Crypt to give

as presents at Christmas. We also made a collection of small 'individual' toiletries for them to use all year round. We also had a very generous donation of toothbrushes and small toothpaste tubes from our local Dentist Gunn Dental Care. Thank you so much to all who donated.

Gill Pinches

Thank you

Many thanks to you all for your prayers, care, concern and cards and the taxi services whilst I wasn't driving following my recent hip operation. It was very much appreciated.

Anne Marshall

Lost Property

In the cloakroom off the hall is a box labelled 'Lost Property'. PLEASE will everybody have a look in here and reclaim items belonging to them. What remains unclaimed will be given to charity. Thank you.

Krystyna Novak

Women's Fellowship

In October, Mrs McKeown gave a very interesting talk about her life as an army wife.

Please do not forget our

Christmas Market in the church hall on Wednesday December 9th, proceeds in aid of Wheatfield

Janet Cunliffe

Christmas Market

Wed December 9th

10am- 12pm.

Lots of stalls, Raffle and coffee with mince pie and biscuit. Entrance £2.

Men's Supper Club

The Meeting stood to respect the memory of long term member Richard

Perkin, who had died the previous day.

After Grace is said at the start of each meeting, the sense of anticipation grows among the members of each table as to whether their number will be selected to be first, or last, in the queue for food at the hatch. Nobody except Fred knows, as it is all involved in the mysteries of the Babylonian System. This week, Fred kindly stepped in as replacement for our intended speaker, offering to unravel the mysteries of the Babylonian System.

He described for us the early days of Babylon, then the greatest city on earth, its advancing civilisation, through trade. We heard

Events Group News Notices.... Events....

how astrologers assigned the names of the seven then known planets and the planet gods into names for the seven days of the week, as we know them at present. We saw charts which showed logically how the days and the names were conceived, and finally, to end all speculation, the formula of the Babylonian system as we have had it presented at the Supper Club. A very erudite and detailed synopsis put across in terms even we could understand.

Our next, and Christmas meeting, will be on Thursday 10th December, when we look forward to welcoming Revd. Gordon Dey, who recently led some of our Church members on a trip to The Holy Land. He will recount to us something of his considerable knowledge and experiences of the trips he has led.

Bryan Bunday

The Visit of Baqoun

Whilst in the Holy Land we watched a performance of Baqoun, a folk dance troupe of young Palestinian Christians from Bethlehem. They were awesome!

The good news is that they are coming to West

Yorkshire in June 2016 and you will have a chance to see them. Of course their costs will have to met and if you feel that you want to help, any size donation can be sent to Canon Gordon Dey, gordondey1@gmail.com. I have a leaflet explaining more details so do ask. Alternatively look at www.baqoun.org, or the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales web site.

Gill Pinches

Magazine Subscriptions

Subscriptions will be due for 2016 immediately after Christmas when your deliverer brings the January magazine. Have you thought of giving a yearly subscription as a Christmas present for a friend or neighbour? Contact Joanne for further details.

Circle Dancing

For our "Remembrance Service" we did 10 dances for Peace, including Benedictus from the Mass for Peace, and a beautiful new one called Give us Peace. We all went home feeling at peace with ourselves if not the whole world. On 15th. Dec. it will be our Christmas party, when Roger

and his musicians will be coming to play the music for our dances, which will be great. We'll be dancing to some Christmas songs and carols, then having a shared supper and mulled wine. We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Joan Peart



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Welcome to Christmas

The Sultans of Swing@Christmas Concert



7.30 pm Saturday 5th December
 Tickets £10 from Keith (07920 139172)
 includes wine & stollen at the interval

All funds raised up to £1000 will be match funded by Barclays!
 So please come and support us!

St Giles Bramhope

Kids' Christmas Crafts
 9.30 am – Noon on Monday 21st December



Crafts, The Christmas Story and Carols for Children

Everyone Welcome! Children under 7 to be accompanied by an adult, over 7s can be registered and stay in the care of our youth worker

St Giles Bramhope

Messy Church Party
 3.00 pm Sunday 6th December



Come Dressed Up For the Nativity Story!!

St Giles Bramhope

Christingle Services
 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm Christmas Eve



Carols, Candles & Christingles For All The Family

St Giles Bramhope

Toy Service & Brunch
 9.30 am Sunday 13th December



Please bring unwrapped gifts for children who otherwise would be without a present this Christmas

Stay for Brunch too!

St Giles Bramhope

Midnight Communion
 11.30 pm Thursday 24th December



Yea, Lord We Greet Thee!

St Giles Bramhope

9 Lessons & Carols
 6.30 pm Sunday 20th December



Carols by Candlelight and Bible Readings about the Birth of Jesus

Stay for Mince Pies and Mulled Wine!

St Giles Bramhope

Family Communion
 9.30 am Christmas Day



Worship, Welcome & Wonder The Birth of Jesus

St Giles Bramhope

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Where did Christmas trees come from?



There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8th century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: "This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you."

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16th century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.

The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

Mistletoe's smelly history

Did you know that the word



'mistletoe' means dung on a tree? The Anglo-saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.

Those jokes in your

Christmas cracker



Cracker jokes are meant to entertain children and amuse adults. So says a

boss of Christmas cracker factory. Apparently cracker jokes are meant not to provoke real laughter, but to be a "shared experience. The kids will love the silliness and the adults love the corny lines."



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From the Library Shelf

It doesn't seem like a year since I was preparing for Christmas – how quickly time goes by! I have been thinking how easy it is for Advent to get swallowed up by all the preparations for Christmas. Advent is itself a season of preparation, a time to think about the coming of Jesus into our world, and what this means for us.

We have several excellent books in the library dealing with Advent and because it is such an important time of year I have decided to add to our collection some new books, all published within the last year. These have been purchased with donations to the library, and I hope that you will enjoy them.

The first of these new additions is 'Journey to the Manger' by Paula Gooder. This book is part of the 'Biblical Explorations' series and looks at the different accounts of the birth of Jesus given in the New Testament. It also explores the genealogies of Jesus in the gospels of Matthew, Luke and John, and the prophecies of the Old Testament foretelling His birth. This is not a dry, theological text, but an enlightening and engaging read – it is full of

historical details. For example what was the inn at Bethlehem really like, what was meant by 'inn' at that time? And what about the visit of the angels to the shepherds, and exactly who were the Magi? There is so much detail in this book, all of it relevant and interesting. At the end of each chapter are a short Reflection and a Meditation.

My second book is 'Footsteps in the Dust' by Thom M. Shuman, a book of poems and prayers for Advent. These are the author's personal thoughts as he journeys towards Advent. There is a page for each day of Advent, but you could open this book on any page, on any day and find something to make you think, and to remind you of the coming of Jesus. And this goes for my third book too – Reflections for Advent 2015 by Maggi Dawn and Barbara Mosse. There is a Bible reading for each day of Advent accompanied by a short reflection and the



Collect for that day. If you want a book to accompany you on your own Advent journey I would recommend this one.

Lastly there is 'Love Life Live Advent: Make Room for the Manger' by Paula Gooder and Peter Babington. This is a booklet as much for children as for adults, and is all about making time for the season of Advent in the busyness of preparing for Christmas. As it says in the Introduction: 'This book isn't trying to give you more things to do, but to encourage you to take time to be ready for Christmas'. Why not give it a try?

Good reading, and may you all have a joyous and peaceful Christmas!

Sue Grahame



Andrew Gamble

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More Than A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, is one of the best-loved stories to be associated with Christmas. Although a familiar tale, it's worth closer inspection as we ask what it has to say to us in the 21st century.

The book's main character is the mean and intimidating Ebenezer Scrooge, who lives to make money and little else. He particularly detests Christmas, which he views as 'a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer'.

Scrooge is visited on Christmas Eve by the ghost of his former partner, Jacob Marley, who died seven Christmas Eves ago. Marley, a miser like Scrooge, is suffering the consequences in the afterlife and hopes to help Scrooge avoid his fate. He tells Scrooge that he will be haunted by three spirits: the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. They succeed in showing Scrooge the error of his ways and reforming him.

Christmas morning finds Scrooge sending a Christmas turkey to his long-suffering clerk, Bob Cratchit, and

spending Christmas day in the company of his nephew, Fred, whom he had earlier spurned. He goes on to raise Cratchit's salary and assists his family, including Bob's crippled son, Tiny Tim. In the end Scrooge became 'as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew'.



In the 21st Century we can fall into a similar trap as Scrooge, despite the credit crunch! We can see money, and the things it buys, as the answer to our problems. We can lose sight of the value of relationships; consistently choosing our career over family and being driven by an insatiable desire for success.

Like Scrooge, the dawn of Christmas morning can be an opportunity for us to change our perspective, as we remember the birth of the hero of the greatest Christmas story, Jesus Christ. Just as the spirits of Christmas wanted Scrooge to change for good, so God knows us better than we

know ourselves, and loves us enough to help us to change and make a difference.

We have the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness, renew our faith, release our fears and rebuild friendships. Yet, like Scrooge, we have to choose to change! In fact, Jesus alone can give us a new outlook on life, as we commemorate the past, consecrate the present and contemplate the future.

Rev Paul Hardingham

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The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of
Christmas my true love
said to me

I've bought a big fresh
turkey and a proper
Christmas tree.

On the second day of
Christmas much laughter
could be heard

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

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

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

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

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

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

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

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

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

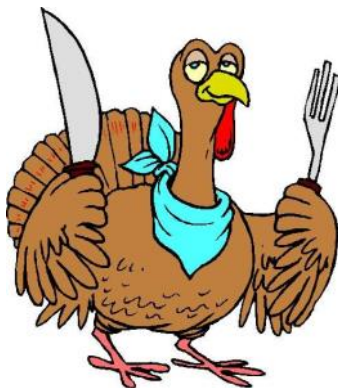
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

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

Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH
AND CHIPS.



Answers to the quiz

1. God with us – Matt 1:23
2. Her child is in Christ's lineage – Matt 1:5
3. 'Be afraid/fear' Matt 1:20
4. Mary's greeting/ the Holy Spirit
5. Gabriel – Luke 1:26
6. The House of Bread. It was the city of David – Luke 2:4
7. To be registered in a Roman census Luke 2:1-5
8. 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy....' Luke 2:10
9. 'But you Bethlehem, in the land of Judea... out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' Matt 2:6
10. Massacre of the Innocents by Herod – Matt 2:18



Rotas for December

CHURCH FLOWERS

Guild Member Janet Howard

- 6 Dec Janet Howard
- 13 Dec Janet Howard
- 20 Dec Christmas Decorations
- 27 Dec Christmas

COFFEE

- 6 Dec Joan Archenhold
Kathleen Grainge
- 13 Dec Audrey Harrison
Eddie Whitehead
- 20 Dec Nancy Bunday
Jill Perkin
- 27 Dec Jenny & Rosamund Platt



Prayer Schedule for Bramhope

We pray weekly, in conjunction with the Methodist Church, for all people living in our area. If you know of anyone who especially needs prayer please pass the details on to Janice or any of the Lay Assistants who will arrange for them to be included on the Prayer List.

06/12/15 Breary Lane, Breary Rise & Breary Court

13/12/15 Parklands, Parklands Gate, Parklands Crescent & Parklands Walk

20/12/15 Eastgate, The Parade, Rosemont, Eastgate Close, The Cross & Old Forge Mews

27/12/16 Church Hill, Church Gate, Church Gate Court & Holland Mount

SIDESPERSONS' ROTA

Sunday	8.15am	9.30am	6.30pm
1st	Bill Cunliffe Steve McGraw	Margaret North Philip Kendall-Smith	Margaret North
2nd	Mike Brown Joyce Shephard	John Grahame Neil Simpson	Michael Riley Margaret North
3rd	Janet Howard	Fred Archenhold Joan Archenhold	Bob Lewis Michael Coles
4th	John Grisdale Keith Hawkins	Janet Cunliffe Lesley Reeves	Pam Walton Alan Woodthorpe
5th	John Grisdale Sue Gamble	Sara Leefe Audrey Harrison	Jean Snowball Pat Gregersen

Outing & Programme Secretary	Mr Bryan Bunday	267 8534 bunday@talktalk.net
Ministry Leadership Team Coordinator	Mr Jonathan Slater	258 2225
MOBB (Ministry of Bramhope and beyond)	Rev Janice Smith	203 7523
Mothers' Union: Coordinator	Mrs Mary Mumby	
Minutes Secretary	Mrs Joanne Dawdry	203 7182
Open House	Mrs Wendy Fudge	281 7754
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr John Smith	261 0101
PCC Secretary	Mrs Miranda Reynard	203 7001
PCC Treasurer	Mr Bernard Williams	318 8707 bwilliams31@gmail.com
Planned Giving Officer	Mrs Linda Jones	261 0875
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St Giles' Review	Editor etc	See page 3
St Giles' Web Site	Coordinator	Mrs Gill Pinches 284 2063 gill.pinches@gmail.com
Social Committee	Chairperson	Rev Janice Smith 203 7523
Walking Groups		Mr Ken Ball 267 3772
Welcome Coordinator		Ms Krystyna Novak 267 0311
Women's Fellowship:	Co-Leaders	Mrs Jenny Platt 267 8286 Mrs Hazel Lee 284 2573

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Church Services for December 2015

Wednesday 2nd 10.00am Toddler Praise
 Thursday 3rd 10.30am First Thursday Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 6th

SECOND OF ADVENT

8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)
 9.30am Parish Communion (CW)
 3.00pm Messy Church with Christmas Party
 6.30pm Choral Evensong



Thursday 10th

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)



Sunday 13th

THIRD OF ADVENT

8.15am Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30am All.together Toy Service
 6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)
 Thursday 17th 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 20th

FOURTH OF ADVENT

8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)
 9.30am Parish Communion (CW)
 6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Thursday 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

3.00pm and 4.30pm Christingle Services
 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion (CW)

Friday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Christmas Holy Communion (CW)
NO 8.15am or 6.30pm Services

Sunday 27th

FIRST OF CHRISTMAS / ST JOHN THE APOSTLE

9.30am Together Communion (CW) with Healing Ministry
NO 8.15am or 6.30pm Services

Thursday 31st

NO 10.30am Holy Communion Service

JANUARY 2016

Sunday 3rd

SECOND OF CHRISTMAS / EPIPHANY

9.30am Parish Communion (CW) with Healing Ministry
NO 8.15am or 6.30pm Services



Wednesday 6th

10.00am Toddler Praise

Thursday 7th

10.30am First Thursday Holy Communion (BCP)