





Services at St Giles

Sunday 14th December

9.30am All.together! Toy Service 3.00pm Messy Church Christmas Party

Sunday 21st December

6.30pm Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

Monday 22nd December

9.30am - Noon Christmas Crafts for Children

Christmas Eve

3.00pm & 4.30pm Christingle Services 11.30pm Midnight Christmas Communion

Christmas Day

9.30am Family Christmas Communion

Priest in Charge: Rev Janice Smith
Tel: 0113 203 7523 email: revjanice.smith@gmail.com
www.stgilesbramhope.org.uk

St Giles Directory

Hon Assistants: Canon John Clayton & Rev David Kirby

Churchwardens: Mrs Mary Mumby

Tel 284 2708 email: mm@marymumby.plus.com

Mrs Joanne Dawdry

Tel 203 7182 email:joannedawdry123@btinternet.com **Mr Jonathan Slater** Tel: 258 2225

Reader:

Parish Administrator: Mrs Mary Mumby

Tel 284 2708 email: mm@marymumby.plus.com

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•			karenelainegiles@aol.com
Baptisms Administrator		Mrs Mary Mumby	284 2708
Bible Reading Notes		Mrs Liz Johnson	284 2523
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Brass Cleaning Rota		Mrs Jean Snowball	284 2349
Brownies (Fridays)		Mrs Sarah Dawes	
			arah-dawes@btinternet.com
Brownies (Tuesdays)		Mrs Deborah Mitche	11 07729 317336
Care Coordinator			
CATS (Carers & Toddlers)		Mr Kevin McIntosh	345 3147
Child Protection Coordinator		Mr Matthew Laird	07917 859298
& Safe Church Coordinator		outdo	ormanclimbing@gmail.com
Childrens Society	Contact	Mrs Anne Marshall	267 3092
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			suejosborne@yahoo.co.uk
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	erill (267.	2421), Mr Stephen Gil	
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	airman	Mr Nick Pinches	284 2063
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St Giles Review

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2013/4 PCC Members:

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Deanery Synod Reps:

Dr John Grahame

Ministry Leadership Team

All indicated by * Mr Bryan Bundey

s Julie comments in her Fun and Fellowship article (p25) there is a great deal going on at St Giles and this is particularly so in December. There's something for everyone here, whatever age you are. The Tov service starts the festivities for the young but before that there will be the Christmas Lunch at the Luncheon Club. Ring Marv Burnell to book your place (2671742). The Mothers' Union have an Advent Service on 3rd Dec at 2pm to which everyone is invited and of course a great social on 6th December is open to all ages (Tickets from Keith).

We hope you have enjoyed our choices for the magazine in 2014 and we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Marion & Gill

PS Subs for 2015 are due to be collected after Christmas!

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From the Vicarage

Dear Friends

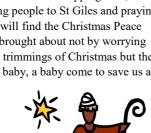
Isajah 9 verse 6: Unto us a child is born ...And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Thank you so much for making me feel so loved and supported on my return to church. It is wonderful to see you all again and to get back into the life of the church.

And the life of the church is so much more than simply attending church services. It is the warmth of having fellow travellers on the Christian way, it is the love and support of those fellow travellers and in turn being able to support others. Church is about loving others and learning to forgive their frailties and in turn receiving forgiveness.

Too often we hear of the stress and strain of Christmas, of the arguments it causes in families, of how Christmas is in the top ten of stresses of modern life. Jesus the Prince of Peace, came to bring us the joy of life, the knowledge of the love of God, of the salvation that is available freely to everyone, which brings peace to our hearts.

My Christmas this year will be as it always is centred around worshipping God, welcoming people to St Giles and praying that they will find the Christmas Peace which is brought about not by worrying about the trimmings of Christmas but the birth of a baby, a baby come to save us all.



On that first Christmas Mary and Joseph travelled many miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem alone and unaided. They got to Bethlehem and found doors shut against them and no room at the inn. Finally they found shelter in a stable, a place where love was born and visitors, both shepherds and Kings, came to find the child promised so long.

At St Giles you will find that our doors are open to you, that you will find friendly faces who will welcome you, and you will find a spiritual home here. Christmas is the perfect



time to worship; you will find familiar carols, candlelit services and the wonder of Midnight Communion. You will also find an opportunity to help others, be it through our Toy Service where we donate unwrapped new or nearly new toys to Leeds Social Services to help families and children in need, or you could come to Christingle and support the work of the Children's Society.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a stress free Christmas, a peaceful Christmas and a New Year that is blessed by God.

Christmas Blessings to you all

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Announcements

(including Parish Register)

Parish Registers

Baptisms

18th October Billy David Lowry

2nd November Matilda May Lewins and Daniel David Lewins

'Congratulations'

Funeral

17th October Lynn Parker

'Condolences'

Baptism Anniversaries

Freya Elisabeth Burdon James Harry Deverill Isobel Louise Donnelly Katherine Rose Donnelly Joshua Robert Gray Phoebe Elizabeth James Chloe Rose Jean Sowden

'Congratulations'

Enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings and funerals should be made to Reverend Janice Smith 0113 203 7523

or revjanice.smith@gmail.com

Diary for December 2014

2 Tues Circle Dancing 7.45 pm

3 Wed Toddler Praise 10.00 -11.00 am

3 Wed Luncheon Club 12.15 pm

3 Wed Mothers' Union 2.00 pm

Deanery Advent Service at St Giles

3 Wed Alpha Course 7.30 pm

9 Tues Women's Fellowship Carol Service 7.30 pm

10 Wed CATS 9.15 – 11.30 am

10 Wed Alpha Course 7.30 pm

11 Thurs Men's Supper Club 6.30 for 7.00 pm

Matthew Laird "The work of a Probation Officer"

14 Sun Messy Church Christmas Party 3.00- 5.00 pm

16 Tues Circle Dancing 7.45 pm

17 Wed CATS 9.15 – 11.30 am

17 Wed Open House 2.00 - 4.00 pm

17 Wed Alpha Course 7.30 pm 21 Sun Fair Trade Stall 10.30 am

21 Sun 22 Tues Crafts for Christmas 9.30 am

24 Wed Christingle Services at 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm



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 Bundey 267 8534

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Christmas 1914

'Christ is literally in no man's land. There men often hear his voice. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life – for a friend.

Is it spoken in English only and French? I do not believe so.'

Wilfred Owen

It was one of the most poignant episodes of the First World War, as the guns fell silent and the troops emerged from opposing trenches to come together in no-man's land to exchange gifts and sing carols, during a brief period of festive peace.

Henry Williamson was on a patrol in no-man's land 50 yards from the enemy lines on Christmas Eve when it became clear that an informal ceasefire was emerging. His unit had feared it was going to come under attack at any moment, but the atmosphere relaxed, and his comrades were soon 'walking about and laughing and talking', with no interference from the Germans.

Williamson, a private in the London Rifles Brigade, had been sent from the British lines at Ploegsteert – part of the front near Ypres, in

Belgium.

He recalled 'We crept out, trying to avoid our boots ringing on the frozen ground, and expecting any moment to fall flat with the machines guns opening up. Nothing happened and within two hours we were walking about laughing and talking; there was nothing from the German side.

At about 11 o'clock I saw a Christmas tree going up on the German trenches. And there was a light ...then a German voice began to sing 'Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht.'

Somebody said "Come over, Tommy, come over"....very soon we were exchanging gifts'.

The following day, the exercise repeated. Williamson recalled 'The whole of no-man's land was grey and khaki. There they were, smoking and talking, shaking hands, exchanging addresses to write to one another'.

Williamson—who later became famous as the author of Tarka the Otter—describes an exchange, as the two sides were burying their dead and he observed the Germans marking their graves with little wooden crosses.



Williamson confirmed that football matches were played but said that these had been behind the German lines.

The truce lasted four days before an order came round that fraternization had to stop. The Germans sent over a note saying senior officers were visiting that night and that they would have to fire their guns, but would do so high.

Shortly after the truce Williamson was injured in two gas attacks and confined to 'home duties'.

Extracts from the Sunday Telegraph, March 14 by Jasper Copping.

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Still dreaming of that White Christmas

Orving Berlin, perhaps best known in this country for the iconic evergreen White Christmas, was an amazingly prolific and popular songwriter who wrote an estimated 1500 songs — though he never learned to read or write music. He died 25 years ago this month at the age of 101.

Many of his songs were patriotic, in praise of the USA, his adopted country. God Bless America is often thought of as an alternative national anthem. But he was born Israel Baline in Russia, in what is now Belarus.

His father, who had been a cantor in a synagogue, died prematurely after the family moved to New York to escape Jewish persecution, and the young Israel went out looking for jobs to help his family. In the early 1900s he became a singing waiter, which led him to start composing songs. He never stopped, becoming a workaholic with an instinct for the right lyrics and tunes to grab people's attention.

His songs were loved worldwide. His first major international hit, Alexander's Ragtime Band, was composed as early as 1911. He wrote in an uncomplicated, simple and direct way, saying that he aimed to "reach the heart of the average American".

According to composer George Gershwin he was "the greatest songwriter who ever lived". Another composer, Douglas Moore, calls him a "great American minstrel"— someone who has "caught and immortalised in his songs what we say, what we think about, and what we believe".

He wrote the scores for 19 Broadway shows and 18 Hollywood films, and his songs topped the charts 25 times, many becoming popular themes and anthems.

Irving Berlin supported Jewish charities and organisations and was generous with his money. He was honoured in 1944 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews for "advancing the aims of the conference to eliminate religious and racial conflict".

Tim Lenton

The Stranger

he stranger seemed to just appear
As if from nowhere, out of the air.
He knew her name and told her more
Of things that had never

been heard before.

Time now had passed, they were ready to leave
An arduous journey for them lay ahead.

At last they had reached their journeys end With nowhere to stay, just a sort of a shed.

Together in wonder they looked at the child
That they had wrapped in a blanket and laid in a bed
And then they remembered the stranger who called.
It all had happened, just as he said.

Megan Carter





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All employees planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks. The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that.

prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well-publicised case, everyone is

advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr R Reindeer, Further to this. exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence. While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions. Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up



for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of



what she would like for Christmas. The little girl gasped, and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

in a manger without a crib

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer turns 75

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, a stock character in extra-biblical Christmas stories, is younger than you might think. He did not come on the Christmas scene until December 1, 1939 – 75 years ago.

His first appearance was in a children's colouring book written by Robert May and given away by Montgomery Ward stores in the USA. The illustrator had to fight for him because the store owners were worried that the red nose might be associated with drunkenness.

The story of Rudolph is one of triumph over adversity: Rudolph, who was initially scorned by his fellow-reindeers, was chosen by Santa to haul the sleigh because his nose lit the way on a dark night. The story was so appealing that it spawned a hit song, written by Johnny Marks, brother-in-law of Rudolph's creator. Gene Autry's recording of it sold 25 million.

Preachers have found elements of discrimination, epiphany, redemption and mercy in Rudolph's story. Dutch scientists in 2012 found reindeers do have red noses, or at least a dense network of blood vessels which "help to protect them from freezing during sleigh rides and to regulate the temperature of the reindeer's brain – factors essential for flying reindeer pulling a sleigh under extreme temperatures".





Parrot with attitude

red received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. He tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, Fred was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. Fred shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude. In desperation, he grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, Fred opened the door of the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto Fred's outstretched arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour."

Fred was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird quietly whispered... "May I ask what the turkey did?"

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

Mothers' Union

In November we had a very interesting talk by David Hanson about WYSOCSthe West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies. This charity's work focus on "Relating our faith to our many callings" and David went on to explain the three main activities of this group; Reality Bites, story telling in the classroom challenging young people about their beliefs; Fisch (Faith in Scholarship) aimed at post graduates who tend to get isolated especially overseas students; and finally Life matters, a series of courses for adults to consider challenging issues.

In December we have invited the MU in our Deanery, to join us for an advent service and we shall be collecting toiletries for Caring for Life.

Please note the subs for 2014 are due and we are collecting names and monies for the New Year lunch on 22nd January.

St Giles' MU would like to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Gill Pinches

Children's Society

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Box

Opening on November 1st. The stalls and sale of soup raised £340. There is still time to contact Anne if you want your box to be emptied and the final total will hopefully be in the January magazine. Many thanks as usual to the team of helpers Jim, Ken, Neil, Philip, Dave and Kirsten who brought a money sorting and counting machine which made light work of all the pennies.

Anne Marshall

Women's Fellowship

Last month we had an interesting and informative visit from Kate of Courtyard Planters in Otley. She demonstrated how it is possible to make a delightful Christmas wreath from garden and hedgerows at very little cost. She also brought and talked about other interesting ideas for gifts and decorations.

This month, Tuesday, 9th December, is our Christmas Carol Service in aid of Wheatfields starting at 7.30. This will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. If you would like to be part of our small choir for this service we are having two short practices on Tuesday, 2nd December and Thursday, 4th December at 4.00pm in the Church hall.

Do come and join us! We are having a collection of non perishable foods suitable for Christmas gift hampers for the Salvation Army so if you would like to make a contribution there will be a box in the Church hall on December 9th.

Rosemary Cysarz

Men's Supper Club

At our November Meeting, Dr David Bower gave a fascinating power-point presentation of early attempts to map the known world, concentrating on the work of the Yorkshire-born cartographer Christopher Saxton (1543 – 1610). Saxton is best known for producing the first county maps of England and Wales, including a map of Yorkshire in 1579. The talk was followed by a most interesting question-andanswer session. A large display of old maps laid out on tables in the church hall added to the enjoyment of the evening.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th Dec. when we welcome one of our own parishioners Matthew Laird, who will speak about 'The Work of a Probation Officer'. As is traditional at our 'Christmas' meetings, we will finish the evening by



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

singing carols organised by John Smith, organist at St. Giles'. Please contact **Derek Owram (0113 284 3301)** by Sunday 7th Dec **at the latest** if you need to clarify whether you are attending or not.

Fred Archenhold

CATS

Yet more families are hearing about CATS and last week people came from as far afield as Cookridge and Headingley. This demonstrates the need for this facility and Kevin and I are thrilled with its progress. If YOU would like to lend a hand...,.,to make coffee for the café or welcome on the door please contact Kevin on 0113 345 3147. And don't forget that you can always drop in for a coffee without children in tow!

Gill Pinches

Hall for Hire

Our wonderful hall and kitchen are available for hire. Please contact Julie Tomkins, 284 2187, Julie@tomkins.org.uk for details.

Hazel's Christmas Fayre & Coffee Morning

Held on Tuesday 4th November in aid of the NSPCC raised £1600. Thank you to all those who attended and helped.

Circle Dancing

Autumn is a tremendous time of the year for circle dancers. We have a plethora of lovely dances, like Falling Leaves, Fruitful Earth, Harvest Home, Alunilul (meaning hazel nuts), Harvest Moon, Fields of Gold, Migration etc. which are all a delight.

In addition, ideas for our centres are endless. There are so many beautiful fruits and seeds like sweet chestnuts, beech nuts, sycamore wings and conkers. The different shapes and amazing range of colours in the leaves just add to the possibilities for making a display in the centre of our circle, to feast our eyes on as we dance.

This week we met on 4th November. We had birch logs around a 'fire', with flickering LED lights under orange tissue paper covered in twigs. This was surrounded by orange and red lanterns. Very atmospheric!

To end our evening we all had an indoor sparkler. We DO enjoy ourselves.

Our next highlight will

be on 16thDecember when we have our Christmas party and shared supper. Our group of 5 musicians will be coming to provide live music for us to dance to, which is always very special.

May we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Joan Peart



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

Toy Service

Followed by Brunch

9:30am Sunday 14th December

Please bring along a toy (unwrapped) to donate to Leeds Social Services for distribution to children in their care



Live music, seasonal food and a bar

Saturday 6th December 7pm

Cost donations on the evening for church funds

Tickets from Keith 07920139172



Christmas Crafts for Children

Sunday 22nd December at 9.30am - Noon

All Welcome



aymond said that the Christmas Story brings hope to our very sad and sorry world. It shows us that God loves and reaches out to help us through Jesus Christ.

9 teenagers and 4 adults were to be confirmed on December 2nd by David Young, the then Bishop of Ripon.

The two Bishops had been visiting PCCs in the Diocese with a challenge on Christian giving. The Synods had decided that each church should give 5% of net

A look back in time at previous St Giles Reviews

income per year and the churches should look at existing buildings to see how they could become more effective within the community.

The Children's Society had put on a Hair Fashion Show by the Hair Studio in Headingley. This was very successful in raising £144.

The Parish Bonfire on November 10th had gone very well with a fine night, good food, fireworks and a large bonfire.

In October the Women's

Fellowship had had a very interesting evening with Mrs Cockroft and her labrador Manda who had been her guide dog for 19 years since Mrs Cocokroft became blind.

Also in October the Mothers' Union had been visited by Mrs Treadgold their Central President who discussed "Belonging." Also, Miss Battye gave a slide show on her visit to the Holy Land.

Janet and Bill Cunliffe

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FUN and FELLOWSHIP at St Giles

Dates For Your Diary

There is a lot happening on the social scene at your favourite parish church!! So... we thought it would be a good idea to give you advance notice of the events planned.

Firstly just to say that the Harvest Lunch was a lovely occasion ...Keith and Marva and their team served a delicious three course roast Sunday lunch with wine... The raffle was well supported and Bill and Janet provided a "reet gud" Yorkshire Ouiz. What on earth can we do to stop Rev David (Mastermind) Kirby from winning?!!! Can we claim unfair advantage ... Yorkshire born and bred? I doubt it... cos our resident Tyke has had a broad education and is truly well travelled ...why he even married a girl from Lancashire!

So the next BIG thing is our "It's Nearly Christmas" event to be held on Saturday 6th December in the church hall. This will be an evening of musical entertainment and dancing with hot supper and is aimed at the whole family. There really will be something for everyone. Doors open from 7pm and tickets will be available from Keith any day now. There is no entrance charge but donations will be gratefully accepted on the night... there will be a pay bar

and the ubiquitous raffle!!!
"Roll up! roll up!"...

Then on Valentines Night Saturday 14th Feb we are hosting an alternative Valentines Celebration.

Our "Valentines With a TWIST" evening will have FUN at its very HEART ♥! A Hot Date indeed!

With a little background music to welcome you ...we then hope to bring you something completely new to St Giles ... A " Mr and Mrs or Just Good Friends?" game, How WELL do you know the person sitting next to you?

The evening will include supper and a glass of (Blush!) PINK Prosecco! A fantastic tonic to counteract the winter BLUES.

Then on Sunday 19 April we are hosting another of our legendary Family Fellowship Lunches directly following the APCM in the church hall. This will have a Springtime theme and will be a great chance to relax together after our annual church meeting.

The second weekend in May the Men's Supper Club customarily hold their annual book sale. It is quite an institution in these parts and much anticipated. On the Saturday night of this weekend, May 9th we are hosting an excellent Leeds based Choir ECHO, who will entertain us in church with some lively songs from their extensive repertoire.

Finally ...for now (!!) we bring you a 4th July night to remember. .."MEMORIES are made of this!". We have managed to secure the services of a very popular local DJ who will be helping us all recapture the music of our youth!! Yes!!! We are holding a Fifties and Sixties Night ...all other decades welcome! So dust down yer dancin' shoes... warm up your Winkle-pickers...and let's have a magical midsummer ball!

We believe that
FELLOWSHIP and having
FUN together is a very
important part of our church
life... and we are delighted to
welcome you ALL to our
exciting social events...because
you're worth it!

See you soon!

Julie and the Ad Hoc Social Team



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Christmas starts with Christ

that is the Christmas story? You'd be surprised (shocked?) to discover that fewer and fewer people actually know about God's promise of a Messiah, and how it came true through the angel, Mary, Joseph, the baby, the angels appearing to the shepherds, and the star that led the magi to Jesus.

When the problem of widespread ignorance of even these very basics of the Christmas story was recently revealed through survey findings, the mainline denominations decided to take action to reverse the trend.

'The Christmas Starts with Christ' Campaign will run from 1st December to Christmas day. It will include specially produced Christmas cards, a chocolate advent calendar with a copy of the Christmas story in the box and a national advertising campaign using posters and radio ads.

A turning point? It might be difficult to believe, but knowledge of the Christmas Story is fading. Just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story; and 36 per cent of children do not know whose birthday is being celebrated during the festival. Christmas is being lost to

secularism and the trend is for this to get worse.

Some 51 per cent of people now say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. It is becoming simply ... 'mas'; a consumerfuelled and family-filled happy holiday which is meaningless – albeit enjoyable.

Together we can reverse the trend. A movement made up of some of the nation's leading Christian groups, including the Church of England, the Evangelical Alliance, and the Children's Society, is coming together because they recognise something must be done.

Leading the campaign is ChurchAds.net – the group behind the annual Christmas advertising poster campaigns. This year, recognising the urgency and importance of bringing the Church together to save Christmas, the group has taken a new direction.

The campaign starts on Advent Sunday. Francis Goodwin, of ChurchAds.net, said: "Christmas is such an important part of the Church calendar and it is a time when Christians shine light in their communities. But the good news is being lost. We can't sit back and let that happen. We cannot let the nation lose the real meaning of Christmas; and we are passionate about bringing the Church together for this cause to remind everyone that Christmas Starts with Christ."

Church leaders are among those who have put their support into the campaign.

Arun Arora, director of communications at the Church of England, said: "At Christmas time thousands of churches around the country do a huge amount to carry the Christmas story into their local communities, through word and deed. The vision for the Christmas Starts with Christ campaign sends a powerful message to the nation that the reason for the season is the birth of Jesus.

Visit www.christmasstartswithchri st.com

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Thank Dickens for Christmas as you know it!

Z ver wonder where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens.

When you read 'A Christmas Carol', you discover almost a template of the 'ideal Christmas' which we still hold dear today. Dickens seems to have selected the best of the Christmas celebrations of his day (he ignored some of the odd excesses) and packaged them in such a way as to give us traditions that we could accommodate and treasure — more than a century later.

So, for instance, in A Christmas Carol, Christmas is a family day, with a family -centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents. Scrooge even gives donations to charity (!). And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas – in the shape of Christmas Present. Only the Christmas tree itself came

later, when Prince Albert imported 'a pretty German toy' that won the heart of the English court, and hence the rest of Victorian society.

Christian Aid distributes food in Ebola 'hotspots'

Christian Aid has delivered emergency food and hygiene kits to some of the most vulnerable families under quarantine in two of Sierra Leone's Ebola 'hotspots' in order to prevent families from starving.

Pregnant women, single mothers, people living with HIV, the elderly and young children were among the 2,100 quarantined residents being targeted in the eastern Kailahun district and in the rural Freetown suburb of Waterloo. The kits contain enough food to give a family a balanced diet for two weeks, including oil, tinned fish, rice, onions and powdered milk. They also include essential hygiene



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

materials

With the national death rate now exceeding 1,000 and the infection rate rising sharply, Christian Aid is working with local health teams to identify the 'at-risk' households in quarantined areas. Since the outbreak began, Christian Aid partners have trained hundreds of local volunteers to reach 1.2 million people in Sierra Leone.

To donate to Christian Aid's Ebola response visit www.christianaid.org.uk/ ebolacrisis

Rotas for December

CHURCH FLOWERS

Guild Member Janet Howard

Dec Janet Howard 14 Dec Janet Howard

21 Dec Christmas Decorations

28 Dec Christmas

COFFEE

Dec Nick Pinches Stephen Giles

14 Dec Jean Kendall-Smith

Betty Reyner

21 Dec Nancy Bundey

Jill Perkin

28 Dec Joan Archenhold

Kathleen Grainge

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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 from one of the roads below please pass the details on to Janice or any of the Lay Assistants who will arrange for that name to be included on the Prayer List.

07/12/14 Old Lane, Occupation Lane, Hilton Court, Grange & Mews

14/12/14 Those from outside the parish who worship with us

21/12/14 Staircase Lane & Hall Drive

28/12/14 Leeds Road, Ashcroft House, St. Giles Garth & Glenmore Court

SIDESPERSONS' ROTA

30

Sunday	8.15am	9.30am		6.30pm
1st	Bill Cunliffe Steve McGraw	Margaret North Philip Kendall-Smith		Margaret North
2nd	Mike Brown Joyce Shepheard	John Grahame Neil Simpson	Michael Riley	Margaret North
3rd	Janet Howard Chris Pearson	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

Luncheon Club		Mrs Mary Burnell	267 1742	
Men's Supper Club:	Convenor	Mr Fred Archenhold	267 6744	
			fredarchen@aol.com	
Meeting Secretary & Treasurer		Mr Derek Owram	284 3301	
		d	lerekowram@hotmail.com	
Outing & Programme Secretary		Mr Bryan Bundey	267 8534	
			bundey@talktalk.net	
Mothers' Union:	Coordinator	Mrs Mary Mumby		
	Minutes Secretary	Mrs Joanne Dawdry	203 7182	
Open House	•	Mrs Wendy Fudge	281 7754	
Organist & Choirmaster	r	Mr John Smith	261 0101	
PCC Secretary		Mrs Miranda Reynard	203 7001	
PCC Treasurer		Mr Bernard Williams	318 8707	
			bswilliams@talktalk.net	
Planned Giving Officer		Mrs Linda Jones	261 0875	
Envelope Stewardship Secretary		Dr Sue Ball	267 3772	
Photocopying		Mrs Hilary Molyneux	284 3654	
Readings Rota		Mrs Mary Mumby	284 2708	
Screen Adverts		Mrs Angela Smith	203 7757	
		angela.smith200@googlemail.com		
St Giles' Review	Editor etc	See page 3		
St Giles' Web Site	Coordinator	Mrs Gill Pinches	284 2063	
			gill.pinches@gmail.com	
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 Christine Smith	284 2974	

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Good's	18	Lily's	12		
Slater's	28	Neil Stringwell	22		
		Small Building Works	10		
		Plumbers and Gas Eng	gineers		
H 141 6 D 4		Andrew Dodsworth	28		
Health & Beauty		John Suggit	6		

Church Services for December 2014

Wednesday 3rd 10.00am **Toddler Praise**

First Thursday Holy Communion (BCP) Thursday 4th 10 30am

SECOND OF ADVENT Sunday 7th

> 8.15am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Holy Communion (BCP) Thursday 11th 10.30am

THIRD OF ADVENT Sunday 14th

> 8 15am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am All.together Toy Service with Healing Ministry

3.00pm Messy Church with Christmas Party

Holy Communion (CW) 6.30pm

Thursday 18th 10 30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 21st FOURTH OF ADVENT

> 8.15am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW)

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25th

> Christmas Holy Communion (CW) 9.30am

NO 8.15am or 6.30pm Services

Sunday 28th FIRST OF CHRISTMAS

> Together Communion (CW) 9.30am

NO 8.15am or 6.30pm Services

JANUARY 2015

Thursday 1st NO 10.30am Holy Communion Service

Sunday 4th SECOND OF CHRISTMAS

NO 8.15am Holy Communion Service

9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 6.30pm **Epiphany Carol Service**

10.00am Toddler Praise

Wednesday 7th

Thursday 8th 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)



l.together!

