

HOPE HERALD

News, views & comment from
St James Church, Hope
November/December 2019

Happenings at St. James



ST JAMES (HOPE) CHURCH



Advent & Christmas Services

December 1 st	10.00am Christingle Service in aid of Children's Society
December 8 th	10.00am Holy Communion
December 15 th	10.00am Holy Communion
December 22 nd	10.00am Carol Service & Gift Day
Christmas Eve	6.30pm First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	10.00am Christmas Communion



Wishing a blessed Christmas to
All our Readers
And particularly regular contributors
From the
Editorial Team

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE WEEKLY PEWS NEWS OR ASK CHURCHWARDENS



Letter from The Vicar

Nov/Dec 2019

THE OLDER I get the more my life seems to be flying by, it only seems yesterday we were celebrating Easter and now Christmas is almost here again. While for me and I am sure many others it is a very busy time, it is also a very joyful time, as we get ready to celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. It is perhaps easy in all the business, buying food and drink, choosing presents, decorating the house etc, to lose sight of what it is we are celebrating and the enormous significance of it.

When Jesus was born something amazing happened, the creator of our world, our entire universe and everything in it, had come into the world as a helpless baby boy. I'm sure his birth felt wonderful to Mary and Joseph as the birth of our children is for any of us, but I doubt any of those who came to see Jesus around his birth had any idea just how huge and world changing

an event had happened. Even the shepherds would come after the visit from the heavenly host or the wise men who had followed the star trusting it to lead them to a great king, had any idea just who it was they would be coming to see, just how amazing and spectacular an event they were to be witnesses of.

When we think about the enormity of our world, the diversity within it, it can make us feel very small, when we then realise that our world is like a speck of sand on the beach when compared to our galaxy and then the entire universe, it can make us feel completely insignificant. Yet the one who made all this, with all its wonder, complexity and beauty, came into our world as a little baby, to live as a human being, so that he might tell us more about himself and how we can get the best from our lives and ultimately to show us how

special each one of us is to Him and how much we are loved by Him, it takes your breath away and reminds us in the most powerful way that none of us is insignificant, that we all matter and are precious to God.

Whenever I think on that it blows my mind and brings a great smile to my face. So as you prepare for Christmas, with all the business and stress that can sometimes bring, I hope you will take a few moments to remember what an incredible event we are celebrating, God becoming one of us to show us how much we are loved, and that it will bring a smile to your face to as you are reminded how wonderful and special you are to Him.

God bless and have a very wonderful and merry Christmas

Gareth

Christmas over the Christian world

FOR NEARLY four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.

Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January).

Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25th December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7th January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6th January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The signifi-

cance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God. And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.



From the Churchwardens

HELLO EVERYONE.

Following on from the last edition of the Hope Herald. The autumn Fayre was a huge success, considering the atrocious weather. We raised a total of £518 towards church funds, which was a wonderful achievement. But it's not just about the money. It's also about touching base with our community and we certainly did that. As well as many of our congregation turning up to help, looking after stalls, there were parents from the brownies, members of the archery group and numerous family members, all willing helpers. Suffice to say, everyone played their part. As one of our organisers said "it felt like we were all part of a team" thanks to everyone involved. Look out for a repeat sometime next year.

The separating of the water supply between the Church, hall and vicarage saga continues, but we feel the end is now in sight. The new supply to the Church and church hall is in place. A new bright red wall mounted letter box has been mounted adjacent to the vestry door and our post person is using it. So no excuse for United Utili-

ties not to issue separate bills for the two accounts. Let's hope the remedial ground work will be completed soon!

The vicarage itself is definitely being sold. No date has yet been given. We suspect, the gardens will be tidied up first and the stolen fence panels replaced.

On October 6th we held our Harvest Festival service with a total of £153 and numerous food donations.

On Sunday 3rd of November, we had a visit from a senior member of the City Mission team giving us an overview of what the Narrowgate team does to help the homeless get back onto their feet again. During the service the money and food from our harvest celebration were given to the charity. We have received a letter of thanks from them.

On Sunday October 20th, our monthly Family service was made special with two of the younger members of our congregation taking their first communion. An early step in their spiritual journey. We wish them all the joys and privileges of being part of a Christian family.

Being Part of a joint benefice with St Johns, we held an annual joint memorial service on Sunday 27th October at St Johns. We always find this service as one of the most moving occasions, with individual candles lit and names read out in commemoration of those no longer with us. Continuing in the same vein, on November the 10th we commemorated the dead from two world wars and prayed for all those involved in other conflicts. Another moving service where all the names on our memorial plaque were read out and two minutes silence observed.

After last times update on our friend Jackie, it gives us great pleasure to announce; Jackie got married a couple of weeks ago in a very quiet ceremony up in Kendal. We wish her all the very best for the future.

May we Churchwardens be the first to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year

God Bless

*Trevor
and Fred*

Good King Wenceslas



WHEN I was a choir boy many years ago, writes David Winter, ‘Good King Wenceslas’ was a very popular carol. A man sang the King’s lines, a boy sang the Page’s, and the choir filled in the narrative. It was not of course technically a Christmas carol but one for which most people know as ‘Boxing Day’ – the ‘Feast of Stephen’ the first Christian martyr.

But you don’t hear Good King Wenceslas these days. It fell foul of political correctness. The king was wealthy and very kindly, helped a poor man, but the last verse was the problem. It called on ‘Christian men, wealth and rank possessing’. To help the poor and be blessed in doing it. All very patronising, class-conscious, and

chauvinistic. So, it has simply disappeared.

I think that’s a pity, and I also think it’s a serious misunderstanding of the carol. It relates to the good deeds of a tenth century Duke of Bohemia, Wenceslas I, and concerns a king and his page, and a poor man freezing and potentially starving whom he saw from his window.

The king didn’t, as he might well have done, simply order some minion to take the man some food or fuel. He decided to do it himself assisted by his young page. Together



they braved the bitter wind and snow in order to take

pine logs and food to this humble dwelling. That is not patronising but true Christian grace.

The words to the carol were written in 1853 by John Mason Neale but the melody is much older – it’s a 13th-century tune called ‘Tempus adest florum’ in praise of the spring.

Yes, the last verse does express a Victorian view of characters but that’s when it was written.

No one should condemn the carol and its message. Who would shrink from following its example? I’m afraid texting a token ten quid to a charity does not quite qualify.

Love requires action, if we don’t see that then we have missed the point. That is the message of this lovely carol which was written for the Feast of St Stephen, better known as Boxing Day. And it celebrates the long tradition of charitable giving on the Second Day of Christmas.

Crossword Answers

Across: 1 sampan, 4 mended, 8 linsed, 10 pride, 11 curtain, 12 razor, 13 soft hearted, 18 aisle, 19 improve, 22 court, 23 napping, 24 trendy, 25 cringe.
Down: 1 select, 2 manor, 3 arena, 4 emperor, 6 drizzle, 7 dreary, 9 dandelion, 14 obscure, 15 treated, 16 mascot, 17 beagle, 20 piper, 21 onion.

LATE EXTRA: On the cards

WELL-KNOWN popular songs, some of them rocky and raucous, come at us over and over again throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. How amazing that up there with the most recent of them you can still find Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas', the words of which young people seem to know as well as the songs of their own generation. What can its appeal be to those brought up on the likes of Wizzard, Slade, Bruce Springsteen and Mariah Carey? I can only think that it has something to do with the nostalgia we have for things as we imagine them to have been in the past. It comes over almost all of us at this time of year. Christmas has us sifting through our memories, renewing our friendships and recovering our relationships – sometimes with members of our own families, especially those we see only occasionally. I should be the last person to mention this, since most of my contributions to this publication have been reaching back into things which happened a long time ago; but in case you feel I live only for the past, let me tell you that my aim always is to take hold of

what I have found most valuable previously, to continue using it, and to carry it forward with me into whatever of the future still remains for me to experience.

I am very much, I confess, a Christmas orientated person, having been born within two weeks of it. Two weeks before Christmas this year I reach the 70th anniversary of my confirmation.

The first paid work I ever did in my life happened in the run up to Christmas. At my secondary school, boys of 16 and over were allowed to have off the last two weeks of the autumn term each year in order to help the local post office deliver its load of cards and Christmas parcels. I daresay something similar happened all over the country. I have very vivid memories of dashing to the local railway station to meet the mail train, heaving the heavy sacks into vans and taking them back to the head office to be tipped out on large sorting tables. From the tables they were put through a system of pigeon holes to get them into appropriate and manageable areas. We didn't have postcodes then; it was all done by

hand; and it worked. Now it's done by machines.

We usually did two letter rounds per day – one am, one pm – and a parcel round in between. You soon got to know where the unfriendly dogs were and how to deal with them. You also had to cope with old ladies who were expecting mail from relatives overseas and couldn't understand why it hadn't come. Tea breaks between rounds back at the canteen meant that we could mix with the old lags and hear all their stories. I think they enjoyed being able to pull rank on us as much as we enjoyed rubbing shoulders with them and feeling we were doing something for the country!

It doesn't happen anymore, of course, for a number of reasons. There are people who can't get regular jobs who rely on casual work in order to survive. Today's schools don't need to be asked for help. It's also clear that the volume of Christmas mail is nowhere near as huge as it was sixty odd years ago. Greetings cards, be they for Christmas, birthdays or for any other occasion, are relatively expensive, and if

you need to post far more of them than you could deliver by hand, the cost of the postage will be enormous. Small wonder people feel disinclined to make time to write cards or send written messages by post when five minutes work on a computer can solve all your problems. Social media websites which allow you to keep in touch with relatives and friends at the touch of a button or two constantly carry messages like, 'it's so-and-so's birthday today. Let him know you're thinking of him.'

Something similar happens at Christmas, but I have to say that for me e-mails are no substitute for the dozens of Christmas cards I get – touchable, readable evidence that

somebody somewhere is thinking about me as I am thinking of them.

When you think about it, Christmas has always been about messages, good wishes and good news. Angels serve god in many ways, not least as his messengers between heaven and earth. The angel Gabriel was sent to Nazareth with a message for Mary. Angels filled the sky over the hills of Bethlehem with important news for the shepherds there that something had happened in the town below. One of the readings heard in church on Christmas morning and again later in the season says that 'the word was made flesh'. The baby born unexpectedly in the shelter under the house where the animals

were kept was himself a living, breathing message from god.

Every baby is a statement (a) about the past: that two persons have come together for its making, and (b) about the present and the future: that responsible care is required, so that this new life is nourished and secured and brought to its potential. Christmas asks you to accept the message that is Jesus and to respond to it for the rest of your life. 'In the hustle and hurry of Christmas, it's important to stop and remember the special blessings we have. Knowing you is one of the best.'

DGB

Life and times at Little Gems

OVER the last year Little Gems has continued to meet on the first Sunday of each month, with the numbers ranging from 5 – 8. On the odd occasion one family has brought their friends who were visiting from Wales and this has boosted our numbers to 13.

In December we focused on Christingle depicting Jesus as the light

of the world, guiding us to do the right thing and go the right way. In January we focused on the holy family escaping to Egypt and becoming refugees in that country until the death of Herod. We compared their plight with the modern refugees of today escaping from places like Syria. February saw us celebrating Candlemas, the presentation of Christ

in the Temple. March saw us thinking of Lent, Jesus going into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights and not having any food. That led us on to think about what we would give up for Lent. As this time of year is about preparing for the crucifixion of Christ and sowing the seeds for what is to come the children planted some cress seeds hoping that

they would have grown by Easter, they did.

For Easter we started off with an egg hunt and then covered the story of Palm Sunday, Jesus riding through Jerusalem on a donkey. In May we looked at the story of Saint John the Apostle, a loyal friend to Jesus. We talked about our friends and what makes a loyal friend. We then started to cover some key events in the life of Moses, starting with Moses in the bulrushes. We wove a basket out of strips of paper and floated it on water. This was followed by the Israelites escape from Egypt across the Red Sea. In July we discovered how Jesus invited some of his disciples to follow him and how that same invitation is extended to us today. August saw us covering the story of the 'good Samaritan' and how we could relate it to the present day. How would you react if you saw someone injured at the side of the road? Would you help or would you walk by on the other side???

To en-

sure our children could help we covered some basic aspects of first aid; they thoroughly enjoyed trying to bandage cuts and apply a sling. After Little Gems in August we all joined together on the front lawn for a picnic, all the children and parents contributed and participated. A good time was had by all.

In September the theme was 'Holy Communion' This was because at the beginning of the year Clare started to work through a programme called 'Welcome to the Lord's Table' by Margaret Withers with 2 of the older children. On completion of the course, which consists of 10 Units, the children are able to take communion. I am delighted to say that the children completed the course and took their first communion in September.

In October the children learnt about creation, the younger ones covering the story about how the world was created in seven days whilst the older children focused on the

creation and the bible. Finally in November we went back to Stories of Everyday Saints and learnt about Saint Elizabeth of Hungary who always went out of her way to help the poor.

Although we have a lovely small group we would love more children to join us. So if you are aged between 3 and 12 years please come along to church on the first Sunday of the month at 10.0am, we would love to see you and we promise you fun and friendship.

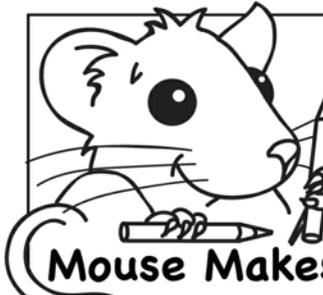
We split the group up and try to offer the older children the chance to explore their faith through discussion and debate by watching a film or video. We also offer the older children the opportunity to work through the programme which enables them to take Communion for the first time.

*Sylvia
McGreal*

Answers to the News Quiz of 2019

1 A yellow reflective vest, 2 a cat, 3. in Edinburgh by mistake, 4. comedian, 5. Victor Hugo, 6. Love of Ferns, 7. Eiffel Tower, 8. Penny Mordeant, 9. Canada, 10. British soldiers in the Battle of Ballaclava, 11. Coffee, 12. Lots of butterflies, 13. Beards, 14. Seagulls, 15. HRH Prince Charles, 16. Greenland, 17. Butterflies, 18. Beef.

Junior Pages



Mouse Makes

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?
Read
Luke 2:7

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?
Read
Luke 2:1-6

Good news!

What did Mary dress her baby in?
Read
Luke 2:6

Glory to God

Why were the shepherds afraid?
Read
Luke 2:8

A Saviour is born

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?
Read
Matthew 1:21

What good news did the angel tell?
Read
Luke 2:10-11

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?
Read
Luke 2:13-14

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?
Read
Luke 2:16

Colour a star each day until Christmas

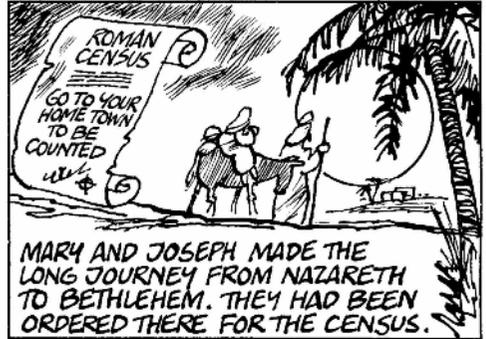


A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL...



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



To fast or not to fast?

That is the question

TALKING to one of the church wardens, I casually mentioned the subject of fasting in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. I told him that at least one hundred and eighty days a year were declared to be “fasting “days. (I guess that if I had said the other one hundred and eighty five days a year were feast days, it wouldn’t have met with the same gasp of shock and horror!). For a long time I never really understood what fasting was all about, until one Ethiopian friend explained to me why it was so important for him, so I decided to share some of what he told me with you .

Fasting is an old tradition in all the major world religions, and Christianity is no exception. Jesus fasted in the wilderness. The Pharisees complained that Jesus’ disciples didn’t fast like the disciples of John the Baptist. Jesus even mentions about the need for prayer and fasting, but warns us not to make it into a reason for self-congratulation or for showing off to others. The Protestant reformers saw fasting as an act where people trying to “buy “their way

into heaven. So is fasting gloomy and irrelevant? What exactly is fasting, and why do it at all?

Fasting is a way to create “space” and peace. Many of us are very “busy” and hardly have time for ourselves, our family and other people, let alone for God. Fasting is a time of quiet and reflection, when we can deliberately set aside time for prayer, reading and meditation. It is a time of quiet when we can think about our world and our place in it, and also think about how we can live better and less self-centred lives. Part of the essence of fasting is spending time being quiet. The good news is that you don’t have to buy a ticket for a Buddhist monastery in Tibet to have this experience, because by fasting regularly, you can create that space at home, or wherever you can “be still”.

Fasting is often described as “abstaining from food”, though that is only a part of what fasting is all about. Most of us know about the Muslim Fast of Ramadan, when Muslims will not eat or drink between dawn and

dusk. Fasting for Orthodox Christians most often means eating no animal products – going vegan. (It is now quite trendy even in secular circles to have “Vegan January” or “Teetotal January” for those who overindulge at Christmas). We are privileged to live in a society where we can have what we want, whenever we want it (if we have the money), but by fasting, we are not only helping the planet by consuming less meat, but also ourselves, by eating healthier diets, (as modern science tells us), but it’s also a way to be able to live simply. So, good news for the planet! Of course, like the child who has saved up all year to buy that new toy for Christmas, people who fast, really look forward to the “feasting”, because it makes those days even more special!

Fasting is especially aimed at the wealthy (who can afford meat every day). It is becoming ever clearer how greed is not only responsible for the poverty of others, but also is destroying our planet at an alarming rate. Fasting is saying “no” to greed

and self-indulgence. So fasting is an act of solidarity with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. That is why fasting is often accompanied with extra giving and sharing with others. As I write, BBC is promoting its Children in Need Appeal. The requests from “good causes” can seem overwhelming at times. So fasting is also a good time to reflect not only on “charity” but on what we can do to change the structures which cause injustice, and harm to others. . It instructs us to “live simply, so that others can simply live”.

Fasting is often associated with a traumatic historic upheaval – like the Exodus for the Jews, or the Hejira for the Muslims. I remember my mother, who lived through the rationing of World War II, always saying, to us , “eat up your food, we would have given our eye teeth to have had that during the war”. Victims of war, and refugees often have to face long periods of shortages, and fasting brings us into solidarity with those who, through other people’s greed for power and possessions, have been forced into deprivation. ”. I don’t have to be forced to eat my greens

any longer, but I should daily appreciate where my food comes from, and be thankful for it .Fasting can also help us focus on working for peace.

Advent, before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, has been set aside by the Church as a fasting period. A time to prepare ourselves and review our lives, looking forward to the great Feast of Christmas.

Whether fasting or not, a blessed Advent to us all.

Bob Hedley

Mythical Beasts: Xolotl



god of Creation).It was Xolotl’s duty to guide the dead to the Aztec underworld, known as Mictlan, and to drag the Sun through it. He was often pictured with the head of an ugly dog and with feet that were the wrong

In one story, Xolotl is credited with repopulating the planet. He travelled to the dark depts. Of the Earth and uncovered a strange bone while digging. He brought the bone home to the rest of the gods. They doused it with some of their blood and watched with bated breath as the bone slowly transformed into a human boy and girl, giving rise to the human race.

Xolotl was the brother of Quetzalcoatl (the Aztec way round

St Nicholas – patron saint of children

FATHER CHRISTMAS seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children, and was given 6th December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution.

According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He received three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of



gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Over the centuries many people 'on the fringe', including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and money-lenders have claimed him as their patron.

Perhaps it was on account of St. Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6th December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night – or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after a time his activities were moved towards

Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the windowsill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind – Krishkinkle as they knew him – and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents



At Christmas friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.

Priesley Players A.D.S.

IF YOU missed my article in the last edition I must apologise, I did send it in, but for some reason the digital postman failed to deliver it and I assume it is now wandering the electronic highways of the solar system like some celestial comet.

Our last show, '*Thriller of the Year*', was deemed a success by all accounts, according to the comments we have received. One member of the audience said, "It certainly went with a bang!" We try to please. Our next offering is the Christmas Show – November 30th, which will be an evening of 'Tales and Stories with a Christmas Theme', followed by a two course meal, a fun quiz and a raffle, with seasonal prizes.

As this is our 50th Season we have decided to produce Tee shirts/Sweat shirts and bags, decorated with our logo, to commemorate the occasion. These will be on sale at the shows or by contacting me on the addresses below.



Priestley Players, started at the Methodist Church on Worsley Road, Swinton, in 1970. We were sponsored by the Church and British Oxygen Company, Worsley.. Our first production, "Haul for the Shore" was finally staged on 18/19/20 March 1971. In those days we could only do one show a year due to restrictions on use of the Hall/stage by the church, but as time went on we progressed to four and eventually five. Many are the times when we put out the 'house full' signs as we reached our capacity of 150! Ah! Those were the days.

In 1994/95 we celebrated our 25th Jubilee with a special dinner attended by over 70 guests. We commissioned sweat shirts and sold Fuchsia plants – 'Silver Jubilee', to raise funds.

In 2000, our 31st Season, we were invited to take part in the BT sponsored play "Sand Castles" written by Bob Larby of TV fame with the 'The Good Life'. On the week we performed the play we joined several hundred other amateur dramatic societies in attaining a world record for performing the same play on the same night. (*To be continued*).

Let us hope the next few years are as successful. Do come along to our shows this special season and join in the celebrations, even better, why not come and join us! There are lots you can do, both backstage and front of house - you can even 'tread the boards', if you wish! We are a friendly society and will make you very welcome. And as we keep on saying, **"Amateur dramatics is fun.....Honest!"**

See you at the shows

Roger
(PRO Priestley Players)
(0161) 794 8266

*Athletes get athlete's foot, so do astronauts get
Missile toe?*

The News Quiz for 2019

HOW well did you read the News this year? Try this quiz and find out...

1. What is a Gillet jaune?
2. The famous fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld died this year leaving his £150 million fortune to Choupette. Who or what is Choupette?
3. In March an aeroplane left London City airport flight with number BA3271 to Düsseldorf. Where did it land?
4. Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelensky won the Ukrainian Presidential election in April. What was his job before the election?
5. There was a serious fire at Notre Dame in April. Who wrote a book in 1831 about the cathedral and to draw attention to the restoration it then needed?
6. What is Pteridomania? The Victorians had it.
7. Blackpool Tower celebrated its 125th anniversary in May 2019. What landmark inspired it?
8. Which former member of the cabinet was named after a battleship?
9. Which country has coins nicknamed loonie and toonie?
10. Politicians talked about red lines. What was the thin red line?
11. What would you use a French press to make?
12. In July we were told to look out for a "Painted Lady Summer". What is that?
13. What were male members of the RAF allowed to grow this year that they have never previously been allowed?
14. What were seafarers advised to stare at to stop them stealing chips and bothering them?
15. Which person has the following titles in other languages? (All one person)
Leading Star; The Son of the Big Boss; The Sun Looks at Him in a Good Way; The Helper of the Cows (literally he whom the cows love so much they call for him when they are in times of distress)
16. Which territory did Donald Trump say he was interested in buying for the US?
17. What are a small copper and an Essex skipper?
18. What did Goldsmiths, University of London, ban the sale of to try to fight global warming?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

Heartfelt Plea..

Sometimes, upon a Christmas day
I wonder if there's any way
That Christmas might be quite a treat
For those who have a few more feet!



I really love my Christmas socks
That fill, each year, my Christmas box
O Santa, festive stocking filler,
I wish I were a caterpillar!

Puzzle Page

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

Difficulty level: Easy. ©2011 KrazyDad.com

S
U
D
O
K
U

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

Difficulty level: Medium ©2011 KrazyDad.com

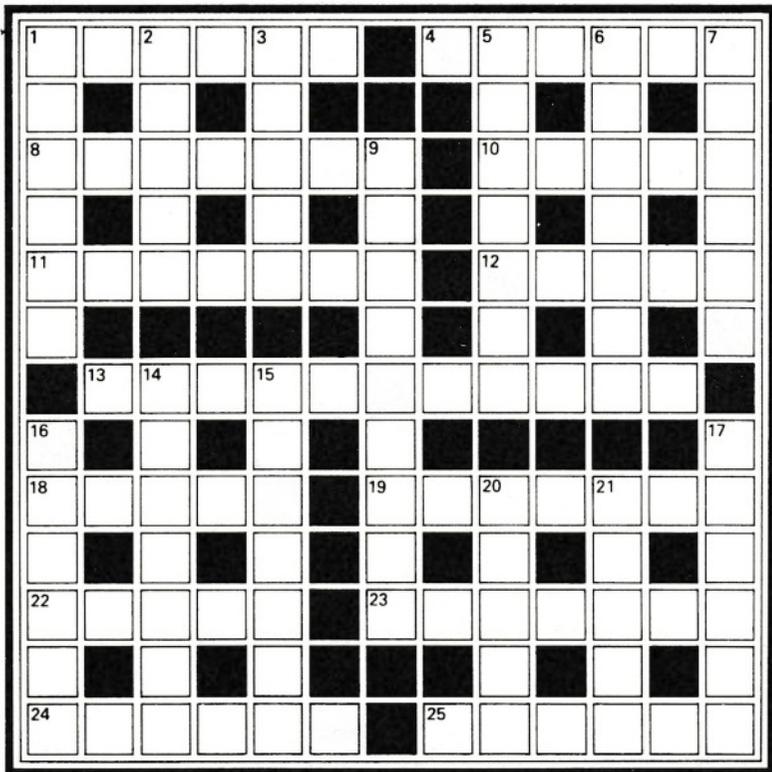
WORDSEARCH

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

Christmas is nearly here! More than two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. Jesus came. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all - eternal life.

HERE ARE THE WORDS TO FIND: Messiah, Broken, Heart. Freedom, Darkness. Favour. Prisoners, Comfort, Mourn, Bestow, , Crown, Beauty, Ashes, Son, God , Jesus, Seen, Father, Whoever, longing, thousand.

Crossword No 28



ACROSS

1. Chinese boat (6)
4. Repaired (6)
8. You get oil from this – in Leeds (anag.) (7)
10. A company of lions – you see arrogance (5)
11. It rises in the theatre (7)
12. Possibly a cut-throat (5)
13. Full of tender feeling – for the dates (anag.) (4-7)
18. Passageway – in which you hear 'I will'! (5)
19. Become better (7)
22. Where tennis is played (5)
23. Having forty winks (7)
24. Keeping up with the latest fashion (6)
25. Cower (6)

DOWN

1. Choose (6)
2. Isle, or – nobleman's land (5)
3. Scene of public contest (5)
5. Great ruler (7)
6. Light rain (7)
7. Cheerless (6)
9. Yellow-flowered plant – one I'd land (anag.) (9)
14. Not clear (7)
15. Given a free drink (7)
16. Ma's little bed – it's supposed to bring luck! (6)
17. A hunting-dog (6)
20. Flute-player? Sounds like what Cockney reads daily! (5)
21. A tear-jerker! (5)

A few clues may be a bit cryptic
Answers on page 5

THE COMMUNITY HALL

Regular activities using the facilities

MONDAY

NHS Fellowship 12.00 - 15.00 (monthly - 2nd Monday)
(Contact: Lynn Frier 01617890231)

TUESDAY

Yoga group 19.30 - 20.30
(Contact: Vicky Greer: 07717717186)

WEDNESDAY

Rainbows & Brownies 17.30 - 19.00 (weekly in term time)
(Contact: Sylvia McGreal 01617980057)

THURSDAY

Archery 13.00 - 15.00 and 19.00 - 21.00
(Contact: Dominic Vaughan 01612116563
or 07934080596)

FRIDAY

Archery 19.30 - 22.00 (Contact as above)

SUNDAY

Little Gems Sunday School 10.00 - 11.00 am (monthly 1st Sunday)
(Contact: Sylvia McGreal 01617980057)

VARIOUS

Priestley Players Amateur Dramatic Society - request info.
(Contact: Roger Partington 01617948266)

BOOKINGS

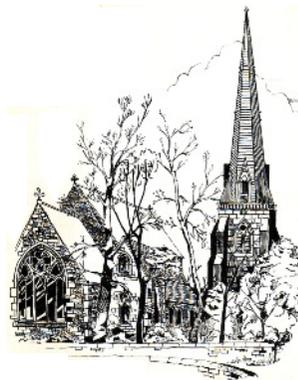
Booking requests, whether for regular or occasional events should be addressed to Mrs Sheila Jones who can be contacted on 01617892863 or 07845492109.



STAFF

Vicar of St. James & St. John

Rev. Gareth Thomas
91 Broomhall Road,
Pendlebury,
M27 8XR
Telephone: 0161 925 0059



Churchwardens:

Mr. T Palmer,
55 East Lancashire Road,
Swinton,
Manchester,
M27 5LY
Telephone: 0161 794 2702

Mr Fred Lloyd
213 Lancaster Road
Pendleton
Salford
M6 8WA
Telephone: 0161 789 3476

SERVICES:

Sunday 10.00am Parish Communion

Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc. by arrangement with Rev. Thomas who may be contacted by telephone, or in person at Church on Wednesdays from 10-30am

Hall Bookings: For bookings and enquiries about the Parish Hall ring Mrs. Sheila Jones on 0161 789 2863 or 07845492109

E-mail for all church issues: Stjames.hope@gmail.com

Website: www.saintjameshope.co.uk