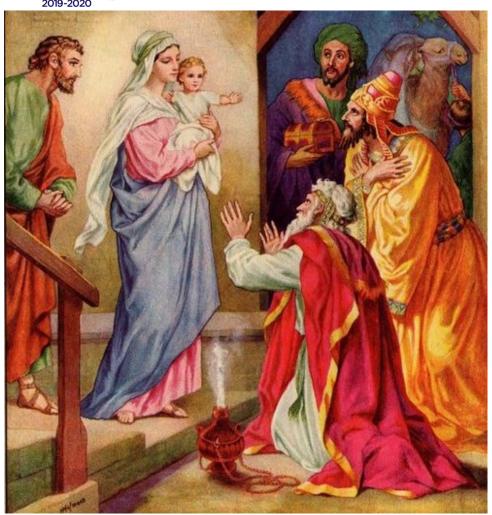


CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITYWeston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S Hordley

50p Per issue

WESTON CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW

See page 14 for details



We hope that you are all well during these difficult times and look forward to when we can all socialise again at Village Events.

This year we are holding a Christmas Hamper Draw and hope that you will be able to

support us! All proceeds will go to Weston Lullingfields Church.



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Children: let me know many badgers you can find in this magazine.

SUBMISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Please send your stories, pictures or notices for the next issue by

15th JANUARY 2021

to: churchfamilynews@gmail.com

The views expressed by individuals in this Magazine are not necessarily the views of the group of Churches in this Benefice. External advertising in this magazine does not imply an endorsement or promotion of the advertisement, nor its content, products or services. Errors and omissions, whilst regrettable, may occur.

Front cover: Public domain picture showing the Nativity of Christ.

Artist unknown.

Save Christmas or Christmas Saves Us?

Dear Friends,

There has been a lot of talk in the last month about saving Christmas, which leads me to ask: 'What do people think Christmas is about?'

Yes, Christmas won't be like what many have grown to know it to be. There won't be mass gatherings of family and friends; there won't be Christmas parties with work colleagues and gifts this year may be scaled back due to financial constraints on families where jobs have been lost. But this isn't the first time we've been in a situation like this. We've just commemorated Armistice Day and remembered those who gave their lives in two World Wars and all the wars since then. The families who lived through the two World Wars faced a similar situation. They didn't get to spend Christmas with all their family and loved ones; yes they may have seen their friends, but they didn't have much money and food certainly in the Second World War was rationed and there was little in the way of gifts or parties. Yet I don't remember them saying 'Let's save Christmas.' Those families didn't even have the luxury of a phone call, or the Internet where they could zoom, or Skype. All they could hope for was a letter or card through the post if they were lucky. They made the most of what they had, they sang the carols in their homes and they gave thanks for being alive.

Christmas is about so much more than the decorations and trimmings we associate with it. Christmas is about the birth of God's Son, love incarnate. A baby boy who came to earth to save us! A gift freely offered to all who choose to accept it, a gift more valuable than anything else, and a gift of love from God to His beloved children on earth.

This year the world has the chance to once again reflect on the true meaning of Christmas; what a wonderful opportunity! Let us celebrate the gift of the incarnation and know that it is God's gift to each one of us.

May we be like the lights on the Christmas tree shining in the darkness, bringing the light and love of Christ to all.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

Línda

Readings for Sundays in December and January

December 6th

Isaiah 40: 1-11 or 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Gospel reading: Mark 1: 1-8

December 13th

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end or 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

December 20th

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 or Romans 16: 25-end

Gospel reading: Luke 1: 26-38

December 27th

Exodus 33: 7-11a or 1 John 1

Gospel reading: John 21: 19b-end

January 3rd

Isaiah 60: 1-6 or Ephesians 3: 1-12

Gospel reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

January 10th

Genesis 1: 1-5 or Acts 19: 1-7

Gospel reading: Mark 1: 4-11

January 17th

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 or Revelation 5: 1-10

Gospel reading: John 1: 43-end

January 24th

Genesis 14: 17-20 or Revelation 19: 6-10

Gospel reading: John 2: 1-11

January 31st

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 or Revelation 12: 1-5a

Gospel reading: Mark 1: 21-28

Services for December/January

It is really difficult at this stage to say what services will be available in our churches over the next couple of months, it depends entirely on which way the pandemic goes. If all goes well we will open again in December but even then services at Christmas will not be as we've had in previous years. Urgent guidelines still do not permit us to sing indoors or even outdoors. If we are notified that we can sing, even if just outdoors, then we will consider an outdoor carol service. There will however, be an online Carol Service and a booklet for those who do not have access to the Internet.

Please see the list below which shows how I think services will be if we can open.

This is **not a complete list** so please check the website, Facebook pages, emails and posters that will be displayed, and let others know.

December 6th – 9.30am Worship for All – Weston Lullingfields 11am Holy Communion – Baschurch

December 13th – 9.15am – Holy Communion - Hordley 11am – Holy Communion – Baschurch

December 20th – 9.30am – Holy Communion – Weston Lullingfields 11am – Worship for All – Baschurch

December 22nd - 7.30pm - Carol Service - Hordley Grain Store. (p 11)

Christmas Eve – 3pm & 5pm – Crib service – Baschurch (please book a pew by ringing 01939 260305).

11.30pm – Midnight Service of Holy Communion - Baschurch

Christmas Day – 8am Holy Communion – Baschurch 9.15am Holy Communion – Hordley

Christmas Day (Continued)

9.30am – Holy Communion – Weston Lullingfields 11am – Holy Communion - Baschurch

Churches will also be open at specific times for quiet prayer and reflection with Christmas music playing in the background. Dates to be confirmed.

There will also be some online resources to use during Advent and these will also be posted out to those who would like them.

Radio Shropshire are doing a Sing Carols on the Doorstep on Wednesday 16th December at 6pm - so if you are at home then do join in.

December 27th - 11am - A short service of Holy Communion at Baschurch

January 3rd 2021 – Epiphany

9.30am – Worship for All – Weston Lullingfields

11am - Holy Communion - Baschurch

January 10th – The Baptism of Christ 9.15am – Worship for All – Hordley 11am – Holy Communion - Baschurch

January 17th – 9.30am Holy Communion – Weston Lullingfields 11am – Worship for All - Baschurch

January 24th – 9.15am Holy Communion – Hordley 11am Holy Communion - Baschurch

January 31st - TBC



The Coming

Bishop Michael's Pastoral Letter for December 2020

'Christmas this year will not be like any other we have known': we will all have heard that many times of late. At the time of my writing this, it is not clear what restrictions we will be subject to in December; but it does seem very likely that much of what we are accustomed to will not be possible in the usual way. There are likely to be constraints on family gatherings. Eating and drinking together will be very complicated. Opportunities to sing carols will be much reduced. Many people will be experiencing challenging levels of anxiety, isolation, poverty and mental health issues.

Does all this mean that Christmas will be cancelled this year, or at least dramatically diminished? We only have to reflect for a minute on the meaning of the word 'Christmas' to realise this cannot be true: it is the celebration of Jesus Christ, the 'Great Little One' in whom our God comes to us. As so much of what we have taken for granted is absent or muted this Christmas, perhaps the very heart of our celebration can stand with more clarity in a new light; perhaps we can focus more attentively on the truth which gives meaning to this great story. That is the truth of God's boundless mercy for us, which brings him to share our life as one of us: Sacred infant, all divine, / What a tender love was thine: / Thus to come from highest bliss / Down to such a world as this. The baby born at Bethlehem is not introduced to a comfortable, easy or settled life. From the outset the Holy Family knows the meaning of anxiety, displacement and suffering; remembering that should itself give us hope.

So the heart of Christmas this year will be the same as every year, and indeed it may be easier for us to see what that heart is. The numbers with whom we can meet as family and friends may be few, but Christ will surely make his home among us if we welcome him in. We may not sit down to so many or so exuberant meals, or indulge in so many cheerful social drinks together; but he still gives us his body and blood as food and drink to strengthen us. We may not be able to belt out our favourite Christmas carols in church as usual, but the song of the angels is not

silenced, telling the good news of salvation, and urging us, like they urged the shepherds: 'Do not be afraid'.

Knowing that there is so much sadness, darkness and anger around us and within us, perhaps we can recapture this year the meaning of Advent: that our God loves this fallen world, and us his hurting children, so much, that he decides to come as Emmanuel, God with us. The poet and priest R S Thomas imagines that momentous decision like this in his poem The Coming:

And God held in his hand A small globe. Look he said. The son looked. Far off, As through water, he saw A scorched land of fierce Colour. The light burned There; crusted buildings Cast their shadows: a bright Serpent, A river Uncoiled itself, radiant With slime.

On a bare Hill a bare tree saddened The sky. many People Held out their thin arms To it, as though waiting For a vanished April To return to its crossed Boughs. The son watched Them. Let me go there, he said.

From the Registers

Baschurch

Olive Peppiatt died 22nd October 2020 aged 95; funeral at All Saints' on 12th November.

Hordley

John Ellis died 18th October 2020 aged 91; funeral at Emstrey Crematorium on 30th October.

It will soon be time to renew your subscription for the Church Family News for 2021; please pay your magazine distributor. The price continues at £5 for the ten copies issued each year.

Thank you,

Andrew Thomson, CFN Editor



Christmas Hamper Draw 2020

Proceeds to Baschurch PCC for All Saints Church

1st Prize: Drinks Hamper

2nd Prize: Food Hamper

3rd Prize: Food Hamper

Plus other hampers and individual prizes

To be drawn on 13th December at All Saints' Church

Tickets £1 each,
On sale around Baschurch

For tickets please contact:

Pat Davies: Tel: 01939 261081

or Mary Cox: Tel: 01939 261329



All Saints "100 Club"

November Winners: No 77 Mrs T Whetton No 88 Mrs L Slater

With all our fund-raising cancelled for 2020 we would welcome new members to the Lottery for 2021. Multiple subscriptions are possible

- thereby increasing your chances of winning! We will be collecting subscriptions from mid- January - they remain at £12.00 for the year - with monthly prizes of £25. If you would like to join please contact Glyn or Pat Davies on 261081 or at $\underline{thepatdavies@hotmail.com}$

A big thank you to our current members, your support is much appreciated. A Happy Christmas to you all and best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and altogether different 2021.

Hordley News

At the time of writing we are part way through our second lockdown due to the virus and no-one knows what the position will be over Christmas. As Linda says on page 6, once she is able to plan services the information will be available on the website etc, or you can telephone Edward (01939 270243) or John (01691 623537) to be sure. It is hoped that it will be possible for families to be together and that we will be able to meet for a Christmas service of some sort. After the success of the Harvest service, plans are afoot for a carol service on Tuesday 22nd December at 7:30pm to be held in the grain store at Sycamore Farm, Hordley. We do not know whether the singing of carols will be allowed, but there will be music, readings and more. The main thing will be to wrap up *very* warmly, and perhaps bring a flask of mulled wine (individual, so no sharing).

If no services are allowed, we will make the best of it and try to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a new way.

One possibility for people who live in a community where they have close neighbours has been suggested by Shropshire Radio. They are leading the country by their planned "Doorstep Carols" on December 16th at 6 pm; I understand that other counties are now following their lead. For more details see page32.

This second lockdown seems easier in some ways: we now know how to order our prescriptions on-line, how to arrange food deliveries and even how to join Zoom meetings. We have slipped back into a slower pace of life of daily exercise, telephoning friends, correspondence and even an extra glass of wine now and then.

Don't forget to renew your subscriptions for the Hordley Lottery in 2021 with Brian Sinker (01691 770212). We have lost a few subscribers so do get in touch with Brian if you would like to join and thus help to boost the church coffers. The cost is £12 per number per year and the winning number is the bonus ball on the first Saturday of each month; the winner receives £30. The amount raised during 2020 will be included in the next issue in February. Thank you, all our current subscribers.

The winner of the lottery draw in November was Audrey Sinker with the winning number 44.

On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I

turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and me exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Children's Society Collection Boxes

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic the collection of The Children's Society home collection boxes, which usually takes place in January, will be postponed to June 2021.

The Children's Society is a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Through your generous support The Children's Society is able to give young people hope, and a reason to believe in a brighter future.

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the colour of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today."

After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"



HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

Baschurch's hamper raffle idea reminded me that I had enough donated prizes to make up at least three hampers and a voucher from Spar to purchase food items for the food hampers. There will be flyers in church magazines and flyers and books of raffle tickets are being distributed. This is our only chance to raise some money for Weston Church. Please let me or anyone on the PCC know if you would like to have some books to buy and/or to sell.

Anita Weeks 01939 261293



Christmas Hamper Draw 2020

Proceeds to Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfields

1st Prize: Food and Drink Hamper

2nd Prize: Food and Drink Hamper 3rd Prize: Christmas Hamper 4th Prize: Toiletries Hamper 5th prize Bottle of Wine Also see page 2.

To be drawn on 20th December 2020 at Holy Trinity Church Weston Lullingfields

Promoter: Mrs Claire Ing, Chelsea Cottage, Weston Lullingfields, SY4 2AW

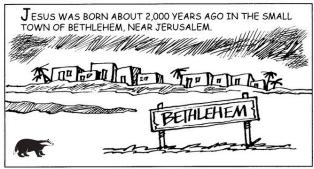
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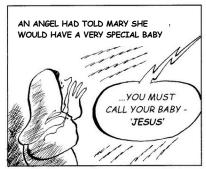
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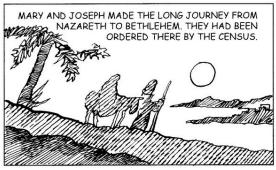
TICKETS £1.00 each.





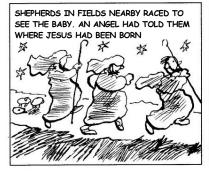




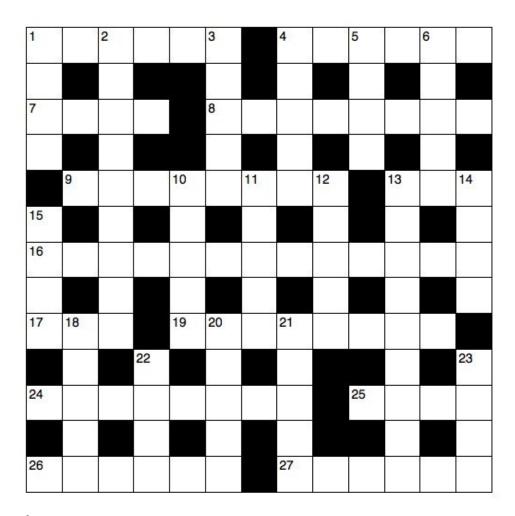












Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- $4\,$ 'He stretches out the heavens like a , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)

- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)
- (answers on page 21)

Caring for God's Acre

A flash of Gold

Here at Caring for God's Acre, we believe that there is a flash of gold to be found in every churchyard containing a few large yew trees. These are Goldcrests, the joint smallest bird in Europe (along with the equally small Firecrest). Goldcrests are only 9cm long from beak to tail, weighing a minute 6 grammes, the same as a 20p piece. They get their name from a band of gold-coloured feathers across their heads, like a mohican, flanked by parallel black bands. Goldcrests are resident in Britain, meaning that they do not migrate and many live out their lives, feeding, sheltering and breeding within a single churchyard, possibly entirely within the canopies of the yew trees.

Goldcrests prefer evergreen trees, hiding in the dense foliage and rarely coming out into the open, so, despite their bright crests, are difficult to see. They feed on tiny morsels like spiders, moth eggs and small insect food which they pick out from the undersides and between the needles of yew and other evergreens using their thin beaks to push into small spaces. They are constantly on the move, searching or 'gleaning' for food, so you may see the movement of a goldcrest within the tree canopy and can then take time to seek out and see them.

Alternatively, you can rely on sound to find and identify goldcrests if you have good hearing as their call is so high-pitched that many people cannot hear it. Listen for a repetitive call, slightly wheezy and described as saying 'needle-needle-needle'. They don't use nest boxes but build a tiny nest within the twigs of the tree canopy, shaped like a near spherical hammock. It is made from moss, lichen, small bits of other vegetation and lined with warming feathers. Please let us know if you see or hear goldcrests in your churchyard, We are building a picture of the wildlife to be found across the burial grounds of England and Wales, and this is a classic churchyard bird.

All the best

Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor.

Saint Richard's Prayer

Most of us will know by heart this best loved prayer by Saint Richard. I have a framed copy of it in my study at home given to me as a child by my local parish church. We use it often as it expresses so concisely what we need to say in thanks and requests to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Richard of Chichester (1197-1253) was born Richard de Wych, near Droitwich, Worcestershire to a noble family with large estates. He was made heir but death duties left them impoverished. He then decided to study theology and the church. He attended Oxford University and, after graduating, travelled widely in France and Italy. On returning to Oxford he taught there and was eventually appointed its Chancellor. He was ordained priest in 1240 and in 1244 elected Bishop of Chichester. He died in 1253 and is venerated in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches on 16th June. An ending 'Day by Day' was written into the prayer in the 1931 Songs of Praise Hymn book and, as many will remember, was also written into the song 'Day by Day' in the musical Godspell.

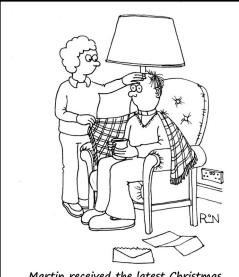
Thanks be to Thee my Lord Jesus Christ,

For all the benefits Thou hast given me,

For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.

O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, May I know Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly, Follow Thee more nearly.

David Morgan



Martin received the latest Christmas coronavirus regulations from the diocesan office.



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."



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ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

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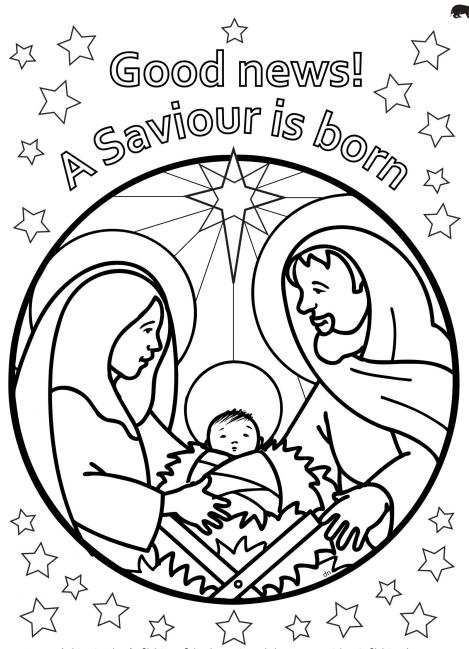
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WHO'S WHO

			-		
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www.allsaintsbaschurch.com



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

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

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