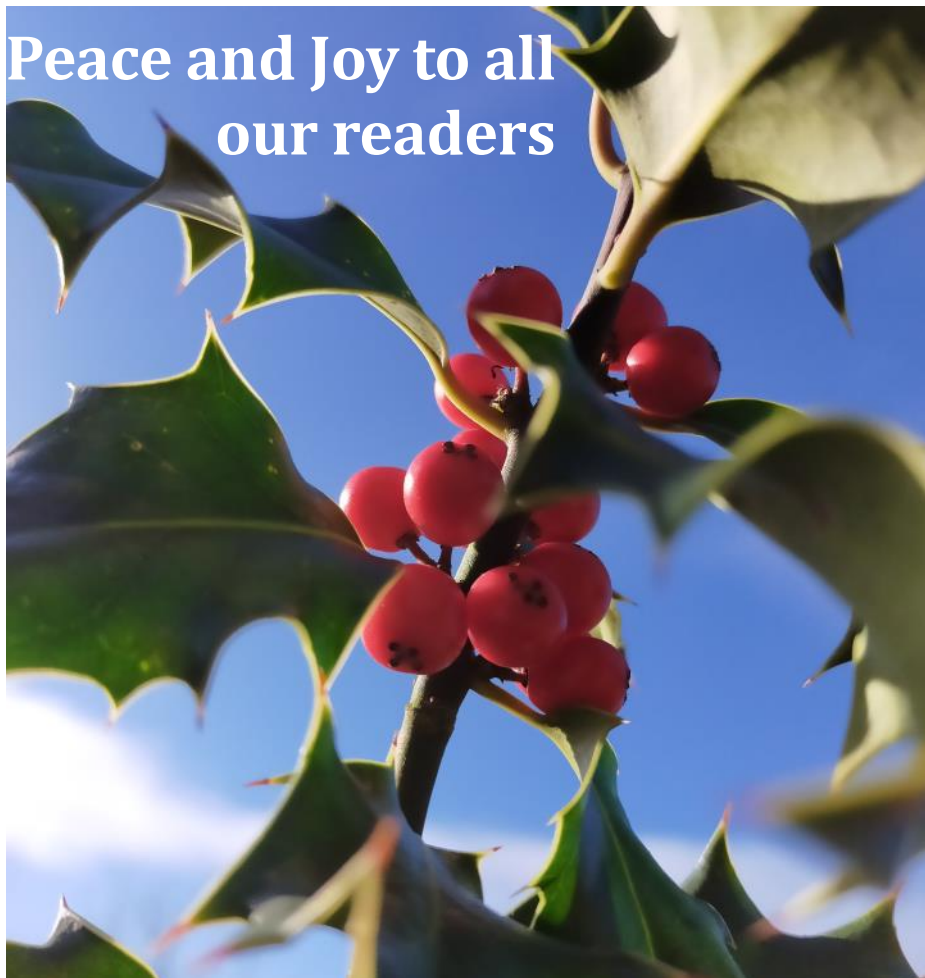




# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**December 2023/January 2024**

**Peace and Joy to all  
our readers**



**SERVING THE PARISHES OF**

**ALL SAINTS'**  
Baschurch

**HOLY TRINITY**  
Weston Lullingfields

**ST MARY'S**  
Hordley

**50p**  
Per issue

# **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 2ND & SUNDAY 3RD  
DECEMBER 11AM - 4PM**



**FESTIVE MUSIC SHREWSBURY CONCERT BAND  
& SHREWSBURY LIGHT ORCHESTRA  
CRAFT STALLS**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISPLAY A TREE OR HAVE A STALL  
CONTACT MARY COX 07807001739 OR 01939261329**

# CONTENTS

CLERGY LETTER.....	4
SUNDAY READINGS IN DECEMBER.....	5
WORSHIP IN DECEMBER.....	6
NEWS FROM BASCHURCH.....	8
NEWS FROM WESTON LULLING FIELDS.....	10
NEWS FROM HORDLEY.....	11
NATIVITY PLAYS.....	12
MARK MY WORDS.....	13
CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE.....	15
WARMER WINTER APPEAL.....	16
FROM THE REGISTERS.....	17
DAILY READIMNGS IN DECEMBER.....	18
SERVICES IN JANUARY 2024.....	19
DAILY READINGS IN JANUARY 2024.....	20
CROSSWORD.....	21
BOOK REVIEWS.....	23
PICTURE PARABLE.....	24
CHRISTINGLES.....	25
INDEX OF ADVERTISEMENTS.....	27
WHO'S WHO.....	34

## SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

**15th January 2024**

to the CFN email address:

**[churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com](mailto:churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com)**

**Please remember that the next issue will be the February issue**

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, or its contents, products or services. Errors and omissions, whilst regrettable, may occur.

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

We are again approaching the end of another year and the beginning of a new one. In terms of the Church year, Advent is the beginning of the new Church year. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing before we celebrate the arrival of God's Son, come to earth, born among us, the long awaited Messiah who came to rescue the earth and God's people, to offer us salvation; in other words a new beginning, a new chapter.

As we sit and wait and prepare this Advent what is it we are waiting and preparing for? What does the story of the birth of God's Son mean for us, at the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024?

It is a story that has stood the test of time, telling of a birth over 2000 years ago. It is a story that many people the world over will have heard, but what difference does it make to us now? Or is it just a story that we like to tell year on year?

Like many long-standing stories there is a certain 'feel-good' factor about it, but this story is more than that. This story is about a baby, God's Son who was born on earth, fully human and fully divine. A baby who came to show God's people a new way of being; who came to turn the world, its ways', its thinking upside-down. The story of God's incarnation is a story of 'Hope' for a world that is lost. Today our world is no different in so many ways to what it was when Jesus was born. People were arguing and fighting, there were battles for control and power over others, there was greed. There were also famines and floods and refugees, all problems we see today. God's incarnation had been foretold by Prophets throughout many generations, they just didn't know when or what to really expect, but what it did give them was Hope. Hope that God had not forgotten them despite the way they were behaving with each other.

As we listen to the story retold each year for some it will take you back to your childhoods, for others it will be new, but there is an awe and wonder that surrounds that story. It is an awe and wonder that

stops and makes us think and gives us hope that we are not alone, that there is a God who cares and looks out for us. Jesus didn't come as a mighty warrior but a tiny baby, a baby that had the power to make the world think about its actions, about the way it treated each other, to think about the power of love, which is more powerful than any army. It is this Hope we still need and this year perhaps more than ever when we listen to the news and see all that is happening in our own country and across the world. Power, greed, control, hate is not the answer. The answer is love and the Prince of Peace is the bringer of that. The Christmas Story reminds to hold onto that hope the Christ child brings and to look to Him who shows us the way.

I recently came across a song by Matthew West called '*The Hope of Christmas*'. The chorus of the song says this:

*You're still the hope of Christmas  
You're still the light when the world looks dark  
You're still the hope of Christmas  
And You're still the hope of my heart*

May the hope, love, joy and peace of the Christ Child fill all our hearts this Christmas. May he transform us and may the world be turned upside-down so that all may know the Hope of Christmas.

*Linda*

## **SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2023**

The services in each of our churches are on the following pages, but first, here are the Sunday readings in December:

### **SUNDAY READINGS IN DECEMBER**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** Isaiah 64: 1-9 and Mark 13: 24-37

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December** Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 and John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December** Romans 16:25-27 and Luke 1: 26-38

## **SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2023**

### **AT HOLY TRINITY, WESTON LULLINGFIELDS**

SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER – ADVENT SUNDAY

**9.30am** Worship for All

SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**9.30am** Holy Communion

THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

**2pm** Weston Lullingfields School Christmas Service with Christingle

SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

(please note the change of date from the usual Christmas Eve)

**7pm** Carol Service with refreshments

SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**9.30am** Holy Communion

(a more informal service, suitable for all ages)

SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

**10.30am** United Benefice Service of Holy Communion

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### **AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, HORDLEY**

SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**9.15am** Holy Communion

TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7.30pm

Carol Service with refreshments

SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER Christmas Eve

**3pm** Crib Service and Christingle

No Service at 9.15am

SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**9.15am** Holy Communion

# **SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2023**

## **AT ALL SAINTS' BASCHURCH**

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**7pm** An Advent Reflection Service

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent Sunday**

**8am** BCP Holy Communion

**10am** Holy Communion

(note time change because of Christmas Tree Festival)

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**6pm** The Corbet School Carol Service

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**2pm** Baschurch Pre-School Nativity

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**11am** Holy Communion

**4pm** Forest Church with Christingle (outdoors)

**6.30pm** Contemporary Worship

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8am** BCP Holy Communion

**11am** Instant Nativity – come dressed as a nativity character

**6pm** Nine Lessons and Carols with refreshments

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**1.30pm** Baschurch Primary School Carol Service

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

**11am** A Short Service of Holy Communion for Advent 4

**4.30pm** Crib Service

*(a short informal service for all ages, particularly for the young)*

**11.30pm** Midnight Communion

## **Sunday 25th December Christmas Day**

**8am** BCP Holy Communion

**11am** Christmas Day Communion for all ages (more informal – children encouraged to bring their toys)

## **31<sup>st</sup> December**

**No service** at All Saints' – **United Benefice Service** at Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields at **10.30am**

There will be **No** mid-week service or Community Lunches on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December.**

## **NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS BASCHURCH**

### **ALL SAINTS "100 CLUB" LOTTERY**

The Church is facing an enormous challenge in trying to refund the replacement of the roof. All the recent rain has just confirmed this and made the need all the more urgent. The Lottery has been running for over 25 years and is open to anyone who would like to support the Church and make sure it remains here for our use in years to come.

For an annual subscription of just £15.00 you have the chance of winning £30.00 every month - between 2-5 prizes are paid out every month. Each year we sadly lose members who pass on, move away etc and so we are constantly trying to replace them. With a growing population in the village we would welcome new members who may not be regular churchgoers but who would like to help preserve this beautiful building.

We will be collecting annual subscriptions in January and if you would like to join please contact Pat Davies on 261081 or at [thepatdavies@hotmail.com](mailto:thepatdavies@hotmail.com)

### **WINNERS IN NOVEMBER 2023**

No 39 Richard Hunt No 66 Mary Stockton



## ALL SAINTS PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

Event	Dates	Venue
Christmas Tree Festival	Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December	All Saints Church
Christmas Social	9th December	The Paddocks old Woods
Yeoman Singers	12th December	All Saints Church
BAP'S Pantomime	Friday 19th January and Saturday 20th January	Corbet School
Murder Mystery Evening	23rd February	All Saints Church
Ukrainian fund Raising	16th March	All Saints Church
RBL - Shrewsbury Brass Band	27th April	All Saints Church
Church Fete	6th July	Village Green

### ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Saturday 9th December 7pm

at The Paddocks, Old Woods

(Home of Martyn and Dawn  
290777)

**Bring and Share Supper  
Games                      Carol Singing**

### MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Friday 23rd February 7pm

**All Saints Church Baschurch**

*Filled Spuds and puds!*



*Bring your own  
drinks*

£10 To book your  
tickets

Phone Martyn on  
01939290777

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

Over the summer Jane Ing has been compiling a list of wild flowers seen in the churchyard, now reaching over 100 and including some new ones.

The damp weather recently has produced some newly spotted fungi in Holy Trinity churchyard.

### ORANGE PEEL FUNGUS

It is easy to mistake this for a piece of discarded orange peel. When fresh and wetted by rain its orange colour is almost luminescent. It is said to be edible, but this is not recommended.



### WHITE SPINDLES

White Spindles tend to grow in the grass of fields and gardens. They belong to a family known as *Fairy Clubs*. Their stalks are translucent and welded together at the base. VERY POISONOUS.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Events in Aid of Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfields

#### Festive Floral Decoration Workshop

Saturday 9th December, 10.30 am—2.30pm at the Village Hall  
Refreshments on arrival, materials and light lunch included. Cost £20

#### Flash back to the 80's at our New Year's Eve Party

8pm till 1am at the Village Hall  
Fancy dress optional, disco, food and bar.  
(cost to be decided)

***For more information call Nicky Hey on 07443 939 451***

*And one other event*

#### **Carol Singing and Pizza**

at the Village Hall on Thursday 14th December at 6.30pm

*Anita Weeks*

## HORDLEY NEWS

Readers will know about the **Porch Pantry** at All Saints' Baschurch where items of food can be collected free of charge by anyone in need.

There is also a **Food Share Project** in Ellesmere that is available for residents of outlying villages including Tetchill and Hordley who are feeling the pinch and need a top-up. This is situated next to the doctors' surgery at the back of the library building. It is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 am and Tuesday afternoons from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. Donations of food and money are gratefully accepted.

A Clothes Share of warm winter items is situated at the rear of the former Fred Roberts shop at The Cross on Friday and Saturday mornings.



At the time of writing we are looking forward to the Snowman Drive in the Village Hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November and hope it will prove to be a family fun occasion.

The annual Carol Service will take place in St Mary's on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm**. We look forward to seeing you there.

And on **Christmas Eve at 3pm** we are holding a Crib Service and Christingle (*there will be no service at 9.15am*).

The winner of the Hordley Lottery in November was Mrs Judith Faulkner with number 43.



## NATIVITY PLAYS—TRUTH OR MYTH

A swaying sensation, a crash and the kindly arms of a teacher picking me up. The year was 1978, and a 6 year old me, giddy with the excitement of being an angel, and forced to stand in my sparkly outfit for what seemed like hours (but was probably minutes), had fainted.

How much of this memory is truth and what has been added over the years I am not sure. Fast forward 30 years, and I am directing a nativity play. The ingredients are still the same: tinsel halos, a doll in a manger, Joseph, Mary, a donkey, innkeepers. Nativity plays have been a staple of my life forever, whether as actor, director, or spectator.

But like my memories of my ill-fated angel role as a child, what of the modern nativity play is truth and what is myth? There is no written record of the events of 1978 when a child fell off a stage, but the facts around Christ's birth were recorded, by the gospel writers. Luke tells us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, Jesus' birth and the shepherds, while Matthew tells of magi from the east. While most people know that aliens and lobsters are modern additions, many are more fuzzy on the other details. I almost caused a riot in a classroom once when I challenged the children to find the donkey in the Biblical account (look it up- he's not there!). There is also no mention of a stable, innkeepers, kings or animals.

So yes, there are parts of the story that are myth, but what is true? I love nativity plays, not because of the cuteness factor, or the tradition, but because in the midst of the tinsel and tutus, lies the most profound, earth-shattering truth. God took on flesh, to save his people from their sins, and that changed everything.

The incarnation of the Son of God is the most profound truth, around which the history of our world pivots. The nativity play is a glorious celebration of this truth, one that I pray will reignite our hearts this year, refilling us with the profound joy of God's love for his world, and giving us a truly happy Christmas.

*Charmian Gamble is a member of the Diocesan Education Team*

## MARK MY WORDS - ALL TOGETHER



*Simon Foster leads the Mission team for Lichfield Diocese which works with schools, parishes, fresh expressions, chaplaincies and the cathedral, to energise, resource and support them in mission and evangelism – looking out to and for our communities.*

*O that you would tear the heavens and come down; so that the mountains would quake at your presence. (Isaiah 64.1)*

This is how we start a new church year. On the first Sunday of Advent, Isaiah's words rip through the air and his prophecy will continue to thunder around us Sunday by Sunday. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus cries 'Keep Awake!' and we hear his passion for this world to flourish and for his followers to take their place on the side of hope.

These cries of hope and determination are set against feelings of anguish and frustration. Surely this year, after months of praying for places of conflict, we recognise that anguish and hope. Perhaps scripture never feels more powerful than in Advent.

The world – and even the church - seem bent on division and conflict. The power and simplicity of scripture can give us strength, purpose and even unity.

I am so lucky to be employed by the diocese to help parishes think about their next steps. I'm advocating several 'next steps' at the moment. One of them is for churches to come together to read the gospel of Mark (the main gospel set for Sunday readings through this year) aloud in one setting. It's simple, humble activity, yet a bold one.

The experience of hearing a whole gospel read aloud can be transformative. It's very different from hearing it week by week, or reading it alone to yourself. We notice the power and awe of the overall story. We notice how the individual stories are framed in the a much bigger

story. We understand how the parts we often hear fall into a particular sequence. We feel the ebb and flow of the story, the shifts of gear, and we imagine the disciples' experience much more easily. We notice the distinctiveness of the particular gospel we're listening to. And some parts of the story – perhaps especially some of the apocalyptic teaching – make more sense in their context.

Hearing scripture together is also an act of unity. Whatever your church tradition or theological conviction, any Christian can sit alongside any other Christian to hear the gospel read aloud. If we hope for unity, this is an activity to bring us together in our diversity.

Reading the whole Gospel, perhaps at the start of the year, or in Holy Week, can help frame all the weeks that follow. It can help both preachers and congregations. Understanding the big story helps understand all the individual stories it contains.

Could your church organise a reading of the gospel? Could you work with others around to do this? Who could that be good news for? Local schools and their parents? Ecumenical efforts? Or simply the discipleship of your own church community?

The gospels were written as whole stories to be heard. Let us receive them in that way, and encounter their power afresh!

*Revd Simon Foster*



### **THE FIRST NATIVITY SCENE**

800 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1223 that St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene, in Greccio, Italy, after visiting Jesus' birthplace in the Holy Land.

It proved enormously popular and inspired other communities to stage their own nativity scenes. In Malta today, for example, almost every roundabout has its own brightly lit up nativity scene.



## HOLLY

We tend to ignore holly trees until December, when they brighten up our churchyards, as well as our churches and homes at Christmas time, with their shiny leaves and bright berries. For the rest of the year they are less conspicuous, with dark green leaves, dark brown bark and small white flowers in the spring. Holly is an interesting tree however. Before botanists brought tree seeds from other countries to our shores, winter foliage was unusual, and all evergreen trees were viewed as special. Use of holly and yew branches for winter decoration is an old custom, probably a mix of a wish to make the place look festive, coupled with superstition. Holly was believed to be a fertility symbol and a charm against witches, goblins and the devil. It was thought unlucky to cut down a holly tree.

Holly has good natural defences with the leaves of a young holly extremely prickly. As the tree matures, the prickles reduce, particularly on higher branches, out of reach of most browsing animals. Holly trees are dioecious meaning that there are male and female trees with the decorative berries only found on the female of course. Holly berries are a vital food source for birds and small mammals such as wood mice and dormice. In some cases, mistle thrushes will vigorously defend a particularly choice holly tree from other birds so have a look in your local burial ground and see if you see a flurry of activity.

If you would like to start digitally recording wildlife in your local burial ground then why not use a churchyard holly tree to get going. Take a look on our website under Be Involved or click here: [caring-forgodsacre.org.uk/add-your-records](http://caring-forgodsacre.org.uk/add-your-records) to find out what to do. You will need to download the iNaturalist app onto a mobile phone, tablet or laptop. It's helpful to start recording with a familiar species and something that is easy to photograph. Maybe you have children or grandchildren in need of outdoor activities in the Christmas holidays? This could be a way to start exploring the wonderful wildlife to be found in churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries.

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*



Supporting Shropshire Communities since 1960

## WARMER WINTER APPEAL

As the wintry weather sets in we turn our thoughts to those in our community who are vulnerable to the biting cold and the financial strain of rising energy costs. Community Resource's "Warmer Winter Appeal," embodies the spirit of compassion, unity, and support that defines your parish.

### *What is the Warmer Winter Appeal?*

Our "Warmer Winter Appeal" aims to provide warmth and comfort to local vulnerable households who find themselves at risk of fuel poverty during the colder months. For over a decade, Community Resource has been dedicated to supporting those in need, and this campaign is an extension of that commitment.

### *Why Does It Matter?*

Rising energy costs, coupled with the economic challenges of recent times, make it increasingly difficult for many households to afford the basic necessity of a warm and comfortable home. The "Warmer Winter Appeal" is our response to this challenge, to ensure that no one in our community endures a cold and uncomfortable winter.

### *How Can You Get Involved?*

- **Donate:** Your generous contributions to the "Warmer Winter Appeal" will go directly to providing essential support to households in need. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference.
- **Spread the Word:** Share this initiative with friends, family, and fellow parishioners. Encourage others to join us in making a positive impact in our community.

Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those facing fuel poverty in our community. As the days grow colder, let us come together in the spirit of giving and support.

To make a donation please visit - <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/shropshirefuelpoverty> .

Community Resource is an operating name of the Community Council of Shropshire A Company Limited by Guarantee 4652487 and a Registered Charity 1096779. Registered Office Address: Community Council of Shropshire, 4 The Creative Quarter, Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LG Tel: 01743 360641



# FROM THE REGISTERS

## Baptisms

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at All Saints' Baschurch  
Edwin David Conrad Roper

## Burial of Ashes

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at St Mary's Hordley  
Joan Parker

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields  
Michael Easter

## Funerals

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Emstrey Crematorium  
Meryl Dorothy Dovaston aged 73 yrs

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields  
Colonel Anthony Robin Rees-Webbe aged 91 yrs

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November at All Saints' Baschurch  
Sheila Dulcie Arthur aged 83 yrs

## Confirmations

Congratulations to all who were Confirmed on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at St Mary's Ellesmere by the Bishop of Shrewsbury

From Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields:

Jackie Jones

Keith Jones

From All Saints' Baschurch:

Lily Jones

Chloe Owen

Pat Owen

Pauline Baker

**Defend, O Lord,** these thy Servants with thy heavenly grace, that they may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit, more and more, until they come unto thy everlasting kingdom.

**Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR  
MORNING PRAYER IN DECEMBER 2023**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>READING</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>READING</b>
<b>1</b>	Matthew 11:2-19	<b>17</b>	Luke 1:57-66
<b>2</b>	Matthew 11:20-end	<b>18</b>	Matthew 16:13-end
<b>3</b>	Luke 12:35-48	<b>19</b>	Matthew 17:1-13
<b>4</b>	Matthew 12:1-21	<b>20</b>	Matthew 17: 14-21
<b>5</b>	Matthew 12:22-37	<b>21</b>	Matthew 17:22-end
<b>6</b>	Matthew 12:38-end	<b>22</b>	Matthew 18:1-20
<b>7</b>	Matthew 13:1-23	<b>23</b>	Matthew 18:21-end
<b>8</b>	Matthew 13:24-43	<b>24</b>	Romans 1:1-7
<b>9</b>	Matthew 13:44-end	<b>25</b>	Matthew 1:18-25
<b>10</b>	Luke 1:5-20	<b>26</b>	Acts 6
<b>11</b>	Matthew 14:1-12	<b>27</b>	1 John 2:1-11
<b>12</b>	Matthew 14:13-end	<b>28</b>	Matthew 18:1-10
<b>13</b>	Matthew 15:1-20	<b>29</b>	Colossians 1:1-14
<b>14</b>	Matthew 15:21-28	<b>30</b>	Colossians 1:15-23
<b>15</b>	Matthew 15:29-end	<b>31</b>	Ephesians 3:5-12
<b>16</b>	Matthew 16:1-12		

# SERVICES IN JANUARY 2024

## **SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY**

**8am** BCP Holy Communion – All Saints’ Baschurch

**9.30am** Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

**11am** Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints’ Baschurch

**Readings:** Isaiah 60: 1-6 and Matthew 2: 1-12

## **SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY- 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**9.15am** Worship for All – St Mary’s Hordley

**11am** Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints’ Baschurch

**6.30pm** Contemporary Worship – All Saints’ Baschurch

**Readings:** Revelation 5:1-10 and John 1: 43-51

## **SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**8am** BCP Holy Communion – All Saints’ Baschurch

**9.30am** Common Worship Holy Communion –

Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

**11am** – Worship for All – All Saints’ Baschurch

**Readings:** Revelation 19: 6-10 and John 2: 1-11

## **SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**9.15am** Common Worship Holy Communion – St Mary’s Hordley

**11am** Holy Communion

incorporating a service of Celebration and Commemoration for  
100 years of the Baschurch, Bomere Heath and

District Royal British Legion. – **All Saints’ Baschurch**

**All are Welcome to this service**

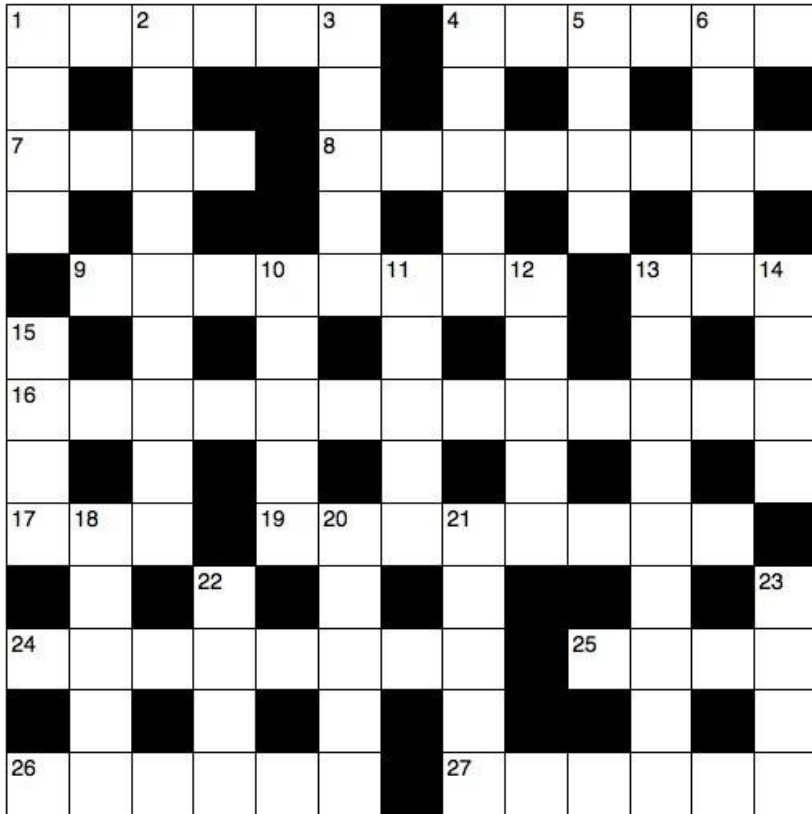
**4pm** Forest Church – All Saints’ Baschurch

**Readings:** Revelation 12: 1-5a and Mark 1: 21-28

**NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR  
MORNING PRAYER IN JANUARY 2024**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>READING</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>READING</b>
<b>1</b>	Romans 2:17-end	<b>17</b>	Matthew 24:29-end
<b>2</b>	Colossians 2:8-end	<b>18</b>	Matthew 25:1-13
<b>3</b>	Colossians 3:1-11	<b>19</b>	Matthew 25:14-30
<b>4</b>	Colossians 3:12-4:1	<b>20</b>	Matthew 25:31-end
<b>5</b>	Colossians 4:2-end	<b>21</b>	John 3:16-21
<b>6</b>	Matthew 20:1-16	<b>22</b>	Matthew 26:1-16
<b>7</b>	John 1:29-34	<b>23</b>	Matthew 26:17-35
<b>8</b>	Matthew 21:1-17	<b>24</b>	Matthew 26:36-46
<b>9</b>	Matthew 21:18-32	<b>25</b>	Philippians 3:1-14
<b>10</b>	Matthew 21:33-end	<b>26</b>	Matthew 26:57-end
<b>11</b>	Matthew 22:1-14	<b>27</b>	Matthew 27:1-10
<b>12</b>	Matthew 22:15-33	<b>28</b>	Mark 1:40-end
<b>13</b>	Matthew 22:43-end	<b>29</b>	Matthew 27:11-26
<b>14</b>	1 Corinthians 6:11-end	<b>30</b>	Matthew 27:27-44
<b>15</b>	Matthew 24:1-14	<b>31</b>	Matthew 27:45-56
<b>16</b>	Matthew 24:15-28		

# CROSSWORD



## Crossword clues

### Across

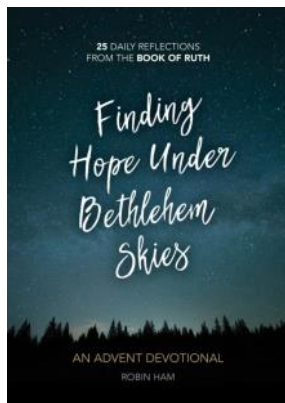
- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as 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)

## BOOK REVIEWS



### **Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies - 25 Daily Reflections from the Book of Ruth**

**By Robin Ham, 10Publishing, £4.99**

Tucked away in the Bible, hundreds of years before Mary, Joseph and the birth of Jesus, is the story of a girl called Ruth. It's a story that rings true to our world — a story of sadness and tears, even of death, but also a story of where hope can be found in the darkest places. A story that points us forward to the promise of a king.

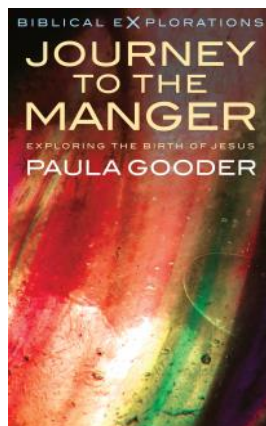
*This book takes the reader on an Advent journey through 25 daily reflections. Each day has a short devotion, a suggested prayer, and links to a response song. Come along to Bethlehem, and discover the hope that shines brightly, even on the darkest of nights.*

### **Journey to the Manger - Exploring the Birth of Jesus By Paula Gooder, Canterbury Press, £12.99**

Journey to the Manger explores the New Testament's various accounts of the birth of Jesus: their origins in Old Testament prophecies, the genealogies, the angelic announcements, the journeys and arrivals, and the aftermath of Jesus' birth for the powerful and the poor alike.

Although many biblical scholars have puzzled over historical details in the accounts, Paula Gooder argues that in doing this, they risk missing the point.

Her detailed exploration of the texts is a goldmine for preaching and teaching, and it will breathe new life into the familiar Christmas stories heard year after year in churches, carol services and nativity plays. Devotional reflections and discussion questions also make this ideal for personal and group study. All in all, an accessible and informed study of the best loved texts in Scripture.



# PICTURE PARABLE - A re-telling of Luke 14.16-24

## The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

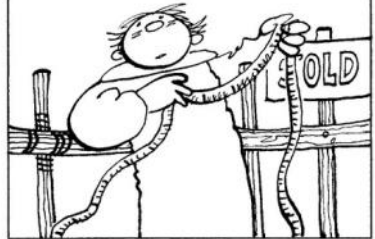


OH! NO!!

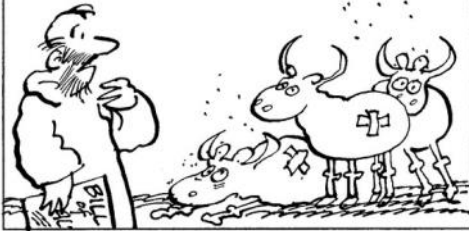


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



## WHAT IS CHRISTINGLE?

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top.

There is no one way to hold a Christingle celebration. From socially distanced gatherings, to intimate events online, last year showed us how communities can come together to Christingle safely in new and innovative ways.



Christingles are usually held from the end of November through to February (Advent to Candlemas), with Christmas Eve being a particularly popular time for services. But you can host one whenever you like.

During the service, each person takes a Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Christingles are made using oranges and a few other bits, as you choose. You light the candle at the end of a service to spread a magical glow around everyone.

### History of Christingle

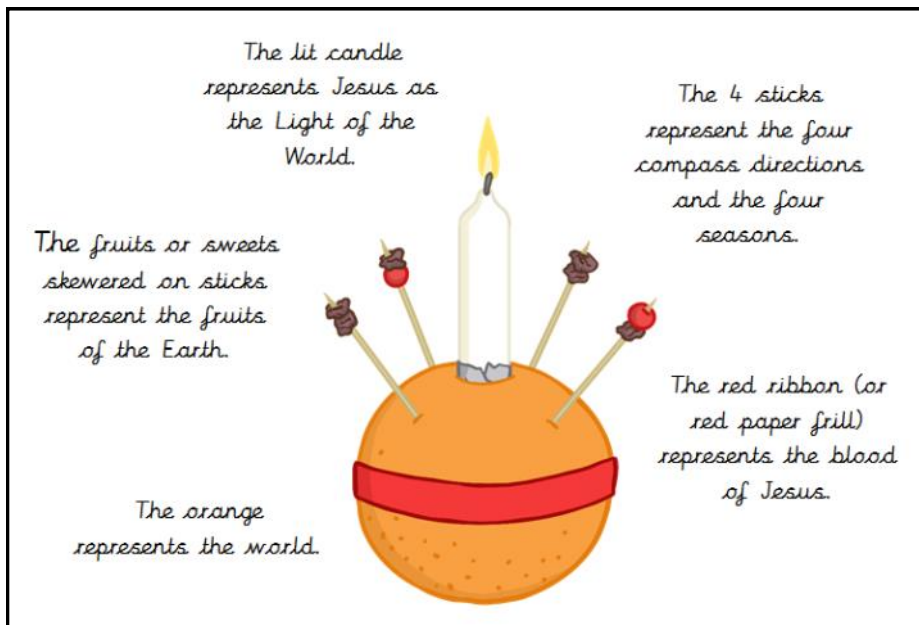
Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. Our first Christingle service took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany.

At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had

come to people through Jesus, and created a symbol — the Christingle — to do this.

## Meaning of Christingle

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story.



## A Christingle Prayer from the Children's Society

Lord Jesus, light of the world. As I hold this Christingle and think about Your great love for me and for those especially in places of darkness at this time, give me strength, give us all strength to take this light into the world, to share your love with others, especially vulnerable children and young people. **Amen**

*With help from the Children's Society website*

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Church Road Garage, 31

G.T. Harper & Son, 33

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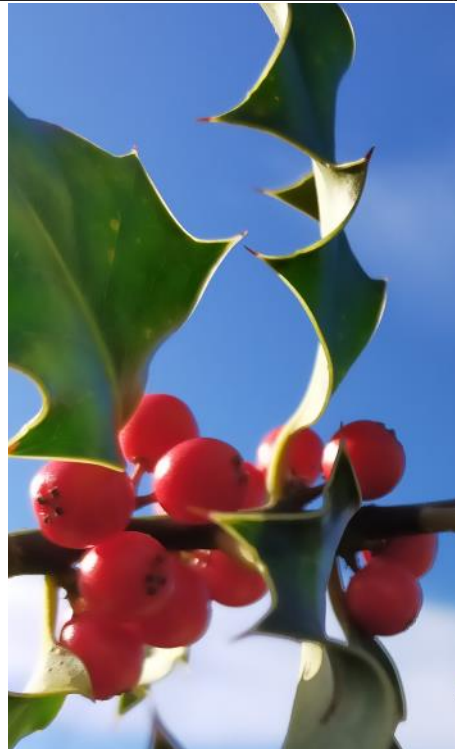
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	7		5	1	6
2	9			1	5
	5	7	4	8	
5	6	8	7		1
		3			9
3	1	2		4	



*Sara preferred to let people work  
out the hymns for themselves*



## WHO'S WHO

<b>RECTOR</b>	<b>Rev Linda Cox</b> The Rectory, Nobold, Baschurch SY4 2EB <i>linda@allsaintsbaschurch.com</i>	01939 260305
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**We're on the Web** - Check out our website where you'll find up-to-date information about the three parishes and much more!

**[www.allsaintsbaschurch.com](http://www.allsaintsbaschurch.com)**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to All Saints Church, recently awarded gold and a nature friendly award in the Lichfield Diocese Churchyard Award Scheme. Thank you to all who help. New members to the team are always welcome, contact Martyn Lake on 01939 290777.



In aid of Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfields

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