

'Keep In Touch'

FILM NIGHT

Victoria & Abdul

based on a true story

starring Judi Dench and Ali Fazal

Friday February 9th

St James Church, Church Hill

at 7.00 pm

No charge (bucket collection) - refreshments available



KEEPING YOU 'IN TOUCH' IS

Name

Address

Tel. No.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM

WINTER 2017

***CHURCH & VILLAGE
BIRSTALL & WANLIP***

THE PARISH OF BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

Rector	Revd Vince Jupp, 251 Birstall Road LE4 4DJ <i>email: vincejupp@btinternet.com</i>	2674517 07840 855030
Hon Asst. Priests	Revd Sheila Skidmore, 15 School Lane Revd Kerry Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field Canon Anne Horton, 8b Copeland Road Revd Robin Martin, 22 Sycamore Road Revd Michael Webb, 31 Bramley Road	2673318 3194736 2677942 2671651 07813144645
Churchwardens	Mr Tony Bloxam, 17 Sandgate Avenue Mr Andy Proud, 97A Wanlip Lane Mr John Ward, 28 Walker Road Mrs Debbie Shephard, 41 Roman Road	2675381 07889 807087 2677600 2672630
Licensed Readers	Mr Peter Chester, 12 Oakfield Avenue Mrs Lesley Walton, 16 The Crossways Mrs Tricia Emmett, 1 Chamberlains Field	2120236 2674995 3194736
Pastoral Assistants	Mrs Doreen Wilson, 13 Poplar Avenue Miss Sandra Robinson, 7 Lambourne Road Mrs Gill Pope, 26 Blenheim Road	2674680 2677238 2675086
Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Annette Marshall <i>annette.marshall8@gmail.com</i>	
Church Office & PCC Secretary	Church Office, Church Hill <i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i>	2671797
Treasurer	Mrs Nicki Wills, Church Office, Church Hill <i>email: stjames.birstall@btconnect.com</i>	2671797
Tower Captain	Mr Clive Mobbs, 30 Wanlip Avenue <i>Practice night—Thursday at 7.30pm</i>	2677156
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BEHOLD, I STAND

When the night is deep, with the sense of Christmas
And expectancy hangs heavy
on every breath,
Behold I stand at the door and knock

When the floor is knee deep in discarded wrapping paper
And the new books are open at page one
And the new toys are already broken,
Behold I stand at the door and knock

When the family is squashed, elbow to elbow around the table
And the furious rush for food is over
And the only word that can describe the feeling is full,
Behold I stand at the door and knock

And when Christmas is over
And the television is silent, for the first time in two days,
And who sent which card to whom is forgotten until next year,
Behold I stand at the door and knock

And when the nation has finished celebrating
Christmas without Christ,
A birthday without a birth,
The coming of a Kingdom, without a King,
And when I am – Forgotten, Despised, Rejected, Crucified

BEHOLD, I STAND

Anon. (submitted by Sandra Robinson)

PROMOTING A 'SAFE CHURCH'

We all want our churches to be 'safe places' for the children, young people and vulnerable adults who cross our thresholds. To make sure this happens, every church is required to have a 'safeguarding' policy in place, and to appoint a 'child and vulnerable adult protection officer', who, with the parish priest, has responsibility for ensuring the ministry of safeguarding in the life of their churches. Furthermore, to make sure that everyone who has responsibility for church work amongst vulnerable people in our benefice is 'fit for purpose', our church 'workers' are required to have regular Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance checks and to attend related and helpful training events.

Annette Marshall is the child and vulnerable adult protection officer for St James the Great, Birstall and Our Lady and St Nicholas, Wanlip. She writes: *My role is to ensure that all necessary checks have been completed for those involved in working on behalf of the church with children or vulnerable adults; to administer the 'safer recruitment' process for new applicants; to keep adequate records, ensuring that they are kept securely. I am also responsible, with our rector and PCC, for implementing and monitoring our benefice's protection policy. I also have to make an annual report to the PCC.*

I am required to report to the rector if I discover or am advised that there are any problems regarding protection within the church. Any church member who has a concern about a vulnerable child or adult within the life of the church, should make their concern known to the Rector or to me. (Abuse is categorised into four basic types: physical, sexual, neglect or emotional.) If we are not available, they should consult the diocesan safeguarding adviser, Rachel Spears, 0116 261 5341.

I am also the children's advocate in our benefice. This means that I am someone who both children and adults can approach if they have any problems or concerns. As of course is Rector Vince.

Information about me can be found in the social area at the back of the church. I can be contacted on 07946 732202, or via email on annette.marshall8@gmail.com

Annette Marshall

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS

20 + C + M + B + 18

You might have noticed some strange chalk marks on the wooden doors of Leicester Cathedral during 2017: **20 + C + M + B + 17**

The **numerals** mark the year: 2017

The **crosses** mark the four seasons of the year

C, M and B are the initials of the legendary names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar

The chalk marks show that prayers for God's blessing were said in Leicester Cathedral at the beginning of 2017. Similar prayers may be said in any church or home. As well as saying a blessing prayer and marking the main doors with the traditional chalk marks, a church congregation might process around the church singing a traditional carol, such as 'We three kings,' and sprinkling holy water- a sign of Jesus' baptism.

Blessing churches and homes in this way is an old Epiphany tradition. You might like to do something similar in your home. Why not get your family and friends together for a celebration between New Year and Epiphany, and, at some point, say the prayer of blessing and mark your doors. I guess the singing is optional! Just say the home blessing prayer and the Lord's Prayer and share God's peace together.

A Home Blessing Prayer for Epiphany:

God of all time and space, with Christmas joy we praise you for the year gone by and for the new year we have begun.

May our home be filled with kindness to one another, with hospitality to guests, and with abundant care for every stranger.

By the gentle light of a star, guide home all who seek you, on paths of wonder, peace and charity.

Fill the year with good gifts for all the world, as we join with the angels in proclaiming your praise: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and for ever. Amen.

Why not begin 2018 in your home in this way?

Anne

NB Copy date for Spring 2018 issue is February 1st 2018

THE FINAL QUARTER began with a 5th birthday celebration



On Sunday October 8th, all the children sat around a big table and celebrated the birthday of our Sunday School, an Autumn initiative of 5 years ago. On the tables, crisps, biscuits, jelly and cake. All around happy faces. Excellent! I watched the children chatting, laughing and enjoying licking the icing off James' bear lookalikes made by the hands of their leaders. How far we've come! And all thanks to the leadership of Rose Parrott and the commitment of her wonderful team. Every Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and on this Sunday we were also celebrating the 5th anniversary of the resurrection of the Sunday School, borne of much effort, much commitment and much love. Young people in church, young people in classes are finding Jesus for themselves through Bible stories, through patient teaching and through the Holy Spirit opening the words to them. There is a lot to celebrate, not least the very thing that most churches want: young people and children at the very centre of church life. Praise God for his love for us and for those he has called to serve him in this way.

We are into the final quarter of the year, perhaps the busiest and the most varied when it comes to services and events. This autumnal season sees us give thanks in October, remember in November and prepare ourselves in December for the coming down to earth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmastime, when we can celebrate with family and friends alike the centrality of Christ in our lives.

Furthermore, there was a mysterious character, Oannes, in Ninevite mythology about their origins. He came out of the sea, half-man and half-fish. Known as a 'culture-god,' Oannes instructed the people of Chaldea in all the skills necessary for their development into a civilisation. So, given that Oannes and Jonah are the same word in the language of the Ninevites, we can see how Jonah and his story would have had an immediate and striking significance for them. Jonah 'comes out of the sea', he has lived inside 'the body of a fish', and he tells them he has 'something to teach them,' something which comes from God.

Jonah probably arrived at Nineveh around 755 B.C. Records show that, after a solar eclipse in 763 B.C, there were years of crazy weather that caused flooding and famine. To people suffering like this, Jonah's story of a God who controls sea and storms is dynamite. Given this background information, perhaps the Ninevites' response to Jonah's message is a little more comprehensible. What I find really interesting is that it was Jonah's disobedience that led him into the experiences which spoke so powerfully to the people of Nineveh. Had he not experienced the storm and the shipwreck, had he not been swallowed by a giant fish, had he not been vomited up by that fish out of the sea – would his message have been believed?

This leads us to the amazing conclusion that our God is so wise and so powerful that even our errors and mistakes can be used positively by Him to better prepare us for our mission!

*(For more amazing info on Jonah see my book '**Jonah the Epistle of Wild Grace.**' It's available free for e-readers and in paper formats from Amazon.)*

Stephen March

MISTAKES THAT MAKE US

We all know the biblical story of Jonah. He was a Jewish prophet but when God gave him an assignment to go to Nineveh – his peoples' deadliest enemies – to tell them that God was displeased with their wickedness, Jonah jumped on a boat and headed in the opposite direction.

God overruled. Through storm and shipwreck, being swallowed by a sea monster and then thrown up on dry land, God forced Jonah to accept his mission. And so Jonah reluctantly, angrily, and very grumpily, went to Nineveh.

And the most amazing thing was that the Ninevites accepted his message, repented of their wicked behaviour and turned to God.

Why would they do that?

I spent twelve years studying the book of Jonah and discovered that there were several reasons why Jonah's story resonated incredibly powerfully with the Ninevites. They had a trio of major gods and one of them was Ea - the god of the waters . Pictured as half-man, half-fish, he was known as Shar Apsi the 'King of the Watery Deep'. They also worshipped Ninua (Ishtar). She too was often represented as a fish. The city of Nineveh was named after her. In Assyrian cuneiform, Ninua is represented by the sign of a fish. And the name of the city, Nineveh, was the symbol of Ninua within an enclosure. So the very name Nineveh meant 'place of the fish'.



One of the things we sometimes forget to do – an established 'mark of mission' - is to celebrate! On that special October 8th Sunday, our children and young people reminded us of the importance and joy of celebration.

Praise be to God for the children in our midst! They remind us of the call to come to God as a child: humble, open and willing to follow, serve and glorify his name. They encourage us to celebrate God's place in our lives with our every breath, coming to him just as we are.

As we enter the final weeks of the year, there is much to prepare, much to share and much to celebrate. We rejoice in two buzzing family churches, an enthusiastic and energetic missional community in NEARER, reaching out to the people of Birstall and Wanlip, a successful Sunday School, myriad sub-groups for all ages, home churches, and much interest from newer members to know more about Jesus.

The leaves are falling,
the colours are amazing,
and the weather is changing,
but God is constant,
as is his love for us.

And that - as ever - is something
we all want to celebrate.
There is so much to be involved in,
there is so much to celebrate.

Come, let's celebrate together
in the name of Jesus!

Blessings, *Vince*



ACTION REPLAY

Weren't we well-blessed on the day of the Summer Fair? Wonderful weather, which has proved to be rather rare this year, kept everyone in good spirits and the visitors coming in.

Taking advantage of the weather, and with the whole day feeling rather like a holiday, I didn't go straight home after going to the fair, I toddled off down to the river via White Horse Lane. The lane that used, before the Home was built, to be lined with elder trees, and a wonderful place to harvest elder flowers in Spring or elderberries in autumn, to make wines, cordials or jams - nature's bounty. It has all gone now, as the lane had to be made tidy for the building.

I carried on to the river, to the bridge where I once nearly dropped into the water during a flood, leaving my eldest son helpless with hysterical laughter and me with soggy feet. I once saw a stoat in the bushes just along from there, but he (or she) is long gone, along with the bushes that have also been tidied.

There is, along the towpath, a well placed seat opposite some beautiful willow trees, so I sat for a while. Many people walked by, some of whom I knew, and some with dogs, who I also knew. Most people stopped to exchange a few words, which made the day even more pleasant. And you can't beat stroking and patting a friendly dog! What a day! The river was sparkling, the sky blue and cloudless and the ducks doing what ducks do. There was a slight breeze to ruffle the leaves on the trees so they shimmered and gleamed in the sun.



As we approach our (probably) dull and cold wet winter, wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a 'replay' button in our heads so that we could re-visit the lovely times of our lives, so many of them, like that day of the Fair, unplanned, and even more precious for that. Perhaps times with family and friends, or schooldays and outings, beautiful places we have visited, and holidays - even conversations, as the 'replay' button must come with sound!

I know my 'replay' selection from my life - also rather a lot of 'deletes'!

What would your selection be, I wonder?

Leigh Reid

Group member Pat Gregory wrote this poetic invitation some years ago:

If you come down to the Village Hall
on the second Monday of the month,
you will meet St James' Monday Group,
we're a very friendly bunch.

We are quite a funny mixture,
many are past their prime.
Some of us still think we're in it.
It's only a matter of time.

We all have our little ailments,
from deafness to rheumatics,
but you'll always find us on the go,
and never find us static.

We raise money for the needy
when we hold a Ploughman's Lunch,
have sales, trips and outings.
We're quite a lively bunch.

We try for interesting speakers,
but don't always succeed.
It doesn't really bother us,
because friendship's all we need.

So if you want to join us,
come down and meet the gals.
I guarantee you'll have a laugh
and make some lovely pals.

Every meeting we sing a hymn together and say some prayers, chosen by members, and always say together our special Monday Group prayer.

O God our Father, we thank you for your gifts of love, joy and peace. Direct and guide us in our fellowship with one another. Abide in our homes and in the homes of all we love; and grant that we may uphold your truth, and honour your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

New members are always welcome. For further information, contact me, Jane Scott, the current leader, on 0116 2673761.

Jane Scott

THE MONDAY GROUP



*The Monday Group outing to Oakham, 2017
Joan Verso, Jane Scott, Margaret Coles, Jean Fuller*

The St James' Monday Group meets in the Day Centre, School Lane, Birstall at 7.30 pm on every 2nd Monday of the month. Our varied programme includes speakers, outings, suppers and fundraising events. We have raised a lot of money for charity over the years, such as VISTA, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Rainbows and the Hope Foundation. In 2016, we raised £3,350 for Medical Detection Dogs. This year we are supporting the Leicester Children's Home at Mablethorpe. With excellent bakers and cooks in our midst, not to mention knitters, sewers (sorry, needle workers!), singers and gardeners, charity fund-raising coffee mornings and tea afternoons are regularly part of our programme. We always help with church events such as the Garden Fete.

We also arrange concerts and fashion shows to raise money for charity, most recently, a *Coffee, Cake and 'Good as New' Sale* in St James' Church.

Over the years, the Monday Group has hosted parties for the house-bound and disabled, providing transport, tea and entertainment. I well remember one occasion when my late husband, Shirley, and his friends carried ladies, gentlemen and wheel chairs up flights of stairs because the lifts had broken in their flats, and occasionally driving all over Leicestershire because someone had lost their key or left it inside their home. Over the years, we have made many lovely friends and enjoyed good times together.

A MINI-RETREAT, IN MY OWN SITTING ROOM

Do you search your TV magazines for the week, marking the programmes you really want to watch? This week I couldn't believe my delight. There were two hours of almost silent broadcasts, providing three consecutive mini-retreats. Some of us pray for the chance to get away somewhere quiet, with no duties or busy-ness. Some go to distant places to learn how to be quiet, others somewhere beautiful to enjoy God's presence. Here were two hours on three evenings, and all in my own sitting room.

First, there were 30 minutes of silently watching an English artisan: blowing glass to form a vase; constructing a Windsor chair; crafting a steel knife; the only sounds those of tools, fire or hissing water. The film and the crafting were mesmerising and beautiful. The films were of craftsmen along the Silk Road: a silk weaver, a carpenter of elaborate poles and a potter. Again, there were long silent interludes interspersed with quiet comments by the artisan as we followed him through his day. Again the whole rhythm of family life and workmanship held me captivated and at peace.

Then TV cameras followed a day at three Benedictine monasteries. The day began with dark corridors and stairs in an ancient building, a monk silently lighting candles on his way to the chapel and monks coming out of rooms to follow his route. There was low chanting, individual prayers in chapels, tolling of bells before the next Office; there were quiet walks through woods and gardens, the sound of hedge-pruning, a monk sitting on a bench drawing, another throwing balls for a dog, glimpses through doors out on to gardens, and monks passing by.



Lastly, there was crafting: food in the kitchen, hoeing between the vegetables, stringing of beads on a rosary, cutting fabric and machine stitching of vestments, gilding and painting an icon, and then the monk walking to deliver or to place the finished product. The days ended with chapel prayers, the extinguishing of lights and so to bed.

Two hours of beauty, peace and total contentment. As the films faded and I was calmly slipping away to my own bed, I felt that I had been given two hours of God's presence, a total RETREAT.

Noreen Talbot

ALMS HOUSES IN BIRSTALL

THE BURLEY HOUSES

Now that it is winter and the leaves have fallen from the trees, it is possible glimpse places otherwise hidden by foliage. Those who walk along the Loughborough Road from Leicester to Birstall may glimpse an impressive, red-bricked building set in extensive grounds which overlook Station Road and the city beyond.



You may wonder who is lucky enough to live in such splendour. Well, surprisingly, I do, together with eleven other equally fortunate 'mature' ladies. For this broad, U-shaped building is in fact twelve terraced cottages which, together with two lodges (and two more residents) on either side of the drive off Tempest Road, comprise the Burley Houses.

They are alms houses, built and maintained according to the provisions of the will of John Henry Burley, a banker and former resident of Birstall who died in 1914. After a lengthy legal action in the Chancery Division of the High Court, the charity was established in 1928. Plans for the houses were drawn up by the firm of Stockdale Harrison and Sons, St Martin's East, Leicester. Stockdale Harrison's son, Shirley Stockdale Harrison, a lifelong friend of Mr Burley, drew up the designs. The style was influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement and the building is now considered to be of architectural interest, although it is not listed. The first residents moved into the houses in 1932. The Trust was set up to benefit the widows and daughters of professional men, such as doctors, clergymen and officers of the navy and army.

CELEBRATING

21st Anniversary

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

COVENANT

We, the members of St Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, Birstall, Birstall Methodist Church and the Parish of St James the Great, Birstall and Our Lady and St Nicholas, Wanlip, confess our common faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour in accordance with Holy Scripture and the historic creeds of the Church.

Since we recognise one another as part of the one Church of Jesus Christ, pledged to be His visible presence in the world, in the unity of the Spirit, we covenant together to pray for, and to demonstrate the unity of the Church in our community, exploring how this unity might develop.

We therefore pledge ourselves:

- To worship and pray together and to look forward to full Eucharistic celebration
- To co-operate, as far as possible, in evangelism and mission;
- To continue to work together in caring for the community;
- To work together to reach young people in our community, especially those who have no contact with the Church;
- To continue to co-operate in the Christian education of all our members;
- Never to do separately what we can reasonably do together, e.g. joint services and social activities.

We agree that this covenant shall be offered to God as a sign of our commitment to our faith in the One Lord Jesus Christ, at a joint service to establish formally ~

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BIRSTALL AND WANLIP

Roman Catholic Church signatories

Maurice Joyce, Gwen Joyce, Peter Astill, Fr John Daley, Mgr Peter O'Dowd

Methodist Church signatories

R Morling, Rev. Christopher R Gray, Rev Edward Lacy

Church of England signatories

Monica Lucas, Simon Murphy, Rev Charles A Bradshaw, Hugh Baker

+ Thomas Leicester

22nd January, 1997

REGULAR EVENTS AND GROUPS

Weekly

- Thursday 7.30-9.00pm **Bell ringing practice (St James)**
Contact Clive Mobbs 0116 2677156
- Saturday 10-12 noon **St James Church open** + Tea and coffee

Monthly

- 2nd Monday 7.30pm **Monday Group (Day Centre)**
Contact Jane Scott 0116 2673761
- 4th Monday 10.15am **Mothers' Union (St James)**
Contact Helen Tarry 0116 2677493
- 1st Wed. 10.30am **Contemplative Prayer** 76 Sibson Road
Contact Noreen Talbot 0116 2672756
- 3rd Tuesday 10 am- 12.30 **Old Nick's Coffee Shop**
Wanlip Church and Community Centre
- 2 Fridays per month 7.30pm **Gospel Choir (St James)**
Contact Sharon March 0116 2103591
- Monday Morning monthly **St James Wanderers** approx. 4 miles
Contact Lesley Walton 0116 2674995

Bi-monthly

- 1st Sunday 7.45pm **Men's Group (Royal British Legion)**
Contact Bert Tegg 0116 2673817
- Group agrees dates!* **St James Striders** approx. 8 miles
Contact Gill Pope 0116 2675086

REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

St James, Birstall, Sunday

- 8 am Holy Communion (*said*)
 10 am All Together (*1st Sunday*)
 10 am Parish Communion (*other Sun*)
 10 am Sunday School

Weekdays

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,**
Friday 9 am Morning Prayer
- Thursday** 9.30 am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas, Wanlip Sundays, 6 pm

- 1st Sunday**
 Holy Communion
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays**
 Prayer Book Evensong
- 5th Sunday**
 Alternative Service of the Word

Over the years, the entry 'rules' have been amended in order that the founder's wishes can be fulfilled in this day and age. By and large this means that the residents have no property of their own, and cannot afford one. They must be capable of leading independent lives and be local to the area. There are other rules and regulations by which we have to abide, but I, for one, welcome them and feel that they impose no hardship. We have shelter, a sense of security, community and companionship, all within beautiful surroundings and make a modest contribution to the upkeep of the property. It would be difficult to find anywhere nicer for double the amount. Added to which is the protection and help afforded by the Body of Trustees, who go out of their way to ensure we are well looked after.

Linda Sharman

HANNAH CLARKE ALMS HOUSES

1922

**THESE SIX ALMS HOUSES WERE ERECTED BY
 HANNAH CLARKE,
 FOR AGED PROTESTANTS:
 IN MEMORY OF JOHN KENSIT,
 WHO LOST HIS LIFE IN THE PROTESTANT CAUSE
 IN 1902**

The six original alms houses were built in 1922 at the top of Park Road, Birstall. The above plaque was set into the 1922 buildings, but is now on a plinth in front of the present houses. The six dwellings were financed by Miss Hannah Clarke, a lady concerned for single or widowed elderly Protestant women, who, at the end of their working lives, had no home in which to spend their remaining years. Each dwelling had a single living and sleeping area, a curtained-off kitchen, a washing area and an external coal store. Residents shared the two outside toilets.

Hannah Clarke's hero was John Kensit, the founder of the Protestant Truth Society. She saw him as hero, martyr and inspiration. (Others saw him as a fanatic and agitator, and his Society as 'an unpleasant nuisance'!)

Protestant Truth Society Trustees managed her alms-houses. The original, uncomplicated Trust Deed stipulated that each resident should pay a fixed weekly rent of twelve and a half pence. Over the years, however, the rental income became insufficient for maintenance and modernisation. At the end of the 1970s, the homes were unfit for human habitation. They were demolished in 1983, when the last resident departed.

Mainly at the instigation of the Revd. Harry Sutton, Pastor of Bethel Evangelical Free Church, Wigston Fields, new homes were erected and a revised Trust Deed for the charity, dated 15th April 1985, was drawn up.



'Hannah Clarke Court', is a complex of eight flats which provides accommodation for 'poor aged women who are unmarried or single'. Each flat has a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. With the approval of the Charity Commission, new trustees were agreed. Birstall Parish Council nominates two trustees; the other four are co-optative. The new building was ready by the end of 1994 and the flats all occupied by the beginning of 1995. The new building, financed by means of a grant from the Housing Corporation and a mortgage loan from the National Westminster Bank, cost £241,000.

The present complex is now on a sound financial basis. There are adequate reserves for repairs and refurbishments. The mortgage was paid off some years ago. An economic but viable rent is charged, which is below the level for most social housing, and reviewed annually. The flats are maintained according to the government's 'decent homes standards'.

Times have changed, but the present Trustees feel that they are fulfilling a Christian role in managing the homes in the 21st century and providing social housing for elderly ladies in the spirit of Hannah Clarke's foundation.

Bert Tegg

Where to find the help you need.

If you have questions or concerns about dementia you can contact the Dementia UK national Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline on 0800 888 6678, or email helpline@dementiauk.org. This service is available, weekdays 9am-9pm, and weekends 9am-5pm. The Helpline is staffed by highly experienced Admiral Nurses who have specialist knowledge of dementia.

How can you help us get Admiral Nurses in Leicestershire?

To help raise the money required, a Fundraising Group has now been formed with the support of Dementia UK. **Your church's donation of £450 from the Church fete moves us closer to having Admiral Nurses working here in the community, so many thanks for your generosity.**

Details about how to contact this group and help in fund raising are below.

- Visit www.dementiauk.org and learn more about this organisation.
- Donate to our fundraising effort on our Facebook page, which can be found using your Facebook search facility, enter, **Admiral Nurses for Leicestershire**.
- We would also like to invite other interested individuals, and groups, to join our efforts to Help Families Face Dementia, by raising funds.

Please contact leicestershirefundraisinggroup@gmail.com

THE TWO RIVERS MISSION PARTNERSHIP

The Fosse Team, our fellow benefice in the Mission Partnership, is still advertising for a Team Rector. We continue praying for them all during that search: the parishes of Syston, Thrussington, Barkby, East Goscote, Queniborough, Rearsby and Thurmaston, team vicars Tim and Mary, their NSM and Retired Clergy colleagues, John, David and Ian, and their church wardens, Readers, and Pastoral Assistants. Pray with them:

Lord, call to the Fosse Team churches, a true shepherd, a person of God, a minister of Christ; and make them, with the one you call, a church joyful in worship and united witness. Working, caring, praising, loving, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADMIRAL NURSES – DEMENTIA UK

One of the charities supported by Birstall and Wanlip Churches



Dementia is a disease of the brain, affecting language, emotions, mental ability, speech, visual and auditory abilities. The genes of early onset dementia have recently been identified, but as yet there is no cure. There are hundreds of different types of dementia, developing over a period of anything from two to twenty years. It occurs

chiefly in those over 65 and affects 42% of the population, with one in three of us now predicted to get dementia.

Living with dementia, or being a carer, is one of the biggest challenges that anyone faces and it can be a very lonely place. Too often carers try to cope on their own and are swamped by the amount of information available. Admiral Nurses work alongside the family of the person affected by dementia, giving them one-to-one support, expert guidance and the practical solutions they need to face dementia with more confidence and less fear. This unique support can be a lifeline for people who do not know where else to turn.

Admiral Nurses are Registered Nurses and have significant experience of caring for those with dementia in its many forms. They work with other health and social care organisations to make sure people with dementia and their families receive the best possible care. They are provided with training and support by Dementia UK, to ensure they remain at the forefront of gold standard dementia care.

Dementia UK's vision is to provide the specialist and compassionate support for all families that need it. In the last three years, Dementia UK has doubled the number of Admiral Nurses across the UK to over 200. Over the next three years the charity aims to increase the number by a further 50%, to 300, towards the ambition of an Admiral Nurse service accessible in every part of the UK.

Currently, the majority of Admiral Nurses work within the community, with a few working in other settings such as hospitals, hospices, and care homes. There are none currently working in the community in Leicestershire.

LOOKING FORWARD IN WANLIP

'Christmas is a-coming and the goose is getting fat!'

Actually, and more to the point, the diary is getting full.

Christmas is a wonderful time for the whole church but the services at Wanlip are especially atmospheric. With the lights turned low and all the candles lit, our church certainly conjures up memories of traditional Christmases gone by.

The diary at Wanlip, however starts before the decorations go up, with our **Christmas Fayre on Sat 2nd December**. We open at 11 a.m. There will be stalls selling Christmas decorations and gifts, a tombola and raffles. Refreshing cups of tea and coffee, and, of course, warming bowls of soup will be available.

On **Wednesday December 6th** we celebrate our **Patronal Festival of St. Nicholas**, with Evening Prayer starting at 7 p.m.

Christmas Services

Our traditional service of **Lessons and Carols** will be celebrated on Sunday 17th December at 6 p.m.

On Monday 18th December we will enjoy a slightly less traditional service **'Around the Christmas Tree'**. This too will start at 6 p.m.

There will be mince pies and mulled wine after both these services.

Then, on Tuesday 19th, there is Old Nicks Coffee Shop which will ease us gently into the final preparations for Christmas.

Christmas Eve will see one of the very few occasions when there will be **no evening service on a Sunday at Wanlip**. We will be saving ourselves for the glories of the **Christmas Morning Service** which starts at 9 a.m. See you there.

Of course, it doesn't end there. We have a very special service at Wanlip on **New Year's Eve** at 11:30 p.m.

More to look out for in 2018.

Keep an eye on the information sheet for services and more events.

In April, for example, the Glenfield Ladies Choir will be back for a spring concert - look out for the posters!

Debbie Shephard

WINTER MEMORIES

Snow, frost, bare trees, building snowmen, ice on the inside of windows, chilblains, school milk warming in front of the classroom fire or stove... what is your earliest memory of winter?

Mine is very vivid. I checked it out with my mother, however, because, as I was only little at the time, I wasn't sure whether my memory was real or imagined. My mother confirmed that all was as I remembered. It happened in February 1947 when I was nearly 3 years old. It was the worst winter for many years. Three months of unrelenting cold and snow disrupted fuel supplies and meant power cuts and shortages of all kinds. As well as that, the rationing of many things was still in force.

One very cold day, I was trudging through snow with my mother for what seemed a very long time. We eventually joined a long, slow-moving queue, mainly women, beside a high brick wall. I had no idea why we were there.

Eventually we reached a gate, and I think my mother handed over some paperwork and then we went home. I don't think that I knew what all this was for, but what I do recall as if it was yesterday was the awful pervasive smell that came from somewhere near.



Women waiting to collect coal from a depot, 1947

I now know that we were visiting the Crown Street coal depot in downtown Liverpool to try to get some coal. (Coal, essential for most homes, was severely rationed at the time.) We lived in a third floor flat in an early Victorian house near the Anglican Cathedral. The fuel shortage was so bad that people tore down trees, fences, anything that would burn.

A legacy is a valuable and lasting way to support the mission and ministry of this parish. If you believe God is calling you to give a lasting gift in your will, you might like to talk to me, the Rector, or our churchwardens. We will be more than happy to advise you.

Who knows what God has in store for us in our parish? We are a fantastic family, with a real passion for mission and ministry, who believe that God will provide, not necessarily what we want, but what He needs for His work in this place.

St Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: 'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

Nicki Wills, Church Treasurer

FROM THE REGISTERS

August - November 2017

Baptisms

16th August	Ryan Hill	St James
20th August	Isabel Featherstone	St James
3rd September	Kirsty Varnum	St James
	Jack Clark	Our Lady & St Nicholas
10th September	George Spencer	St James

Marriages

26th August	Joshua Clayton, Rebecca Woods	St James
2nd September	Setty Munzwemberi, Gladys Sango	St James

Funerals

9th August	Hilda White	St James
30th August	Anthony (Tony) Cox	St James
31st August	Mervyn Green	St James
5th September	Margaret Willows	St James
9th November	Marise Butt	St James
10th November	Margaret Briers	L'boro Crematorium

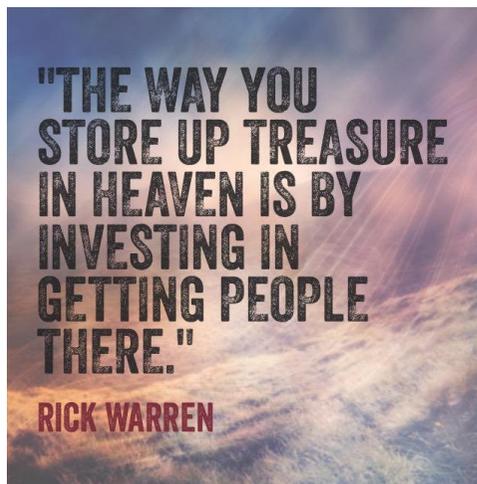
TREASURES FROM GOD

A message from our Church Treasurer, on Thanksgiving Sunday.

I want to thank you all for your dedication to the mission and ministry of this church, and for the truly generous financial gifts you donate out of your hard-earned money every week. I understand as much as does anyone just how tough life can be, not knowing if we have enough to get by. Well, the Lord said that if we place our faith in Him, He will provide. That is exactly what is happening here in Birstall and Wanlip. Your acts of kindness enable the church to be proactive with mission and ministry in our community, as well as with the day-to-day running expenses of the churches.

Five years ago, God called us to the new and exciting mission adventure that is Hallam Fields. We prayed hard and listened to what God was saying. The sound was deafening; we could not ignore it. We

knew God was calling us to share his word and love with the new community which was growing among us. It was a tall order, but God has blessed us with grants as well as with the wonderful pioneering approach of *Nearer*. Whenever we thought we had exhausted our means of financing this mission, as well as everything else we do, God gave a new answer. So I ask you, in Jesus' name, to continue your support of the church through your giving, so we can all carry on saying 'Yes' to God, and so provide the mission and ministry support that we believe He is asking of us.



As well as your regular giving on the church plate, by standing order or envelope, I would also like you to think about a lasting gift to your church. Once you have made provision for your loved ones in your will, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift to God, by leaving a legacy to His church. Such a gift contributes to the growth of God's Kingdom, as well as enabling us to express the desire of generosity that we have carried in our heart, perhaps for a long time.

We had to keep our coal in the back yard and someone had stolen it. We had no other heating and my sister was only a few months' old. The police had finally issued the necessary paperwork to allow our coal to be replaced. That was the reason we were queuing outside the depot. I don't know whether my mother had to collect it or whether it was delivered.

As for the awful smell; it was milk being sterilised at a nearby dairy, a horrible, sickly smell, that probably accounted for me refusing to drink milk until I was in my late teens!

It was a different world.

Lesley Walton

WINTER WORD SEARCH

ADVENT,
CAROL,
EPIPHANY,
GOLD,
HOLLY,
ICE,
JESUS,
JOY,
LOVE,
MAGI,
MARY,
NEW YEAR,
NOWELL,
RESOLUTION,
SNOW,
UNITY,
WINTER

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

'I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS!'

I'm not sure how it came up, but on the way to the retired clergy tea party, Santa Claus was mentioned. My admittance that I believed in Santa Claus was met with surprise. What surprised me, though, was that not everyone shared my belief!

The story of Santa Claus goes back to 270 AD when the child Nicholas was born in Patara in Lycia (Southern Turkey). When he grew up, he became the Bishop of Myra. Nicholas was a pastoral bishop who cared deeply for those in his care. His best known act of charity was towards a family with three daughters.

Walking past a house in Myra one night, Nicholas overheard a couple in distress. He stopped to listen to their conversation. The next day was to be the birthday of the oldest of their three daughters. She would then be old enough to marry, but her parents didn't have a dowry to offer a prospective husband. In those days if a family couldn't afford a dowry the daughter had to be sold into slavery.

Full of compassion, Bishop Nicholas returned to his church to collect a pouch of gold. How to get it to the family was a problem. Being modest, Nicholas didn't want people to know it came from him. He waited until it was dark and then threw the gold through the window. It happened that the daughters' stockings had been washed that afternoon and were hanging near the fire-place to dry, and the pouch of gold landed in a stocking. The couple were overjoyed.



Bishop Nicholas knew he couldn't help just one daughter, and so he decided to repeat his act of kindness as each daughter reached marrying age. On the night before the middle daughter's birthday, Nicholas threw a pouch of gold through the window which happened to land in that daughter's shoe.

The day before the youngest daughter's birthday, on passing their house, Nicholas heard the father tell his wife he intended to stay up all night. If their benefactor returned, he would be able to discover who it was and thank him. Not wanting to be discovered, Nicholas racked his brain for a way to deliver the money without being seen. Looking at the house he realised he would be able to climb on the roof and he began to form a plan.

That night Nicholas returned with the pouch of gold and, as quietly as he could, climbed onto the roof. He knew the family would have let their fire die down, so he dropped the gold down the chimney. The father, who was watching the window, heard the money fall into the embers and started to run outside to catch whoever had helped them. Seeing the pouch smoking, however, he stopped to rescue it before it caught fire. The delay gave Nicholas time to get away unseen.

Many years later, Nicholas was canonised Saint Nicholas. Over the years his name became shortened to Santa Claus. Nicholas is now a member of the communion of saints. Surely anyone who believes in the resurrection believes in him, whether they call him Santa Claus or Saint Nicholas, and that he still cares for children.

Michael Webb

