



December 2024  
& January 2025

**Stratton Team Ministry**  
*Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God Together*  
[www.strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)

# THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

## STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY

Rector: Reverend Elveen Mead [Usual Day off Friday]

Curate: Reverend Charlotte Stansfield [Usual Day off Friday]

Lay Minister: Lisa Lodwick  
Alison Burston  
Dan Read

Church Administrator Georgina Martin 826505  
Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

### CHURCHWARDENS

St. Margaret's Church and St Mary Magdalene Church

Mrs June Lewis 822954  
Mr Ian Jones 07769703385  
Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Wardens

Mr David Horne 07717447855  
Mr Richard Pflieger 828367

St Leonards Church

Mrs Liz Hillman 762935  
Mr Chris Pope

Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers & DBS Lead Recruiters

Dr Mike Boshier 07799835437  
Mrs Mary Boshier

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for St. Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene

Mrs Rosalind Mitchell (Secretary) 764146  
Mrs Diane Whitford  
(Deputy Secretary of St Mary Magdalene) 824339

St Leonards

Mr Michael Curtis  
(PCC secretary St Leonards)

### LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Stratton Methodist Church, 829335  
St Mary's R C Church, The Presbytery, Swindon 535089

Dear Friends

“How lovely you’re coming for Christmas! Auntie Mary will be in the guest-room so you’ll have to kip on the sofa – OK?”

Conversations like this may have been happening in recent weeks. With several guests staying, working out who gets to shower when might require a little negotiation, but for many, it’s still wonderful to catch up, play games, eat and drink, simply to be together.

But not everyone feels that way. Some people dread Christmas.



If we’ve lost a loved one, memories of previous Christmasses can heighten our pain.

For others, financial worries and increased alcohol consumption over this time can increase tensions in strained relationships. Sadly, cases of domestic abuse rise over the festive season. Such situations can arise anywhere, in the homes of the least well-off to the wealthy, with both male and female victims. *Signposts to sources of help are below.*

When Joseph and the heavily-pregnant Mary arrived in Joseph’s home town of Bethlehem looking for a place to stay, they had to do the equivalent of kipping on the sofa. We all know that they were put up in a stable, because there was no room in the inn - right? Well, probably not!

In his gospel account, Luke writes, “Mary gave birth to her firstborn son... and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7) – and the contested word is “inn”. The Greek word translated “guest room” in most English translations – *katalymati* – just means “lodging-place”: the same word used for the location of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples, also referred to as the “upper room”.

The Roman occupiers had ordered residents of Palestine to return to their home town for a census. So along with Joseph, all his family would have been descending on the folks back home in Bethlehem - guest-rooms would have filled up quickly. And archaeology suggests that many first-century Palestinian homes had three rooms: upstairs, a guest-room; downstairs, a larger living-area, and a section next to it for animals. The animals (donkey, sheep or oxen) were valuable and here they’d be safe inside at night.

So it seems that after all, Jesus may not have been born in a “draughty stable with an open door” (much as I love the Calypso Carol!), but in the ‘second’ guest-room – with the natural warmth of the animals and the handy manger where the baby could be laid to sleep between his feeds.

At Christmastime, whether we are the hosts or the guests, let’s remember those in modern-day Bethlehem and the area around – and many other places in the world - where there is no safe place to sleep – bed, sofa, or manger – and keep them in our prayers.

### Domestic Abuse Helplines

*In an emergency: call the police on 999.*

*Women & children: [nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://nationaldahelpline.org.uk) - 0808 200 247.*

*Men: [mensadviceline.org.uk](http://mensadviceline.org.uk) – 0808 801 0327*

Rev Charlotte, Curate, Stratton Team Ministry



## When I was three at Christmas

When I was three or five or seven  
I'd learnt that Jesus came down from Heaven  
And because of Him, we had good things  
Toys and crackers and party flings.

When I was eight or even eleven  
I became aware of God in Heaven  
Lessons were stricter now it appeared  
With Do's and Don'ts more readily feared.

At twelve, thirteen or there about  
My mischievous ways were causing me doubt.  
And in teenage years and even later  
I became a sort of religious bater.

With daily toil and drinking chat  
Not closing any spiritual gap.  
At Twenty there became a choice  
Of accepting or rejecting the quiet voice.

That had counselled me to stay the course  
Since those early days, a persuasive force!  
Nothing it seemed could make it plain  
How I could make sense of Jesus' pain.

I asked was it really for me  
He hung upon that awful tree?  
I pondered and thought quite a lot  
Rebelled and even hatched a plot!

Of ways to escape and forget it all  
Was there not for me, any call at all?  
Yet I still remembered those tiny years  
When nothing was proved and little inferred!

Only simple trust and wonderful joy  
For what was given with no devious ploy.  
No religious laws for me to flout  
No scheme to test or catch me out!

Only listen excited for the bedroom latch  
'Click' someone is coming with goodies to hatch.  
No need to speak, just quietly ponder  
About Jesus' love and Christmas wonder

For He knows I'm here, sort of hidden under  
Waiting and hoping expectantly  
Like Christmas morn, when I was three!

**Dan Read – originally written in December 1995**

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bristol

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch

Our next meeting will be on Friday December 13th

It will be in St Margaret's Centre at 2.30pm

and it will be our Advent Carol Service

Do come and join us.

For more info, visit the Bristol MU website

[www.mubristol.co.uk](http://www.mubristol.co.uk)



- raising awareness of modern slavery

Anne Pope - MU Swindon Deanery Branch Contact

## Weekly Prayers for December – Emmanuel

### Prayer of the Month

As we journey through Advent, we praise God for his Word which leads us to the stable of salvation. As we draw near to adore the Christ-child, we share in the joy that the risen Lord accompanies us every step of the way. **Amen.**

*Prayers inspired by MU resources, the O Antiphons for Advent and O Emmanuel sonnet in 'Sounding the Seasons' by Malcolm Guite: Canterbury Press.*

### Monday: Emmanuel- Rooted in Love

*'O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign among the peoples.'* Isaiah 11.10

Rooted in the Love of God, Christ is a sure foundation for our faith.  
He is the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
we bring our thanks today.**

Lord of the years, all things come from you and of your own do we give you. Rooted in Love you give more than we deserve and entrust us to safeguard creation.

Stand as a sign to those who lead and all who follow –  
a sign that the earth is in our care;  
a sign that the welfare of its people is our responsibility;  
a sign that you are with us and call us to be with you as servants in the world.  
Keep us rooted in your Love.

**God be with us in our working and in our resting. Amen.**

### Tuesday: Emmauel– Bearer of Light

*'O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.'* Malachi 4.2

**Lord, for the times when darkness overpowers us, be our guiding light.**

Creator of light and darkness, as we make our footsteps in faith to the dawn of salvation, may your Word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path.

May your presence be a light of comfort, peace and understanding to those for whom Christmas time holds difficult memories.

May your Light illumine the dark places of danger or despair bringing hope and courage.

**God be with us in light and dark. Amen.**

### **Wednesday: Emmauel - Key to Freedom**

*'O Key of David, you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and set the prisoners free'* *Isaiah 22.22, 42.7*

**Lord for our land in this our generation be pleased to hear our prayer**

Saviour of our souls, be the guardian of our coming and our going. Set us free from the guilt which imprisons and disables us. Assure us of your forgiveness.

Be the hope of new life in the hearts and minds of prisoners.  
Bless those who offer rehabilitation and fresh start opportunities.

Be the hope of freedom for those imprisoned by injustice or abuse,  
those disabled by infirmity or fearfulness.

Be the open door to compassion and care for all in distress.

**God be with us in our comings and our goings. Amen.**

### **Thursday: Emmauel – Word of God**

*'O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you reach to the ends of the world. You govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and teach us the way of prudence.'*  
*Wisdom 8.1*

*'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.'*  
*John 1.1*

**Lord, for the word of life which fires us, receive your people's praise.**

As we make our footsteps in faith in our daily tasks, unfold for us the mystery of your grace: the grace to accept whatever lies ahead; grace to see each other as you see us; grace to be thankful in all circumstances.

Bless all who bring the gift of literacy to women and the skills to enable them to make a living and contribute to their communities.

**God be with us in our praying and our doing. Amen.**

***“Jesus is the reason for the season”***

**Friday: Emmanuel- King and Cornerstone**

**'O King of the nations, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation, come to save the human race from fear.'** *Isaiah 28.14*

In a world where people live in fear and with the consequences of conflict, injustice, poverty, homelessness and the abuse of power, Christ calls us to be a voice for change.

**Lord, for our world of hunger, doubt and helplessness, we pray that Christ may reign.**

For the homeless, for refugees and asylum seekers, we pray for hearts of welcome.

For the unjustly accused, and the innocent victims of conflict, we pray for resolution.

For the leaders of the nations, we pray Christ to be their cornerstone of justice and their foundation for community welfare.

**God be with us as we witness to God's kingdom values. Amen.**

**Saturday: Emmanuel – Hope of Heaven**

**'O Emmanuel, our king and lawgiver, The desire of all the nations, Saviour of all people: Come and save us, O Lord our God.'** *Isaiah 7.14*

Rejoice: God is with us: now and evermore.

**Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us to live for Christ alone.**

Lord of Life, we thank you that you have kept and guarded us through many challenges and trials; a constant companion in sorrows and in joy.

God-with-us in our troubled times: hold out your hands to our dying world and redeem the rags of our making into the swaddling bands of life.  
Be born in us today.

Hope of heaven, God-with-us as we face the challenges of life, sustain us as we seek to reflect your love in our lives, through prayer and action.

Name above all Names, God-with-us in joy and in sorrow, in success and in failure, and in all times and circumstances, unfold for us the mystery of your grace.

**God be with us today, and in our good intentions. Amen.**

# Too Early for Christmas

Too early for Christmas

I'll start in October, I said last year.  
Now it's ten days to Christmas and I'm panicking here.  
Cards to be sent and more presents to choose.  
Even the tree's got a fit of the blues.

There's parties to go to but what to wear?  
And what do I do about my hair!  
A new dress, no time, where's my favourite friend.  
That little black dress whose use has no end.

The Christmas story is lost in the sell.  
Buy the wrong brand and they're bound to tell.  
Parent pressure and all that goes with it.  
Oh, just to relax and enjoy the Christmas spirit!

Right, the decorations are up with the tree a glowing.  
The punch is spicy, warm and plentifully flowing.  
The fridge is full, the turkey is stuffed.  
Vegetables prepared, mince pies pastry all puffed.

The table is laid, napkins folded neat.

One small sherry, midnight mass and friends to greet.  
Cooking, serving and playing the host.  
The laughter of children is really the most.

What's that joyful sound on Christmas morn.  
Our grand-daughter Danielle but who bought her that horn?  
Feeling full and much too fat.  
But never mind, we'll soon change that.

New Years Resolution time, it's the diet again.  
Write it all down and stick to the plan.  
Christmas, I'll start in October next year  
And there'll be no panicking here!

*June Lewis*



# December



<b>1<sup>st</sup> December</b>		<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>St Margaret's Church</b>		<b>St Leonard's Church</b>	
<b>St Mary Magdalene Church</b>			
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>10am</b>
Holy Communion Service	Sunday Morning Worship	Advent Carol Service	Family Christingle Service
<b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>St Margaret's Church</b>		<b>St Mary Magdalene Church</b>	
<b>St Leonard's Church</b>			
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11am</b>
Sunday Morning Worship	Christingle Service	Holy Communion Service	Family Christingle Service
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>Coleview Community Centre</b>		<b>11am</b>	Team Christmas Carol Service
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>St Margaret's Church</b>		<b>St Leonard's Church</b>	
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	
Sunday Morning Worship	Christmas Carols by Candlelight	Holy Communion Service	
<b>24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Christmas Services Please See Our Other Poster</b>	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>	
<b>St Margaret's Church</b>		<b>10am</b>	Sunday Morning Team Worship

Please see our website for the most up to date information [www.strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)  
 We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.



<b>20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER</b>		<b>FRIDAY</b>		
St Mary Magdalene Church	7pm	Christmas Carol Service		
<b>24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		
St Margaret's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church		St Leonard's Church	
11pm	5pm	9pm	3:30pm	7pm
Holy Communion Service	Crib service	Holy Communion Service	Walking Nativity	Carols by Candlelight
<b>25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
St Margaret's Church	10am	Holy Communion Service		

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# January



<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	
<b>St Margaret's Church</b>	<b>St Leonard's Church</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene Church</b>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>10am</b>
Holy Communion Service	Sunday Morning Worship	All Age Worship
<b>12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany 1</b>	
<b>St Margaret's Church</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene Church</b>	<b>St Leonard's Church</b>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11am</b>
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Family Service
<b>19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	
<b>Stratton Methodist Church</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Sunday Morning Team Worship
<b>26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany 3</b>	
<b>St Margaret's Church</b>	<b>St Leonard's Church</b>	<b>Coleview Community Centre</b>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>11am</b>
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Holy Communion Service

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We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.

**St Leonards Invite you  
to our  
Family Christingle Service at  
11am  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> December**



**All welcome for a lively  
Family Service designed to  
involve children and appeal  
to adults.**

# FAMILY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

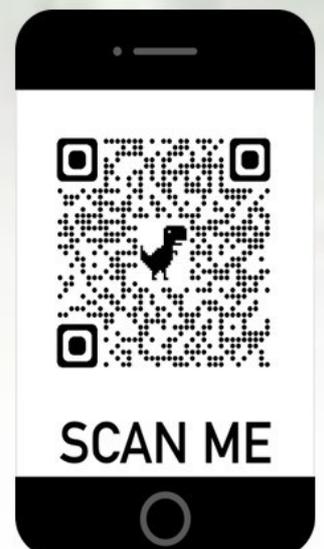
AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

@ 4PM



Come and sing carols, listen to the Christmas story and enjoy the lighting of the Christingle with Saturday Scene and Bumps & Babes





**SATURDAY SCENE**

**HAVE A PARTY TO**

**CELEBRATE**

**CHRISTMAS**

AT ST MARGARET'S CENTRE

(KENWIN CLOSE, OFF ERMIN STREET, STRATTON ST. MARGARET)

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**@ 4PM**

**Messy  
Christmas**

**FREE!**



SCAN ME

# St Margaret's Church Stratton



at

St Margaret's Centre  
Every Thursday

9:30am - 11:30am

Sundays after Church Services

*Tea also available*



**St Mary Magdalene Church**

**South Marston**

**Welcomes you to our**

**Community Coffee**

**Morning**

**Just drop in**

**Come and Join Us for**

**Refreshments**

*(including bacon butties and delicious cakes)*

**In the Village Hall**

**10 - 12**

**Every third Saturday in the month**

**Next date**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

# ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH SOUTH MARSTON

## Welcomes you to a Community Coffee Morning



**Just drop in**

**Come and Join Us for Refreshments  
(including bacon butties and delicious cakes)  
In the Village Hall**

**10 - 12**

**Every third Saturday in the month**

**Next date 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Enquiries or for table reservations please call**

**01793 824339**



# **St Leonard's Church Stanton**

Hosts Coffee Morning now at

Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

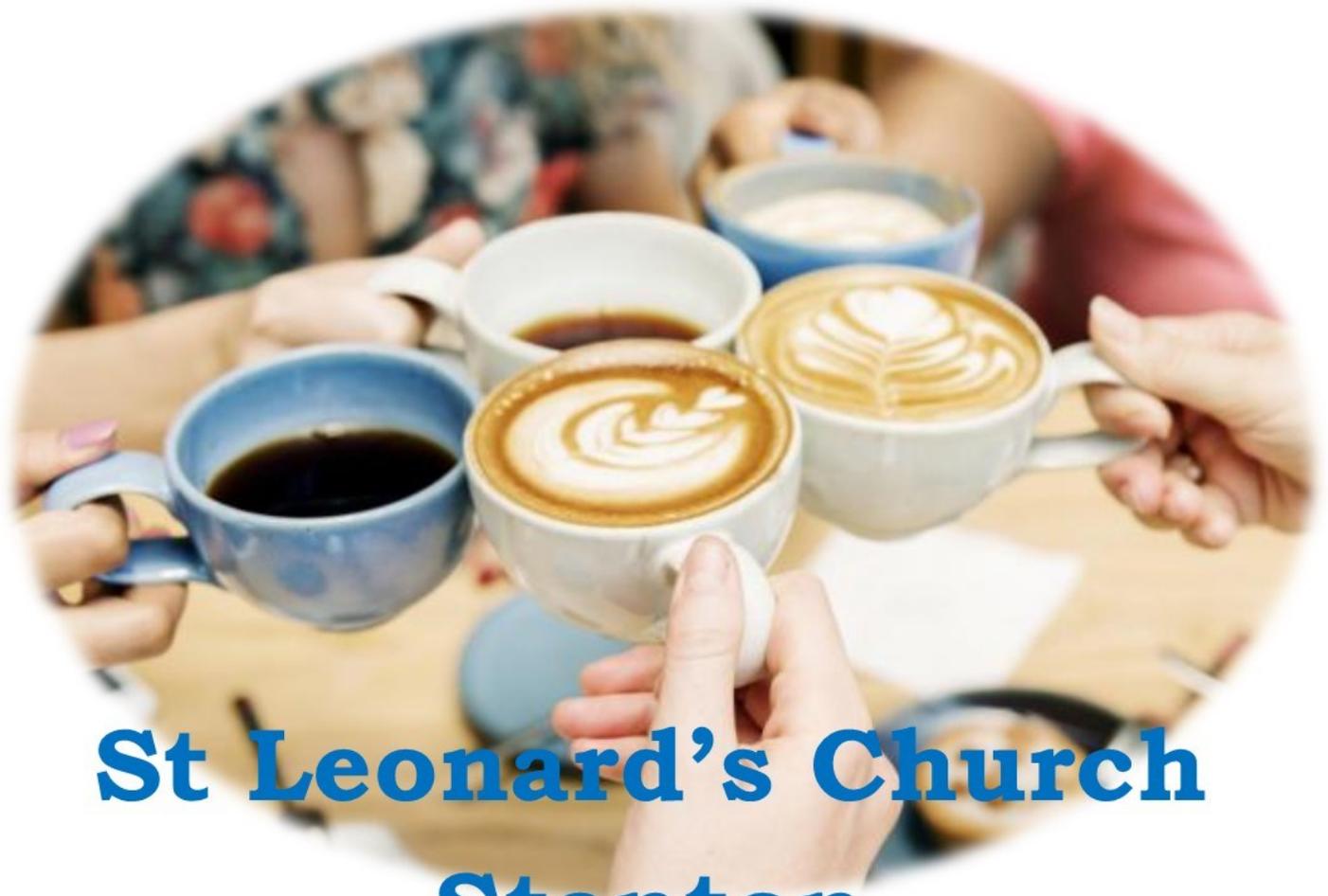
On Wednesday

18<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

*Everyone Welcome*



With Carols, memories and  
mince pies



# **St Leonard's Church Stanton**

Hosts Coffee Morning now at

Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

15<sup>th</sup> of January 2025

*Everyone Welcome*



PC Josh Hillman is our  
Speaker

# Bumps & Babes

ARE YOU A NEW  
OR EXPECTANT PARENT?

## Register Now

[forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7](https://forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7)

### Come and join Stratton Team Ministry for our Bumps and Babes group on Tuesdays.

Bumps & Babes is a place for expectant parents and parents with babies (up to one year old\*) to meet and chat over a coffee – sharing in the experiences of pregnancy and the joys and challenges of the early months of parenthood.

Mats and toys are available for you to play with your babies, as well as time for a few songs!

We are joined by guests each a month to share with us about subjects from weaning to breastfeeding; faith to reusable nappies!

Register for your place now via the link or complete a form on arrival – we look forward to welcoming you!

**When:** Tuesdays 11.15-12.15  
(term time only)

**Where:** St Margaret's Centre,  
Kenwin Close, SN3 4NY

**Cost:** Free

### Contact Us & Useful Links



[Bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com](mailto:Bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com)



[www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/explore/kids-and-youth/bumps-babes/](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/explore/kids-and-youth/bumps-babes/)



Register for your place now  
<https://forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7>



Bumps and Babes St Margaret's Swindon



# jokes

## The season is fast approaching. A few items you really couldn't make up:

- ☺ A Royal Mail survey reveals that Christmas shopping can induce one or more of the following symptoms: headaches, sleeplessness, feeling faint, tears, stomach ache, dizziness, claustrophobia, irritability, or loss of temper. More than 5 million men do no Christmas shopping at all. Three-fifths of women spend more than five days at it. The Times
- ☺ Festively packaged Christmas Mince Pies in Tesco were marked. Best Before November 17th Independent
- ☺ Leslie Freitag, of Harpenden, Herefordshire came up with a scheme for escaping Christmas day altogether: Fly from Heathrow to San Francisco on Christmas Eve. Plane refuels and goes on to New Zealand, Just as Christmas Day is bearing down on you the plane crosses the International Date Line and you are into Boxing Day.
- ☺ Nurses in Plymouth saved £900 in gifts from patients to pay for a Christmas party. Then the Inland Revenue demanded backdated tax on the gifts. They ended up £44 in the red. Express/Sun Telegraph
- ☺ I had a terrible row with my wife on Christmas morning. She said, "You've done absolutely nothing to help with Christmas dinner!" I said. "What do you mean? Look at the turkey I've plucked it and I've stuffed it, and all you've got to do now is kill it and put it in the oven!"
- ☺ Pablo Picasso surprised a burglar in his chateau one Christmas. The intruder got away but Picasso told the police he could do a rough portrait of the villain to give them something to go on. On the basis of his drawing, the police arrested a Mother Superior, the Spanish Finance Minister, a washing machine and the Eiffel Tower.
- ☺ "Mummy, mummy, can I have a dog for Christmas?" "No, you can have Turkey like the rest of us."



**Some irritating things people do at Christmas.**

1. Tell you can always take it back and change it if you don't like it.
2. Make a show of singing louder on third 'O come let us adore him.'
3. Mingle
4. Say 'Bah, humbug' in a jocular voice.
5. Keep saying that Christmas is for the kids.
6. Encourage you to join in a sing-song
7. Repeat cracker jokes



**Talking of which:**

What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is lit?

Crisp Kringle

Who hides in the bakery?

A mince spy

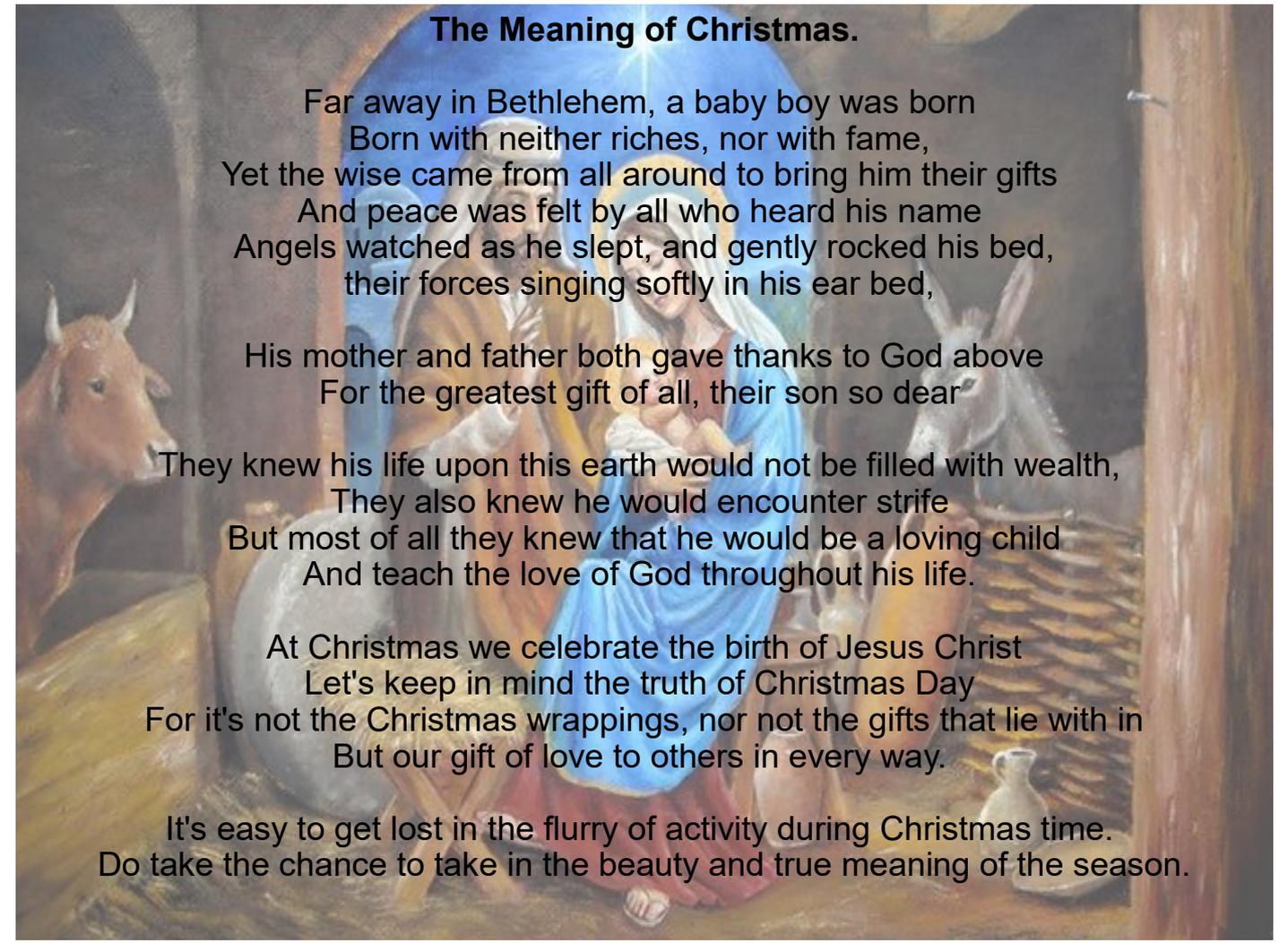
What athlete is warmer in winter?

A long jumper.

What do you get when you walk under a friendly cow?

A pat on the head.





## The Meaning of Christmas.

Far away in Bethlehem, a baby boy was born  
Born with neither riches, nor with fame,  
Yet the wise came from all around to bring him their gifts  
And peace was felt by all who heard his name  
Angels watched as he slept, and gently rocked his bed,  
their forces singing softly in his ear bed,

His mother and father both gave thanks to God above  
For the greatest gift of all, their son so dear

They knew his life upon this earth would not be filled with wealth,  
They also knew he would encounter strife  
But most of all they knew that he would be a loving child  
And teach the love of God throughout his life.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ  
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day  
For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor not the gifts that lie with in  
But our gift of love to others in every way.

It's easy to get lost in the flurry of activity during Christmas time.  
Do take the chance to take in the beauty and true meaning of the season.

An early Seasons Greetings from The Joker

Season's  
greetings





# GIVING

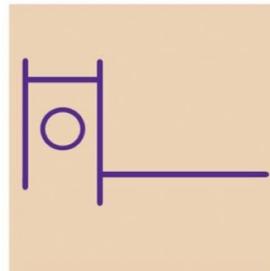
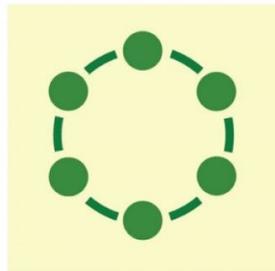
You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

Great News! You can now sign up to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online. There is a link for this on the Giving page of our website:

<https://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/giving/>

If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the church. It is perfectly safe and can be stopped or changed at any time.

PGS is a great way to give to the work and mission of St Margaret's Church. Donations given through PGS come straight to the Church, there are no admin fees or bank charges for us to pay. 41 people have now signed up to do this - Thank you



TM

PARISH  
GIVING  
SCHEME



# Recycling @ St Margaret's Centre

**RECYCLE YOUR  
CRISP PACKETS HERE!**



**RECYCLE FOR**



**WILTSHIRE  
AIR AMBULANCE**



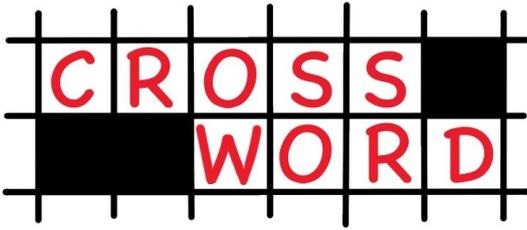
**In support of**

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

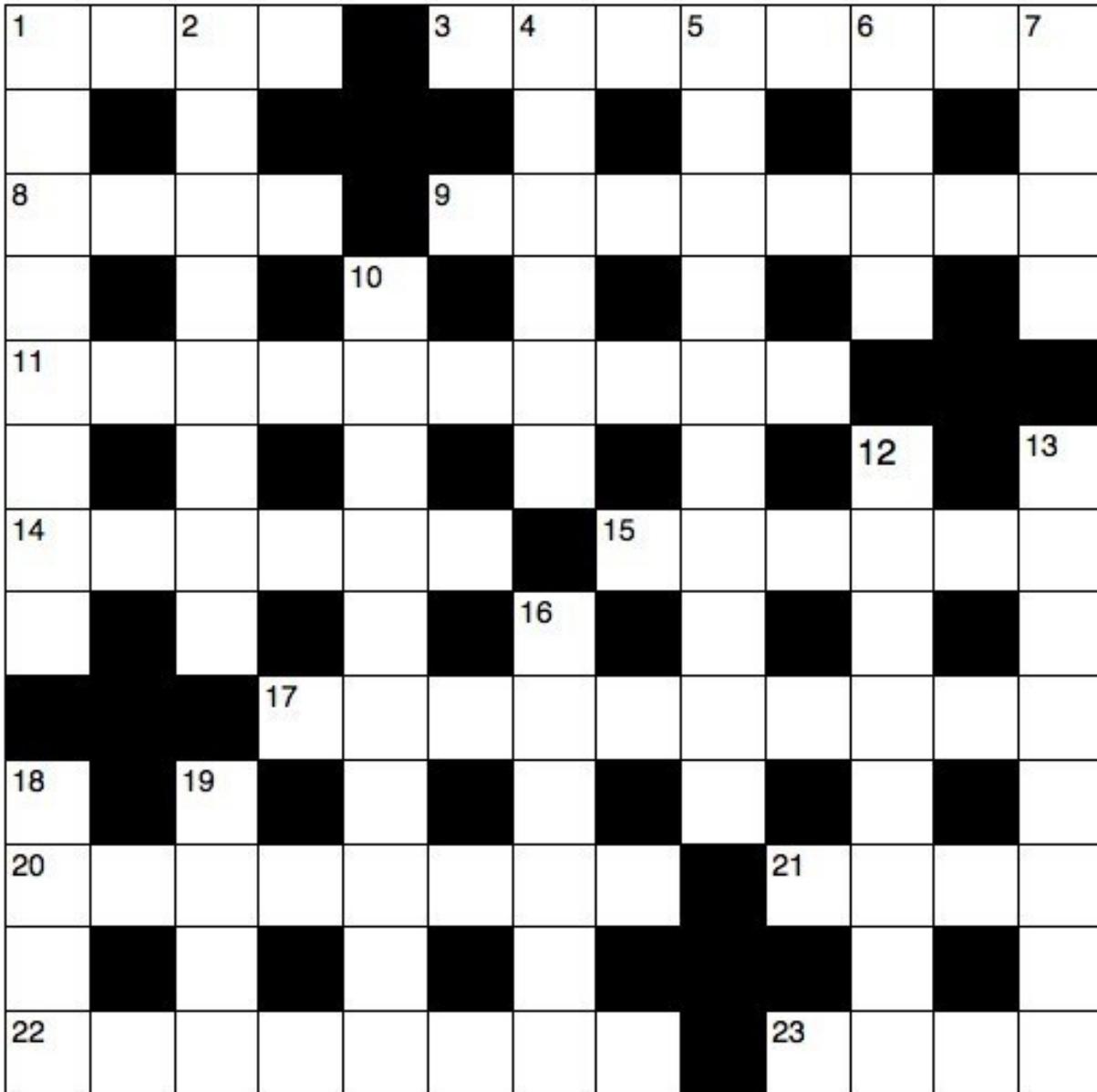
**ACCEPTED WASTE**



Any brand of EMPTY medicine blister packets



December  
2024



### Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)

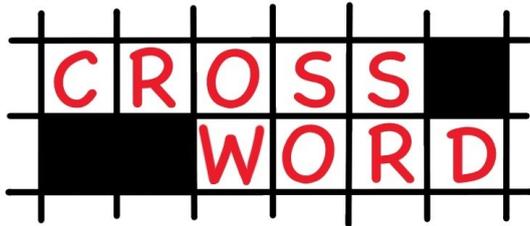
## Across

- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)  
17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)  
20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)  
21 Rite (anag.) (4)  
22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)  
23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

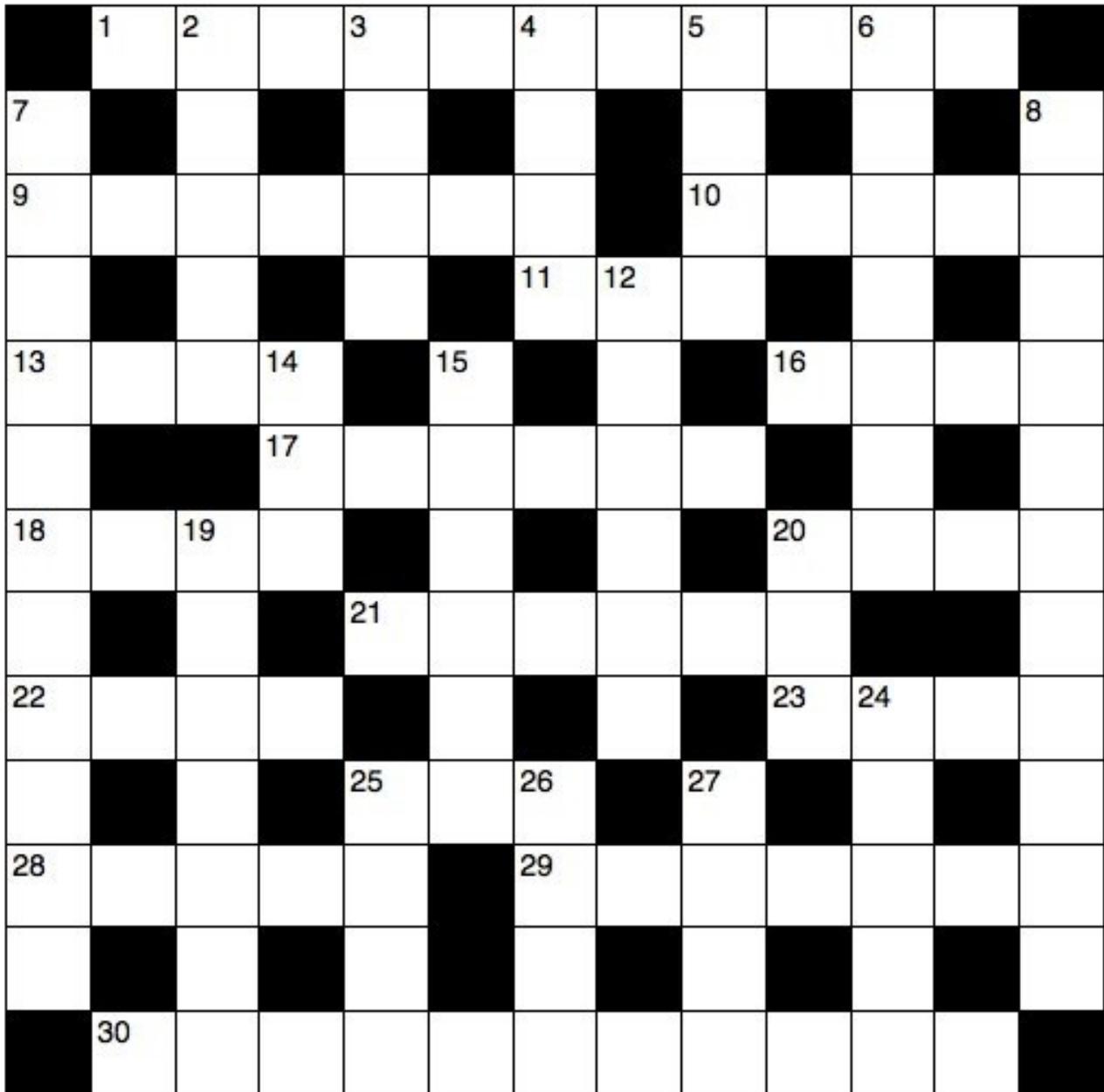
## Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)  
2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)  
4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)  
5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)  
6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)  
7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)  
10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)  
12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)  
13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)  
16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and —'  
(Acts 7:22) (6)  
18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)  
19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)





January  
2025



**Across**

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee'(Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)

## Across

- 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)  
18 Opposite of evens (4)  
20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)  
21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)  
22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)  
23 Beat (anag.) (4)  
25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)  
28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)  
29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)  
30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

## Down

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)  
3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)  
4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)  
5 Tidy (4)  
6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)  
7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)  
8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)  
12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)  
14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)  
15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)  
19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one'(Matthew 6:13) (7)  
20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)  
24 Rarely used musical note (5)  
25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)  
26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)  
27 See 26 Down

Hello everyone,

Swindon Food Collective is your local independent food bank that collects and redistributes donated non-perishable food and non-food items to those in need. We help individuals and families that are finding it hard to feed themselves for a variety of reasons such as low wages, low income, family crisis, delayed benefit payments, redundancy, bereavement or sickness.



We currently operate 11 Food Distribution Centres in and around Swindon.

Should you wish to support our collection then please read below for further information.

### **WHAT WE DON'T NEED:**

**We do not need pasta, cereals and shower gel.**

### **WHAT WE DO NEED:**

**Regular sized Tins, Jars, Bottles, Cartons or Packets of the following:**

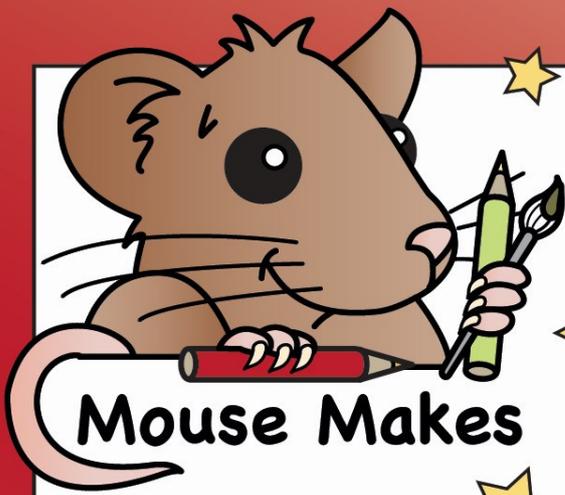
***"Potatoes; Meat; Fish; Tomatoes; Soup; Vegetables; Fruit; Puddings; Pasta Sauce; Cereals; Small Jars of Coffee; Tea (40 bags); Small Bags of Sugar (500g); Biscuits; 1L Bottles of Squash; Washing Up Liquid; Toothpaste; Laundry Pods; 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner; Male and Female Deodorants"***

We hope you will be able to support us once again

On behalf of everyone who will benefit from your support this Christmas

THANK YOU.

*And Merry Christmas to you*



# Mouse Makes

★ "Jesus said,  
I am the \_\_\_ Y  
and the \_\_\_ U \_\_\_  
and the \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ .  
No one comes to the Father  
except through me."  
*John 14:6*

"The child to be born  
will be called  
H \_\_\_ , the  
\_\_\_ of \_\_\_"  
*Luke 1:35*

"For unto you is born  
this day a  
S \_\_\_  
who is  
\_\_\_ R \_\_\_  
the \_\_\_ R \_\_\_"  
*Luke 2:11*

## THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,  
and shall call his name

\_\_\_  
for he will save his  
people from their sins."  
*Matthew 1:21*

"Jesus said,  
I am the

\_\_\_  
and the life."  
*John 11:25*

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

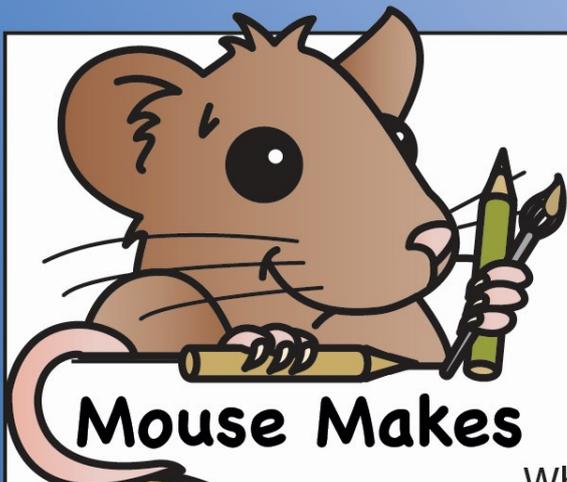
O H O L Y O R C R T U  
S O N O F M A N H A R T  
N L S H E P H E R D U  
O Y A E P E R G I F T G  
C H R I S T M A S T H S  
R E S U R R E C T I O N

**JESUS**  
—  
**THE**  
**GREATEST**  
**GIFT**  
**OF ALL!**

P R O P H E T I  
R E D E E M E R  
I E M I L I G  
E M E S S I A H  
S R M E G F T  
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G  
K I N G O F K I N G S  
I N K I G W F D O U  
S E S O N O F G O D D  
S E W O C O U W O R D  
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH  
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER  
REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD  
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT



# Mouse Makes

After Jesus was born in Belthlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.



J E W S  
M A R Y  
W S O N  
O T N A

C H I L D K H M Y R R H  
F R A N K I N C E N C E  
J O Y A N G E L R H  
G A E G Y P T P

How many other words can you make from:  
**EPIPHANY**

**EPIPHANY** is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

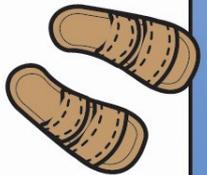
Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe.  
*Where did Jesus finally grow up?*

  
**READ**  
the story of the wise men in *Matthew 2:1-23*



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

E G O D  
B O R N  
F L E E  
L D G E



- WISE • MEN • EAST • STAR
- REST • BETHLEHEM
- VISIT • JESUS • GIFTS
- GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH
- WORSHIP • SON • CHILD
- BORN • KING • JEWS • CHRIST
- SHEPHERD • JOY • GOD
- HEROD • KILL • BOYS • TWO • CRY
- ANGEL • DREAM • JOSEPH • MARY
- FLEE • EGYPT • LAND • NAZARETH

## Crossword Solutions

### December

**ACROSS:** 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

**DOWN:** 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

### January

**ACROSS:** 1, Godlessness. 9, Egotism. 10, After. 11, Eat. 13, Sort. 16, Plan. 17, Escape. 18, Odds. 20, Idem. 21, No fear. 22, Idle. 23, Abet. 25, Ail. 28, Eaves. 29, Achieve. 30, Grasshopper.

**DOWN:** 2, Odour. 3, Lair. 4, Same. 5, Neat. 6, Settled. 7, Gershonites. 8, Grandmother. 12, Apples. 14, TES. 15, Octopi. 19, Deliver. 20, Ira. 24, Breve. 25, As is. 26, Lash. 27, Whip.

### **STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE**

**for Articles and Information anytime before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Georgina Martin: Church Office,  
Tel: 826505 St Margaret's Centre  
Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

Also, by hand or call Georgina Martin on 07768 243675

**Errors and omissions** — while we do try to ensure that all details are correct, some things may slip through and we apologise for that.

## PARISH DIRECTORY & CENTRE USERS

### ORGANISATIONS

Babies & Toddlers	Georgina Martin	07768 243675
Bell Ringers	Wendy Sears	07769 788821
Boys' Brigade	Teresa Daghish	07796 925621
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398
Bumps and Babes	Bekki	bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com
Cadley Dance	Maria Howse	824446
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Coleview	Church Office	826505
Church Flowers	Richard Pflieger	828367
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Gift Aid Sec.	David Horne	07717447855
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Organists	Rob South	822811
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recognition of our high standards of service.