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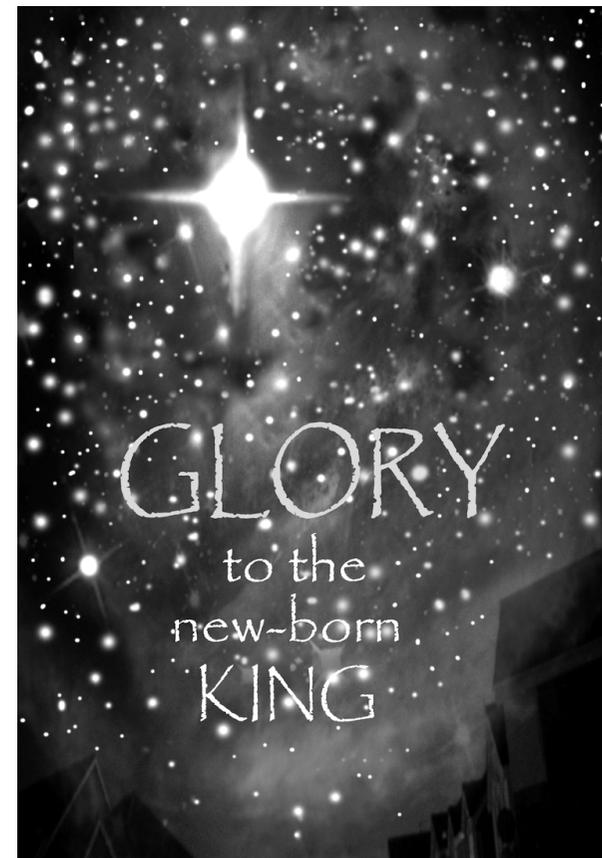
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester



35p



December 2012

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Vicar		338 2368
Curates	Revd Philip Brierley	303 0809
	Revd Keith Stewart	303 7483

Associate Priest	Revd Doreen Broadbent	330 9085
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Wardens	Ms Janet Vidler	303 7689
	Mrs Gillian Cotton	303 2787

Asst Warden	Mrs Rose Hayward	303 1731
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs Margaret Smith	338 3702

Treasurer	Mrs Juliana Stewart	303 7483
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Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Hurst	330 0518
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Room Hire	Mr Norman Quest	338 4691
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Worship

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)
10.45 a.m.	Sung Communion and Sunday School (4 th Sunday – Family Service)
18.00 p.m.	Occasional Special Services as announced

Tuesday

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
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To receive Communion at home when you are sick or housebound, or to have the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance, please contact one of the clergy or Wardens.

For Baptisms, marriages and funerals please phone the Vicarage and follow the information given.

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From the Registers

Baptisms



4 November

Ella-Mae Reilly, Cambridge Street, Stalybridge
 Kaison Lee Scott Reilly, Cambridge Street, Stalybridge
 Evie Ann Judith Brierley, Groby Street, Stalybridge

18 November

Martha Elizabeth Walker, Arlies Lane, Stalybridge

Funerals



31 October

Joan Pilling (85) Beverley Avenue, Denton

8 November

James O'Brien (89) Mancunian Road, Denton

16 November

Anne Elizabeth Cookson (71) Carson House Care Centre, Stalybridge

20 November

David John Ward (68) Narda Rest Home, Manchester

25 November

Barbara Bailey (80) Brosscroft Village, Hadfield

Interment of ashes

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Dec	Dean Stanley	1976	18 Dec	Martha Ireson	1937
2 Dec	Harriet Shenton	1976		Mary Lloyd	1999
	Harold Harrison Rowbottom	1988		Thelma Adnett	2005
	Harry Brayshaw	2001		Edith Brayshaw	2010
4 Dec	Ellen Wooley Lomas	1970	19 Dec	Jonas Ward	2000
7 Dec	Edgar Jones	1990	22 Dec	Jesse Wyld	1991
7 Dec	Moreen Branwood	1943		Gladys Jakeman	1999
9 Dec	Jack Fitchett	1951		Winifred Barnshaw	2005
10 Dec	Jane Anne Greenhalgh	1989	23 Dec	Emma Gudger	1962
	Malcolm James Donald	2008		James Stott	1983
12 Dec	George Woolley Buckley	1990		Sarah Hannah Hague	1981
	Joseph Kinder	1929	24 Dec	Mona Jefferson	1988
13 Dec	Frank Turner	1976	25 Dec	Frank Buckley	1974
14 Dec	Gertrude Barbara Fitchett	1938		James Reedy	1982
	Ernest Ives	1975		Derek Hibbert	1992
	Nora Grace Council	2008		David William Heap	1979
	Philip Edward Davenport	2010		Ivy Holt	2009
15 Dec	William Dyson Duckworth	2010	28 Dec	Emily Rosina Pendleton	1987
16 Dec	Eva Whittingham	1984		Alfred Wilde	1988
	John Hague	1968		Thomas Holt	2009
	Minnie Press	1984		George Henry Burtoft	2010
	Edith Longden	2008		Alan Oldham Miller	2011
17 Dec	Anthony John David Gough	1993	29 Dec	Joan Pickles	2006
	Bertha Barnfield	1998	31 Dec	Alice Shenton	1989
	Norman Quest	2001		Joseph Lees	2000
				John White	2008

WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

At Christmas play and make good cheer
 for Christmas comes but once a year
The Farmer's Daily Diet (Thomas Tusser)



Thomas Tusser was a Medieval English farmer and poet who lived in Tudor England from about 1524 to 1580. In 1557 he published a rather long poem entitled *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*, which is a mixture of instructions about farming and his observations of them and other country customs which were taking place around that time. It contains the lines:

*A foole and his monie be soone at debate,
 which after with sorrow repents him too late.*

You might know it better as *A fool and his money are soon parted.*

Tusser was a chorister at Wallingford Castle in Oxfordshire, but he was head hunted and persuaded to become a chorister at King's College Chapel, Cambridge where, in 1543, he was elected a Fellow.

This brings me in a rather roundabout way to the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held in the Chapel each Christmas Eve since 1918. The service was first broadcast on the radio in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, the tradition has continued to the present day. For me, personally, the real celebration of Christmas begins when I hear the solo voice of a chorister at this service sing the first verse of the famous Christmas hymn *Once in Royal David's City*.

Here at St George's the festival may only have been celebrated in more recent times and our range of carols could never match the repertoire of King's College, but as in most other churches where such a service is held, the same nine lessons are always read. Our Festival this year will be on Sunday 23rd December at 6p.m. and I hope that some of you will be able to come along and join with us in this great tradition

Our modern secular world would seem to want to have Christmas beginning at the end of October, or even earlier, if the Christmas lights and carols and songs in shopping malls and superstores are anything to go by. But if we fall into this trap, we miss out on Advent, a time set apart by the church to help people to prepare, properly, for Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting and expectation.

But these days, people don't want to wait. They want instant gratification. They want things at the click of a finger, or a mouse! Admittedly, it is very difficult to find yourself in a period of waiting. And it happens all the time. Having just had a new boiler and bathroom fitted at home, the waiting for the plumber drove us to distraction! I'm sure you can think of many everyday

instances in your own life when you've had to wait and the amount of frustration it caused.

Advent is given to enhance our appreciation of Christmas when we welcome the Christ child into our world and into our hearts. Throughout the Gospels we find many people who have to wait: Mary, who has to wait for the birth of her first born; Joseph has to wait, as does Zechariah and Elizabeth; Simeon and Anna – all are waiting for the birth of a baby. And they're not alone, because the shepherds are waiting, the sages from the east are waiting. Even the threatened governor, Herod, is waiting, rather anxiously for news from the returning wise men. The only people who aren't waiting, it seems, are the keepers of the inns in Bethlehem because they're full up.

Waiting requires an emptiness which can be a great problem. It entails putting oneself under the power of someone else's power and letting oneself go – basically it is about being governed by others.

I searched on the internet for the word *waiting*, and the results, all 986,000,000+ of them appeared in 0.54 second. But normal life isn't like that. Life is full of waiting.

As many of you may already know, at the beginning of October I developed a detached retina and was sent by my optician to Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. On arrival I had to wait in the clinic for four hours or so until I was examined and told to come back the following morning for eye surgery. The next day, again, the wait was something like nine hours until finally I was operated on under local anaesthetic. I thank God for the skill of the surgeons who saved my sight with just the loss (maybe only temporarily) of some peripheral vision. May I, at this point, also thank everyone for their prayers, good wishes, get-well cards, flowers and the offers of practical help that I received. I am extremely grateful to you all for your kindness and friendship.

Waiting in a hospital can be a time of differing emotions – fearfulness or hope, joy or sorrow but as we wait God waits with us.

Advent, too, is about waiting and as we wait, God waits with us. So before Christmas comes too soon upon us, allow yourself to wait. It is much better than worrying, or clamouring or demanding or resigning. Allow the time of Advent to wait on God, who is waiting on you, and when Christmas finally arrives, the wait will have been greatly worth it.

I wish you all an Advent of expectant waiting and a Christmas full of joy and gladness.

Philip

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Readings and Psalms for December 2012

Sun 1 st	1st Sunday of Advent
10.45	Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end; Luke 21.25-36
18.00	The Advent Carol Service
Tues 4 th	10.30 Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-4,18-19; Luke 10.21-24
Sun 9 th	2nd Sunday of Advent
8.30	Baruch 5; Luke 3.1-6
10.45	Baruch 5; <i>Canticle: Benedictus; Philippians 1. 3-11; Luke 3.1-6</i>
18.00	Police Carol Service
Tues 11 th	10.30 Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 96.1,10-end; Matthew 18.12-14
Sun 16 th	3rd Sunday of Advent
10.45	Zephaniah 3.14-end; <i>Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-end; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18</i>
15.00	The Christingle and Toy Service
Tues 18 th	10.30 Jeremiah 23.5-8; Psalm 72.1-5,18-19; Matthew 1.18-24
Sun 23 rd	4th Sunday of Advent
8.30	Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 1.39-45
10.45	Micah 5.2-5a; <i>Canticle: Magnificat; Hebrews 10.5-</i>
18.00	A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Mon 24 th	Christmas Eve
18.00	A Service of the Blessing of the Crib
Tues 25 th	Christmas Day
23.45	Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14
10.45	Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1-4; John 1.1-14
Sun 30 th	1st Sunday of Christmas
10.45	1 Samuel 2. 18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-end

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Wordsearch for December

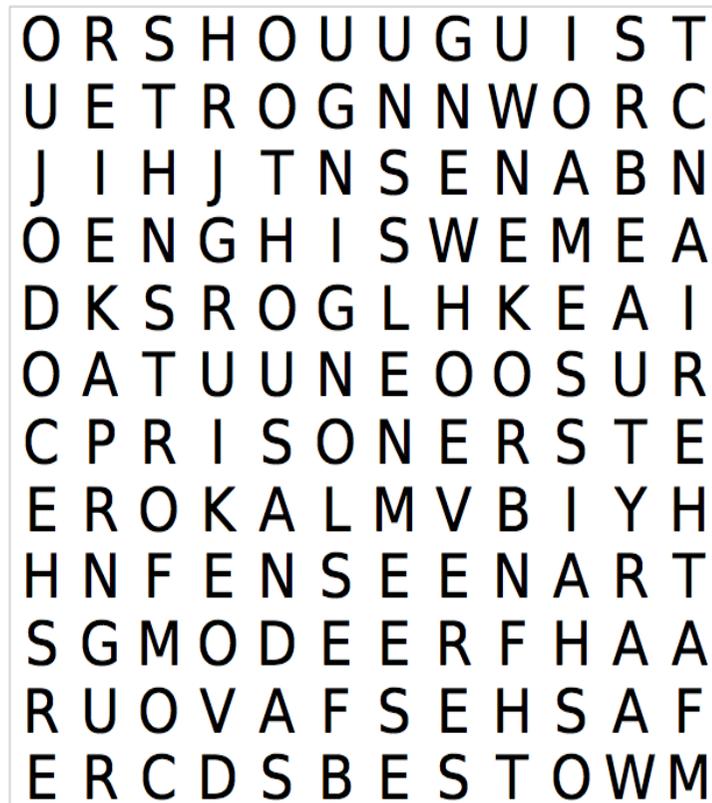
Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when he came, he would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in him will have the best gift of all – his Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah
Broken
Heart
Freedom
Darkness

Favour
Prisoners
Comfort
Mourn
Bestow

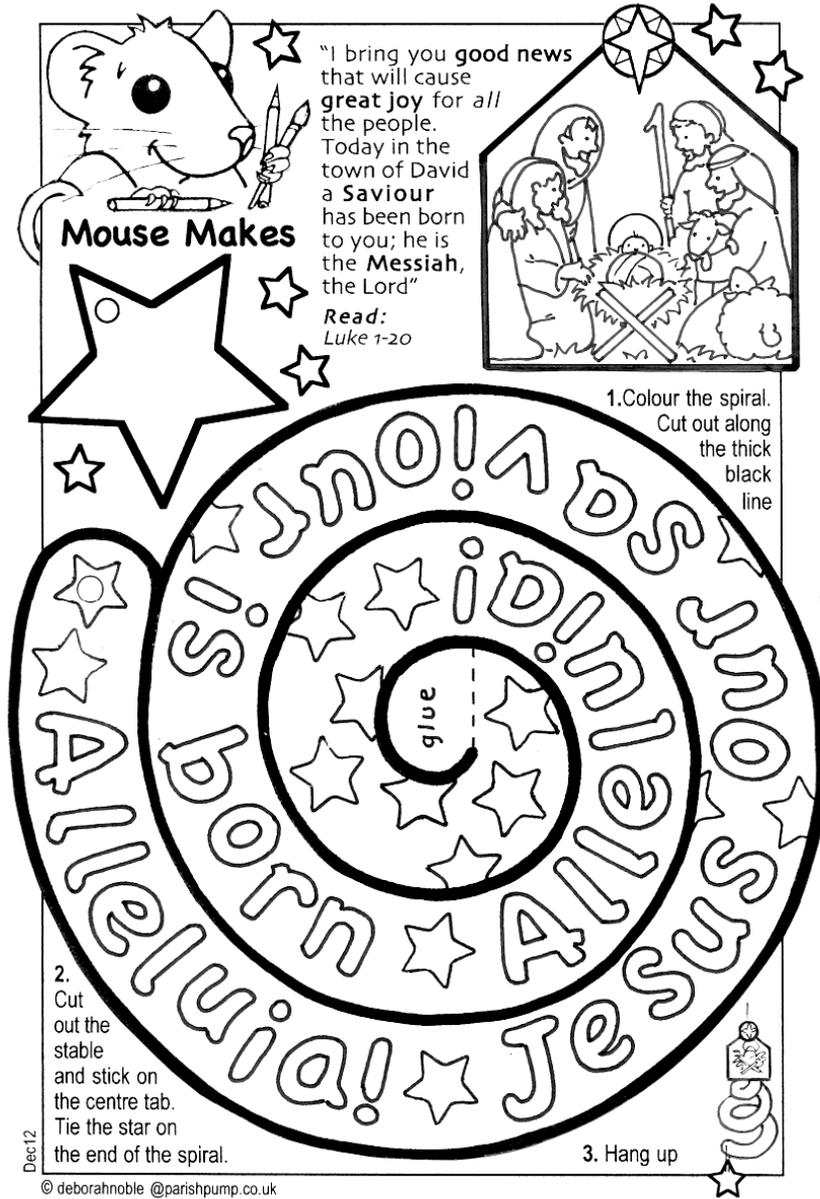
Crown
Beauty
Ashes
Son
God
Jesus

Seen
Father
Whoever
longing
thousand



November Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit. DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.



Dec12

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Some dates for your diary - December 2012

Sunday	2nd	First Sunday of Advent 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism & Junior Church 12.30p.m. Baptism x 2 6.00p.m. The Advent Carol Service
Tuesday	4th	10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
Thursday	6th	9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Saturday	8th	7.30p.m. A Christmas Concert - with the Tameside Community Voices Choir
Sunday	9th	Second Sunday of Advent 8.30a.m. Holy Eucharist 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church 6.00p.m. Police Carol Service
Tuesday	11th	10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist 7.45p.m. Knit & Natter (Craft Group)
Thursday	13th	9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Saturday	15th	10.00a.m. Christingle Making
Sunday	16th	Third Sunday of Advent 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist 3.00p.m. Christingle & Toy Service
Tuesday	18th	10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
Thursday	20th	9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sunday	23rd	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8.30a.m. Holy Eucharist 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church 6.00p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Monday	24th	CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00p.m. A Service of the Blessing of the Crib with Carols 11.45p.m. Christmas Midnight Eucharist
Tuesday	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist
Saturday	29th	1.30p.m. Wedding
Sunday	30th	10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist
JANUARY 2013		
Tuesday	1st	No Holy Eucharist

For more information please go to our website www.stg.org.uk

A LATE NEWS STORY ON THE REJECTION OF WOMEN BISHOPS

As everyone knows, The General Synod of the Church of England voted in late November to reject the draft legislation to allow women to become bishops.

What exactly did all this mean?

Well, under the requirements of the Synod, the legislation required a two-thirds majority in each of the three voting houses for final draft approval. Whilst more than two thirds voted for the legislation in both the House of Bishops (44-03) and the House of Clergy (148-45), the vote in favour of the legislation in the House of Laity was less than two-thirds (132-74). The vote in the House of Laity fell short of approval by 4 votes.

In total, 324 members of the General Synod voted to approve the legislation and 122 voted to reject it. The consequence of the "no" vote of terminating any further consideration of the draft legislation means that it will not be possible to introduce draft legislation in the same terms until a new General Synod comes into being in 2015, UNLESS the 'Group of Six' (the Archbishops, the Prolocutors and the Chair and Vice Chair of the House of Laity) give permission and report to the Synod why they have done so.

Speaking after the vote, the Rt Revd Graham James, Bishop of Norwich, said: "A clear majority of the General Synod voted in favour of the legislation to consecrate women as Bishops. But the bar of approval is set very high in this Synod. Two-thirds of each house has to approve the legislation for it to pass. This ensures the majority is overwhelming. The majority in the house of laity was not quite enough.

This leaves us with a problem. 42 out of 44 dioceses approved the legislation and more than three quarters of members of diocesan synods voted in favour. There will be many who wonder why the General Synod expressed its mind so differently.

The House of Bishops recognises that the Church of England has expressed its mind that women should be consecrated as bishops. There is now an urgent task to find a fresh way forward to which so many of those who were opposed have pledged themselves."

As we go to press, the House of Bishops of the Church of England were considering the consequences."



How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time, and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

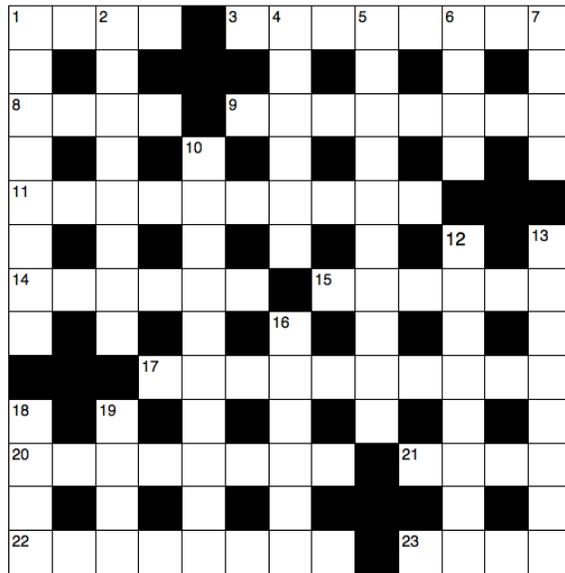
It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought!

December Crossword



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)
 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)



Christmas Fair Update



The amount raised at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 24th November is expected to be in excess of £1,500. This was a very enjoyable event and thanks go to all who helped to make it so successful and especially to Father Christmas for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us again.

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60 years of the Queen's Christmas Speech



It is a national institution – millions of Christmas dinners are timed to fit around it. All of us know that every Christmas day, for as far back as we can remember, the Queen has appeared on our TV screens at 3pm. Well, this Christmas is the 60th anniversary of her speech. (1952)

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Spruce up your Christmas...

Are you off shopping for a Christmas tree soon? If you want one of the best, go for a Norway spruce. If possible, try and buy the tree in a pot, from where it can be moved into your garden (as long as it is fairly large!)

Whatever tree you eventually squeeze into your car and bring home, here are some tips for good care: First, when you get your tree home, plunge the stump into tepid water for a couple of hours - in natural surroundings, a six foot tree can take up to two pints of water a day. Then, position your tree away from heat sources, such as fires or radiators. Cooler temperatures and regular watering will help reduce the rate at which you lose the needles.

Finally, if you dispose of your tree after the holidays, ask the council about recycling services early New Year.

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BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



To have the name of a loved one entered into this special book, and remembered in our intercessions for their anniversary please have a word with one of the wardens or one of the clergy.

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

Diamond

Jubilee

This month we offer you the 11th in a series on Queen Elizabeth II, looking back down the 60 years of her reign written by David Winter, former head of Religion for the BBC. This month we consider...

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - pt 11
LONG TO REIGN OVER US

So we move towards the end of this Jubilee Year - and what a year it has been! It's almost as though several spoonfuls of sugar have been given us to help the nasty medicine of economic recession go down. We have had the sugar of the Jubilee itself, with its processions and street parties and concerts, always with the same short, elderly but serene figure at the centre of the celebrations. There was no time to take the flags down before the Olympic Games arrived, with their astonishing opening ceremony. More than anything else, I enjoyed the comment of a major American newspaper that it was impossible to think of another Head of State in the world who would have agreed to take part in a comedy spoof to launch the Games - and this one is an octogenarian!

The Games themselves were marvellous, of course - not just the results (though they were gratifying) but the whole atmosphere surrounding them. As Boris Johnson remarked, people even spoke to strangers on the Tube. Visitors wondered whatever had happened to the reserved British. We honoured our heroes, who won gold, silver and bronze, but we also cheered those who competed but didn't win, in the very best traditions of Olympic sport.

And then came the Paralympics, and another set of heroes, perhaps led by the smiling face of the tiny swimmer Ellie Simmonds, ploughing down the final lap like a human torpedo to take yet another gold medal.

Even then it wasn't over. Andy Murray won his first Grand Slam tennis title and Europe won the Ryder Cup in an amazing turnaround. You didn't have to be a sports fan to feel that this was a year of multiple spoonfuls of that sugar!

Over it all was the reassuring presence of the Queen herself in her Jubilee year. Twice the Duke of Edinburgh had to be whisked into hospital for short periods - thankfully, to re-emerge his usual determined self. But the Queen just kept on. Over and over again she (and we) heard the words 'long to reign over us' - and it will only take four more years for her to be the longest serving British monarch in history.

Finally, we had the reassuring emergence of our future royals, William and Catherine. More and more they appeared in public, sometimes beside the Queen, more often on their own, at one and the same time splendidly contemporary and yet properly 'royal'. If we can just sort out the euro, the banks and our external unbalance of payments, the future looks rosy!

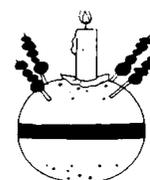
Christmas Services



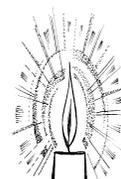
Sunday 2nd Dec at 6 p.m.
Advent Carol Service by candlelight



Sunday 9th Dec at 6.00 p.m.
Police Carol Service



Sunday 16th Dec at 3.00 p.m.
Christingle & Toy Service
Bring a toy to put under the tree for
the Children's Society



Sunday 23rd Dec at 6.00 p.m.
**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight**



CHRISTMAS EVE
Monday 24th Dec at 6.00 p.m.
**A Service of The Blessing of the Crib
with Carols**
Monday 24th Dec at 11.45 p.m.
Midnight Eucharist



CHRISTMAS DAY
Tuesday 25th Dec at 10.45 a.m.
Christmas Day Eucharist

Come and worship Christ the New-born King