

# PARISH LINK



The Magazine of  
St James Chapelthorpe



# JANUARY

# 2024

50p

## THE PARISH OF CHAPELTHORPE



|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
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| Parish Safeguarding<br>Officer and Children's<br>Coordinator | Miss SANDRA COGGIN                                      | 07939 381395                                       |
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Parish website [www.stjameschapelthorpe.org.uk](http://www.stjameschapelthorpe.org.uk)



### Holy Days

1st January

### The naming of Jesus

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> January - eight days after 25<sup>th</sup> December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.



For early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

## Holy Days

6th January

### What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



## Holy Days

6th January

### Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.



## The Rectory, St James the Least of All

### On how to run your Diary for 2024

My dear Nephew Darren



So, you have just attended a course on 'Diary Management', to get you prepared for another year. If you had visited me, I could have told you all you need to know in half the time. Allow me to provide you with useful information which was probably not provided in your conference hand-outs.

First, buy the smallest diary you can find. Large blank pages only encourage you to fill them with too many appointments; the smaller the page, the easier it can be made to appear that your days are fully booked.

Second, make sure that it is of a size that will conveniently fit into any pocket. When dates are being arranged for subsequent meetings, you can theatrically start going through jacket, trouser and overcoat pockets. By the time you discover it was in your briefcase all along, all the dates will have been fixed and no one will notice you never got any of them.

Third, adopt your own private code for bookings. This means that any parishioner looking over your shoulder and seeing '1.30pm PLS' or '7.30pm WTD' will assume you are attending important church meetings. The fact that they mean 'Post Lunch Sleep' and 'Walk The Dog' will be known to you alone – although do have alternative possibilities for your acronyms should you ever be challenged. My congregation know I am assiduous in attending the 'Pauline Letters Seminars' and my membership of the 'World Theology Directorate' is of many years standing.

Fourth, record everything in pencil so that once you return home, you can rub most of it out and can then deny you knew anything about those meetings you were supposed to attend – and to prove it, you can show the blank page in your diary.

Fifth, put someone else's address inside your diary. Should you ever have to resort to the ultimate act and need to lose it, you do not want some Good Samaritan returning it to you from the churchyard compost heap.

So, you see, your day of flip charts and group discussions were quite wasted – and I would gladly have presented my course for half their price.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

## Poetry Corner

### New Year

A carillon, then twelve long chimes  
We join in noisy 'Auld Lang Synes'  
To celebrate the changing times -  
And times of hope, not fear!  
Even while the chimes still ring  
And while we gaily laugh and sing  
We pray the coming years will bring  
Good reasons for good cheer!

All the sadness of last year -  
Every sorrow, every tear  
Let them fade and disappear;  
Yes - let them fade away!  
Hearken to the chiming bells!  
See the fireworks ' sparkling spells!  
The sights and sounds and tastes and smells  
Of ev'ry New Year's Day!



*By Nigel Beeton*

## All in the month of January

It was:

**700 years ago**, on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1324 that Marco Polo died. This Venetian/Italian merchant, explorer and writer is best known for his book *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which detailed his travels along the Silk Road in Asia.

**200 years ago**, on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1824 that Wilkie Collins, British novelist and playwright was born. Best known for *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*, which is regarded as the first modern British detective novel.

**175 years ago**, on 13 Jan 1849 that the Colony of Vancouver Island was established. It became part of Canada in 1871.

**150 years ago**, on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1874 that Somerset Maugham, British playwright, novelist and short story writer, was born. One of the most popular writers of his era.

**125 years ago**, on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1899 that Clarice Cliff, British ceramic artist, was born.

**100 years ago**, on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1924 that Columbia Pictures, the American film studio and production company, was established.

**Also 100 years ago**, on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1924 that Vladimir Lenin, Russian Communist leader, died. He was the architect and first head of the Soviet Union.

**Also 100 years ago**, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1924 that Ramsay MacDonald became Britain's first Labour Prime Minister.

**Also 100 years ago**, on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1924 that the Russian city of St Petersburg was renamed Leningrad. Its name was changed back in 1991.

**80 years ago**, on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan to 18<sup>th</sup> May 1944 that the WW2 Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy, took place. This Allied victory is regarded as the hardest-fought and bloodiest battle of the war, with around 250,000 casualties.

**Also 80 years ago**, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1944 that Edvard Munch, Norwegian artist, died. Best known for *The Scream*.

**75 years ago**, on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1949 that RCA launched the 7-inch 45-rpm vinyl record, commonly known as the single.

**Also 75 years ago**, on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1949 that the 200-inch (five metre) Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory in California was used for the first time. It was the world's largest optical telescope until 1976, and it is still in active use.

**65 years ago**, on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1959 that the Motown record label was founded in Detroit, Michigan by Berry Gordy.

**60 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1964 that the US Surgeon General published a report which concluded that cigarette smoking caused lung cancer and chronic bronchitis. This was the first official US government report on the health issues of smoking.

**Also 60 years ago**, on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1964 that Bob Dylan's album *The Times They Are A-Changin'* was released.

**50 years ago**, from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1974, a three-day working week was introduced in the UK, in order to conserve coal supplies (used by power stations) during a miners' strike.

**40 years ago**, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1984 that the first Apple Macintosh computer went on sale.

**25 years ago**, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1999 that the euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries.

**15 years ago**, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2009 that the cryptocurrency Bitcoin was launched.

**Also 15 years ago**, on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 that Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the USA.



**10 years ago**, on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 that Peter Seeger, American folk/protest singer died. Best known for *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* and *If I Had a Hammer*.

## Columbia Pictures celebrates its centenary



Unless you grew up on Mars, Columbia Pictures has played some part in your life. Who doesn't recognise that opening 'logo' to a film you want to watch – the female personification of the United States?

This huge American film studio and production company celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Columbia was founded in 1918 by two brothers, Jack and Harry Cohn, and their business partner Joe Brandt. At first a minor player in Hollywood, by the late 1920s Columbia had begun to grow. It helped to have the director Frank Capra on board, and to be producing the Three Stooges, which made Columbia one of the primary homes for 'screwball comedy'. Columbia also distributed Disney's Silly Symphony film series, as well as the Mickey Mouse cartoon series.

Big names soon came along, including Cary Grant in the 1930s, and Rita Hayworth in the 1940s and 50s. Others followed, including William Holden and Glenn Ford.

No wonder that Columbia was one of the so-called 'Little Three' among the eight major film studios of Hollywood's Golden Age. Today, it is the world's third largest major film studio, and a subsidiary of the multinational conglomerate Sony.

## Remembering The Scream



It was 80 years ago this month, on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1944, that Edvard Munch, the Norwegian artist, died. He is best known for his disturbing painting '*The Scream*.'

Munch's body of work has been called "profoundly original" and "one of the most significant contributions to the development of Modernism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

Munch was born in Oslo in 1863, and spent his childhood haunted by bereavement and illness. Often ill throughout the long Norwegian winters, he was kept out of school, and began drawing to keep himself occupied. Mental illness ran in the family, and Edvard grew up dreading it. Certainly, he did have severe mental difficulties throughout his life, and seems to have suffered from 'borderline personality disorder', with its chronic feelings of abandonment and emptiness, impulsive behaviour, and alcoholism. As he later wrote: "I inherited two of mankind's most frightful enemies—the heritage of consumption and insanity."

Munch studied at Oslo's Royal School of Art and Design, worked with the Expressionism, or Symbolism movement, and was influenced by Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. He painted themes such as love, anxiety, jealous, and betrayal, and was deeply influenced by the nihilist Hans Jaeger, who encouraged him to paint his own emotional and psychological state.

Then one evening, at sunset, while Munch was out walking in Oslo, he "heard the enormous, infinite scream of Nature." From this came *The Scream* in 1893. The person's agonised face has become one of Western Art's most iconic images, reflecting the anxiety, despair, and uncertainty of the modern world.

By 1910 Munch had made two painted versions and two pastels of *The Scream*. One of the pastels became the most expensive artwork sold at auction, fetching £74 million at Sotheby's, New York in 2012.

**ST JAMES CHURCH**  
*Social Committee*



|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Saturday January 27th  | Table top sale 1pm - 3pm  |
| Saturday February 24th | Coffee morning with flower arranging demonstration<br>10.30 - 12 noon |
| Saturday March 16th    | Elysian Singers 7pm   |
| Sunday March 24th      | Home-made cake stall after service                                    |

*All St James' Church social activities are detailed on the notice boards, both inside and outside of church.*

**LIGHT LUNCH**

*The Light Lunches will resume on  
THURSDAY MARCH 21st 2024*



**TABLE TOP SALE**

**Saturday January 27th**  
**1-3pm**  
**St James' Church**

Come and sell your unwanted items from a table top instead of a car boot.

To book a table (please book early as these are limited)  
**Contact: Katie Jones 07594250813**

Trestle tables: £10  
Small tables: £5

The church will be open from 10.30am for all stall holders.

**Sorry, electrical goods cannot be sold in church**

# ST JAMES CHURCH

## Social Committee



### Prize Bingo Evening

Thank you to Jonathon and Susan Shaw for organising and hosting this social event on November 23rd.

A grand total of £378 was raised for church funds.

Thank you to everyone who came along and participated in what turned out to be a fulfilled evening.



### Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Christmas Fair a success.

The weather was atrocious but people came along and filled the church - a special 'thank you' to you for braving the elements!

The total figure for this fund raising event is:

**£1078.30**



## IN THE NEWS!



### Why you might want to eat 8 strawberries a day

Strawberries are better for you than you probably know. They provide 100 per cent of the recommended daily vitamin C amount in a single cup serving, and they also contain heart-healthy nutrients such as folate, potassium, fibre, phytosterols and polyphenols.

A recent study has found that eating about eight of them a day for three months can improve your mood, help your memory, and lower any symptoms of depression. The study was carried out at the University of Cincinnati's Academic Health Centre.



### Potatoes are not so bad for you after all

Potatoes have been a target of the anti-carb brigade for probably long enough. An affordable staple food for centuries, they have fallen out of favour in recent times, amid the trend for low-carb diets.

"The humble potato has been given a bad rap," says Dr Duane Mellor, a senior teaching fellow at Aston Medical School in Birmingham. "The truth is that potatoes contain a lot of vitamins and other nutrients that are important for good health." These include vitamin C, vitamin B6, potassium, and choline.

Potatoes also contain fibre, including resistant starch. This helps to feed the gut bacteria, which in turn has a wide range of health benefits.

Both the skin and the flesh of potatoes are good for you. The skin provide fibre, and the flesh contains most of the vitamins and minerals. So, the healthiest way to cook potatoes is to boil or bake them in their skins.



# WORDSEARCH FOR JANUARY 2024

## Wise Men and St Paul meet Jesus

The Wise Men and St Paul were both on trips when they first encountered Jesus, but how different those trips were!

The Wise Men, whom we remember on Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> Jan) were seeking the One for whom the Star shone, and came to Bethlehem to worship him. St Paul, whose conversion we remember this month (26<sup>th</sup> Jan), was on his way to Damascus, seeking to kill those who worshipped Jesus.

When the Wise Men encountered the Baby Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. When St Paul, the proud, fanatical Pharisee, encountered Jesus, he fell blinded on the road, and then worshipped Him by giving Him the rest of his life.

St Paul endured years of suffering and hardships in his work as the great apostle to the Gentiles. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.



Deadline date for inclusion in the next edition of Parish Link is:  
**January 15th 2024**  
*Editor:*  
*Kenneth and Dawn Poucher*  
 Any contributions can be forwarded to  
 Rev. Kevin Greaves, David Wainwright,  
 Keith Wainwright or Margaret Poucher

- |           |            |           |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| WISE      | EPIPHANY   | BABY      |
| MEN       | STAR       | GIFTS     |
| TRIPS     | SHONE      | GOLD      |
| PAUL      | BETHLEHEM  | PROUD     |
| ENCOUNTER | CONVERSION | BLINDED   |
| JESUS     | SEEKING    | ROAD      |
| DIFFERENT | KILL       | SUFFERING |
|           |            | APOSTLE   |

## SUDOKU

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 7 |   | 8 | 1 | 5 |   |
| 1 |   | 7 | 2 |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |   |   | 5 |   | 9 |   | 7 |
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 5 | 6 | 3 |
|   | 1 | 3 | 6 |   | 7 | 2 | 4 |   |
| 8 | 4 | 6 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |
| 7 |   | 4 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |
| 9 |   |   |   |   | 6 | 8 |   | 2 |
|   | 2 | 1 | 8 |   | 5 |   |   |   |

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## December Puzzle Answers

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 |

MOHR LAAMASST  
 RTNELISTILLE  
 YEMGLIANRDNE  
 JLBINGMMTTOM  
 IOALDUTLSGIE  
 TVSITNSEUESL  
 OEIETSINAGRO  
 YDNHPRRGAEED  
 OAGIPHHCVY  
 UILORACTFTHB  
 NDEDOTADRHT  
 GCAGAFRAEHAU

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Switchboard 01924 306 090  
 Typetalk 18001 08458 506 506

Email Address: [es-contactcentre@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:es-contactcentre@wakefield.gov.uk)

### Environmental Services (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 506 506

Abandoned vehicles, Air Pollution, Anti-Social Behaviour, Blocked Drains, Bulky Refuse, Car Parking, Cesspools, Cleansing, Clinical Waste, Dead Animal Collection, Dog Fouling, Fallen Trees/Branches, Floods, Food & Hygiene, Fly Tipping, Graffiti, Grass left after Cutting, Highways Maintenance, Hypodermic Needles Disposal, Ice on Footpaths, Leisure Enquiries, Litter, Noise, Noxious waste, Overflowing Litter bins, Overhanging Vegetation, Pest Control, Potholes, Recycling, Refuse Collection, Septic Tanks Skip Hire, Snow Clearance, Spilled Refuse, Street Cleaning, Traffic Matters, Traffic Signals, Weeds Overgrown.

### Social Care Direct (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 503 503

Adult Services, Advice, Assessment of need, Bus Passes \*Disabled), Children's Services, Community Meals Service, Fostering, Guidance, Help with Adoption, HIV/Aids, Home Care

### Wakefield District Housing (24 Hrs) - 0845 8 507 507

For all housing enquiries including: Allocations, Arrears, Lettings, Repairs, Tenancy Issues

Citizens Advice.....0844 499 4138

Council tax & Housing Benefits.....0345 8 504 504

Gas Emergency.....0800 111 999

Floodline.....0345 988 1188

NHS (24 hr non emergency).....111

Metro Access Bus.....0113 348 1903

Police (non emergency number).....101

Street Lighting Faults.....0800 783 1654