

# Windsor Church News



**The Revd Canon  
Peter Johnson**

Dear Friends,

When we use the Psalms, we find a collection of poetry which can express both personal and community lament and celebration, reflection and prayerful confidence. We are also entering a tradition of worship some of which reaches back behind the formation of Israel into the surrounding cultures of the ancient near east.

Poetry in the Hebrew bible is not confined to the Psalter. Psalm-like material outside the Psalter includes *The Song of Deborah* (Judges 5),



December 2023 & January 2024



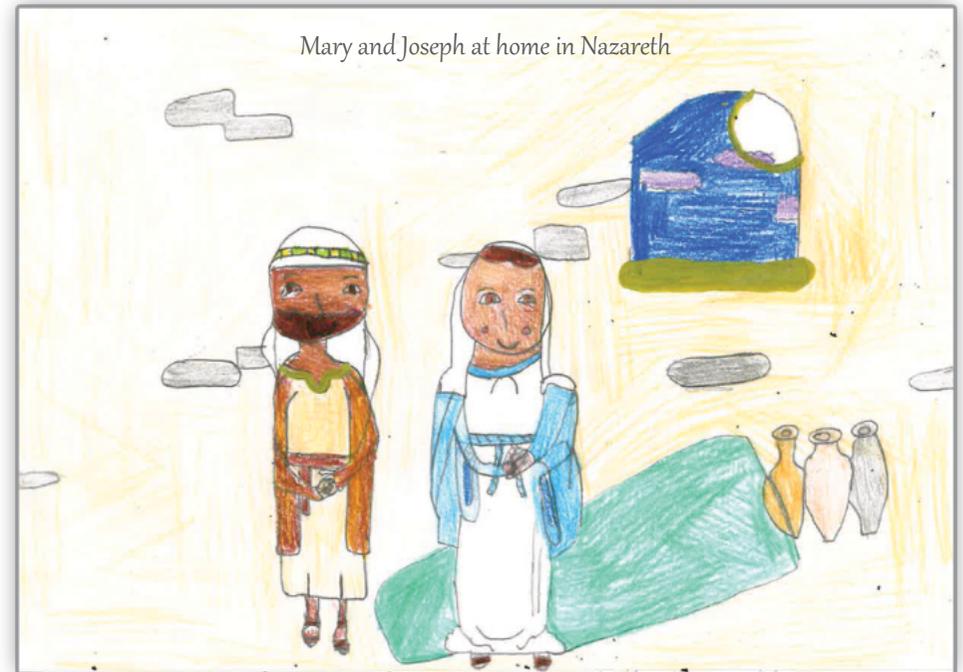
the online newsletter from  
the Church of England in Central Windsor

probably the oldest poem in the Old Testament, Jonah's prayer from the belly of the fish (Jonah 2), or Hannah's hymn of praise in 1 Samuel 2. And much prophetic material is in poetic form.

Strangely, the designation *Psalms* is from the Greek word *psalterion*, denoting a harp-like stringed instrument. In Hebrew the psalms are referred to as *songs* or *praises*, the latter being also the name for the book of Psalms in the Hebrew bible. This emphasises that the psalms and other parts of worship were chanted in some way, for we know how a simple melody can aid memory. (There are some reflexes of this point in the headnotes to several psalms, which refer to a tune by name or by number.)

It would seem that the collection in our Bible was completed by the 3rd century BC, because a Greek translation of the Hebrew was made soon after. In addition, a scroll of the psalms, with

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Thank you very much to Year 4 of Trinity St Stephen First School for their beautiful drawings, illustrating events in the Christmas story, which you will find throughout the magazine.

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some extra ones, survives among the material found in the Qumran caves.

As you go through the Psalter you cannot but be struck by their variety of mood and background, their high and low points of passion and devotion. The psalms were sung in the high and low points of the history of Israel. They inform the regular structure of both Jewish and Christian worship.

One of the noticeable features of many psalms is their mythological background, which draws from the mythological material of neighbouring or preceding cultures, now well attested from archaeological discoveries. The great questions of human existence, of mankind's place in the universe, the sense of puniness in the face of cosmic and natural forces, are expressed through powerful images of sea, sky, wind, night and darkness.

We can find echoes of the cosmic battle between gods, and of the council of gods. But in the Psalter these images have all been subsumed into celebration of the One God, maker of heaven and earth, the God who wills to call a people for his own. The pagan deities become minor beings working under God's rule. (The role of Satan in the book of Job, however, shows a subsidiary being with some licence!)

There are also "imprecatory" verses in the psalms, of which perhaps the most well known are at the end of psalm 137

("By the waters of Babylon..."). For some, the experience of exile in Babylon was bitter, cut off from the homeland and betrayed by enemies, and the last three verses wish a cruel end for those enemies. People debate the use of such verses as these in worship, for obvious reasons; but their presence in the Psalter does illustrate that through praying the psalms we can express exultation and anger, channeling them one might hope into the stream of God's mercy.

Perhaps each of us has some favourite parts of the Psalter. Think of the popularity of psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd...") and the verse hymns based on it: *The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want* (Scottish Psalter) and *The God of love my shepherd is* (George Herbert).

If a small personal note may be allowed, on my 70th birthday as I read the Morning Prayer in my study, psalm 90 was prescribed, with the words "The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, yet is their strength but labour and sorrow; so soon passeth it away and we are gone.". What was I being told? (This psalm is the basis of Isaac Watts' hymn *O God our help in ages past.*)

In other psalms (e.g 2, 110) we must imagine a royal ceremony in the pre-exilic temple in Jerusalem, so over 2500 years ago. Psalm 45 seems to be a royal epithalamion (marriage song).

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We warmly invite you to celebrate Christmas with us

**Sunday 17 & Friday 22 December**

**6pm Carols by Candlelight—Holy Trinity Church**  
Claremont Road & Trinity Place

**Christmas Eve**

**10am Sung Eucharist—St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
Vansittart Road

**3pm Crib Service & Christingle—All Saints' Church**  
Frances Road

**3pm Crib Service—St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
Vansittart Road

**11.15pm Midnight Mass—St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
Vansittart Road

**11.15pm Midnight Communion—Holy Trinity Church**  
Claremont Road & Trinity Place

**Christmas Day**

**8am Holy Communion—Holy Trinity Church**  
BCP (traditional) Claremont Road & Trinity Place

**10am Family Eucharist with carols—All Saints' Church**  
Frances Road

**11.15am Christmas Morning Praise—Windsor Parish Church**  
High Street

**Feast of St Stephen (Tuesday 26 December)**

**10am Said Eucharist—St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
Vansittart Road

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Psalm 19 combines reflection on the ordering of the created world with thanksgiving for the gift of the teaching of the Law for right living. "The heavens declare the glory of God... The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul... O cleanse me from my secret sins." It leads us to conclude with the prayer "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Psalm 44 is a communal lament: why does God hide his face from us?

Ps. 104 is a great hymn of creation, adapting an Egyptian hymn to the sun god. Its continuing life includes the *Benedicite* (part of the song of the three in the fiery furnace at Daniel 3.23 in the Apocrypha) and S. Francis' hymn *Laudato sí*, rendered into English translation by WH Draper as the hymn *All creatures of our God and king*. We recall that Pope Francis took up his namesake's theme in his encyclical *Laudato sí*, joining in expressing the strong emphasis that Christian theology must place on mankind's stewardship of God's gift in creation.

Ps. 119 reflects on God's gift of the law, seen as his revelation of his will for mankind and for our study: each verse contains a word equivalent to *law*. "Lord, what love have I of thy law." But such love leads to the thought in v. 75 "I know O lord that thy judgments are

right, and that thou of very faithfulness hast caused me to be troubled."

Psalm 139 "O Lord thou hast searched me out and known me..." is certainly one of my favourites. It expresses in beautiful imagery the sense that wherever we are or might seek to be, God is there, that "we are fearfully and wonderfully made" (v. 13) and continues through a prayer that the wicked be destroyed, finally praying (v. 24) "Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Perhaps as we approach the Christmas season we might also have in mind the words of psalm 8: "What is man that thou art mindful of him, the son of man that thou dost visit him. Thou hast made him lower than the angels, to crown him with glory and worship."

So when we sing or pray the psalms, we can be thankful for the richness of this resource, which cannot but help to deepen our prayer and reflection. As the American biblical scholar Robert Alter has written, "These poems retain their eloquence and liveliness after two and a half millennia or more, for believers and simply for people who love poetry."

Revd Canon Peter Johnson



# CLAREMONT SINGERS



Come and join us  
for our  
Christmas Concert



**Sunday 10th December 2023  
at 3pm**

followed by mulled wine, mince pies and soft drinks

**at Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Claremont  
Road, Windsor SL4 3AX**

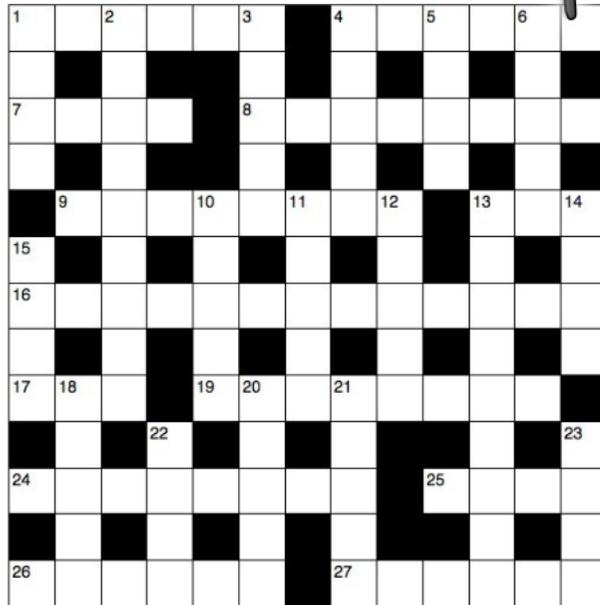
Entrance £5.00 on the door (cash or card)  
Accompanying carers and children go free. Wheelchair  
access is at the side door opposite the car park.

Our friendly group meets at  
Holy Trinity Church, Claremont Road, Windsor SL4 3AX  
7.30 – 9.00 pm every Monday during school term times  
New members are always welcome.  
There is no audition, all you need is enthusiasm and a keen ear.  
If you want to know more, contact Jane on 01753 869557 or email  
[singingwindsor@gmail.com](mailto:singingwindsor@gmail.com)

*Thames Hospice*

Our concerts raise money for Thames  
Hospice and Holy Trinity Church

# Puzzle Page

## Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

## Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

The Bible used is the New International Version.



## The story of 'Silent Night'

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent	First	Christmas	Young	Melody
Night	Sung	Eve	Priest	Single
Loved	Stille	Father	Organist	Bing
Carol	Nacht	Joseph	Midnight	Version
Austria	Heilige	Mohr	Mass	Third

Puzzle solutions are on page 14

### Clerk to Governors

St Edward's Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School  
Co-educational 9-13

£2,418 - £2,650 (pay award pending)  
Actual salary based on 4 hours a week, term time only.

Required ASAP.

We are looking to appoint a Clerk to the Governing Body who has experience of providing clerking services in an educational setting or can demonstrate appropriate experience to carry out the role along with a willingness to attend relevant training and development.

Effective governance is essential to the success of our school and clerks have a key role to play in ensuring we support our staff in providing an excellent education for our students.

We are seeking a person of integrity with strong organisational and administrative skills able to commit to evening meetings and related administrative work outside of meetings. This is an excellent opportunity for a positive and professional individual who is genuinely interested in school governance and keen to keep up to date with current educational developments and legislation affecting schools.

The school is committed to safeguarding its pupils and this appointment depends upon an enhanced DBS disclosure. The application form and further details are available on the school's website. Please contact Mrs Mottram in the school office for further information or to arrange an informal visit before the closing date. We will be delighted to welcome you to our school.

Interviews may be arranged on receipt of application so early application is advised.

Closing Date: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

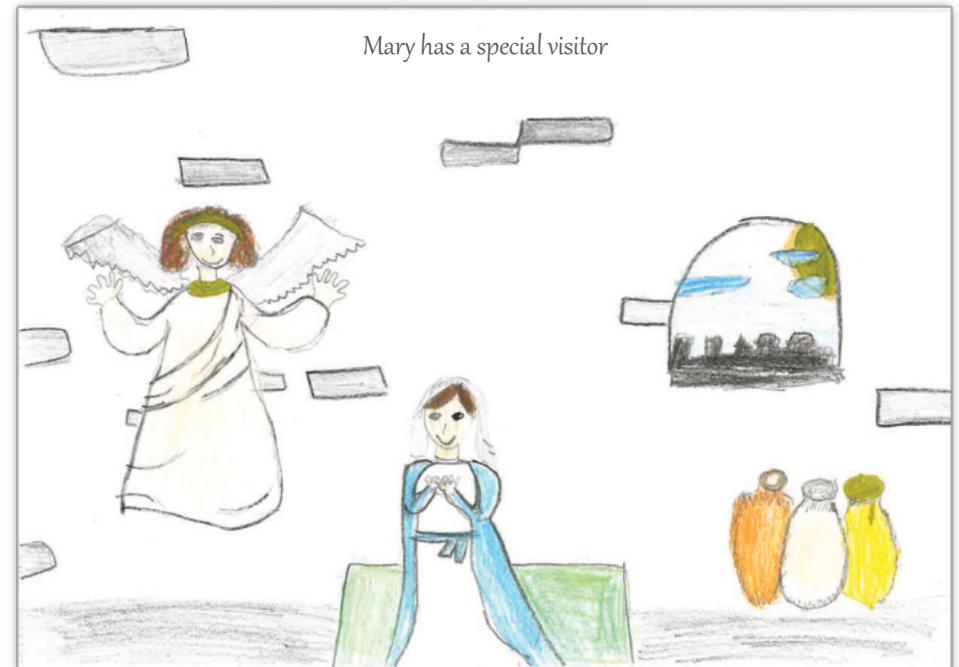
Tel: 01753 867809  
e-mail: [Vacancies@sterf.org.uk](mailto:Vacancies@sterf.org.uk)  
Website: [www.sterf.org.uk](http://www.sterf.org.uk)

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

8-11 December

Holy Trinity Church

*Please see the December diary for opening times  
or [windsorchurches.org.uk](http://windsorchurches.org.uk) to take part*





Windsor Methodist Church  
Alma Road

presents

**LIVE NATIVITY**

Come and meet our real animals

Dress up and be part of our nativity scene

**SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER**  
**11AM-2PM**

Christmas activities for children

Refreshments including light lunches

**ENTRANCE FREE**

Please use local car parks (no parking facility at church)

Alma Road, Windsor SL4 3HH ([www.windsormethodist.church](http://www.windsormethodist.church))

# Pause for a Poem

This month I have returned to John Clare's long poem – The Shepherd's Calendar. This extract describes the simple pleasures of keeping of Christmas in a country area in times past.

*Michael Bailey*

## December from The Shepherd's Calendar

While snows the window panes bedim,  
The fire curls up a sunny charm,  
Where creaming o'er the pitcher's rim  
The flowering ale is set to warm.  
Mirth, full of joy as summer bees,  
Sits there, its pleasures to impart  
While children, 'tween their parents  
knees  
Sing scraps of carols o'er by heart.

And some, to view the winter weathers,  
Climb up the window seat with glee,  
Likening the snow to falling feathers,  
In fancy's infant ecstasy;  
Laughing with superstitious love,  
O'er visions wild that youth supplies,  
Of people pulling geese above,  
And keeping Christmas in the skies.

As though the homestead trees were  
dressed,  
In lieu of snow, with dancing leaves;  
As though the sun-dried martins nest,  
Instead of icicles, hung the eaves,  
The children hail the happy day,  
As if the snow was April grass;  
And pleased, as 'neath the warmth of  
May,  
Sport o'er the water froze to glass.

Thou day of happy sound and mirth,  
That long with childish memory stays;  
How blest around the cottage hearth  
I met thee in my boyish days.  
Harping with raptures, dreaming joys  
On presents, that thy coming found  
The welcome sight of little toys,  
The Christmas gifts of comers round.

*John Clare (1793-1864)*

## Regular midweek services

### Mondays

\*9am Morning Prayer - All Saints' Church

### Wednesdays

\*9am Morning Prayer - St Stephen & St Agnes Church  
11am Holy Communion (BCP) - Holy Trinity Church

### Fridays

\*9am Morning Prayer - Holy Trinity Church  
*\*not week commencing 24 Dec, back on 3 Jan*

## Mothers' UNION

Our November meeting was an extremely interesting and socially happy occasion.

We started at Adrian and Veronica's home where Veronica showed us her fascinating home video of their visit to The Golden Temple at Amritsar in the Punjab. The temple is also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, "The home of God". This magnificent Temple of marble and shimmering gold, standing in the middle of a lake, is a place of pilgrimage and is visited by thousands of devotees and tourists every day. There are over 25 million members of the Sikh faith world wide, 83% living in India. It is a monotheistic religion based on moral principles of worshipping God constantly, living a truthful and honest life, giving service to humanity and sharing wealth through acts of charity.

The Golden Temple welcomes everyone and serves food, night and day, to over 50,000 people and at festival or holiday time to over 100,000.

An Anglican priest was heard to say, "This is the closest I have ever come to Jesus' feeding of the 5,000. It is God's command to feed your neighbours."

We then trooped over to Margaret Parsons' home to celebrate ...belatedly... her goth birthday. Margaret was relieved we only put a token 9 candles on her cake! We all

enjoyed a delicious tea and looked at her many cards. We also celebrated her 60 years of Mothers Union membership.

A delicious tea, excellent company...we could not have wished for more!

We appreciate and thank members of our four Churches for their donations and toiletries for very sick children at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. You have supported this appeal for many years and always value your help. The appeal is now closed for this year, but we will be back next year, so please start collecting items!

Our next meeting is at the Parish Hall at All Saints Church on Thursday 14th December at 3.30pm. It is our Advent service. We will light the candles on our Advent wreath, sing carols and share verses both religious and secular.

**Please come and join us.  
All are welcome.**

Advent is looking forward to the Christmas birth of our Lord and His second coming.  
Let us be ready,  
always acting in the ways  
Christ has shown us,  
taught us, and expects us to live.

*Estlyn Davies*



## Paws for Thought



Dear Friends,

All was calm in the Vicarage. The Boss was sitting at her desk planning Christmas services and I was in my usual spot nearby, contemplating life as I do, with my eyes closed and snoring quietly. Suddenly, the Boss gasped and jumped up from her chair. "A bird! There's a bird!" she shouted. I opened one eye. Sure enough, a robin was flying around the room, perching briefly on the filing cabinet and then on her desk. The Boss was not happy. In fact, she was, I felt, in some degree of panic so I opened both eyes, jumped up myself and began chasing around, barking helpfully. The robin flew upstairs and The Boss and I followed. The Boss opened all the windows and, thanks to my helpful barking, the robin flew back outside. Peace and calm was restored. The Boss looked a little pale. I

don't think she enjoyed the excitement as much as I did.

Later on, when I guessed that The Boss was sufficiently recovered from the shock, I mentioned to her that it was quite appropriate, I felt, to be visited by a robin in the midst of preparations for Christmas. The Boss looked at me quizzically so I reminded her of the old folk story about how a robin was in the stable when Jesus was born. How it was getting chilly in the stable because the fire was going out and Mary asked the donkey and the oxen and the sheep if they could help to keep the fire going, but none of them volunteered. However, a small nondescript brown bird flew over to the fire and fluttered its wings, fanning the embers until the flames leapt up again. Then it flew off and returned with twigs in its beak to put on the fire. A spark jumped out of the fire and caught the bird on the chest, turning it red. The story is that Mary was so grateful for the little bird's efforts that she declared it would always have a red breast, symbolising its kind heart.

The Boss smiled and thanked me for reminding her. I sometimes wonder how she would get through the day without me!

I hope you all have a peaceful Christmas, full of kindness and love.

All good wishes

*Barnabas  
The Vicarage Dog*

## St Basil the Great - 2 January

Basil was most people's idea of the perfect diocesan bishop. He was a theologian of distinction, who as a monk devoted himself to much prayer and teaching. He leapt to the defence of the Church from the persecution of the Arian emperor Valens, but also appreciated great secular literature of the time, gave away his inheritance to the poor, knew how to run a soup kitchen, and counted thieves and prostitutes among his converts. Not your everyday bishop!

Basil (c330-79) came from a distinguished and pious family, and he had the best education available at Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens. He decided to become a monk with Gregory of Nazianzus, and settled as a hermit near Neo-Caesarea. He became bishop of Caesarea in 370, with 50 suffragan bishops to look after. It was the time of the great Arian heresy, and Basil would come to be seen as one of the great champions of the Church, defending it from secular encroachments.

Basil loved his people and was known for his generosity and care for the poor, both through food and medical care. He was a great preacher – preaching both morning and evening to vast congregations, and organising services of psalms before daybreak.

He was interested in monastic legislation, and to this day, nearly all monks and nuns of the Greek Church

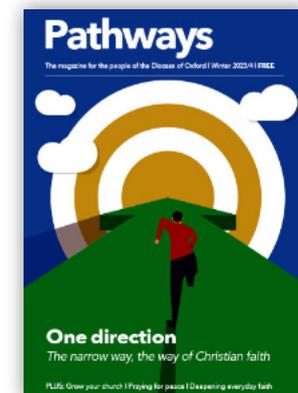
follow his rule. His emphasis was on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual work, rather than on solitary asceticism. His rule allowed for almsgiving, hospitals and guesthouses. Basil also wrote some important works on the Holy Spirit.

He died at 49, worn out by austerities, hard work and disease. He was so loved that even strangers mourned his death, and in the centuries that followed, many artists painted pictures of him. His cult spread rapidly in the West, through Greek monks in Italy and through St Benedict admitting that his rule had been inspired by "our holy father Basil."

*from Parish Pump*

## Diocesan Magazine

Pathways, the magazine for the people in the Diocese of Oxford, is out now.



You can pick up your copy when you're next in church (it's free!) or you can read it on the diocesan website [here](#).

## This December and January it was...

800 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1223 that St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene, in Greccio, Italy, after visiting Jesus' birthplace in the Holy Land. It proved enormously popular and inspired other communities to stage their own nativity scenes.

250 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1773 that the Boston Tea Party took place in Massachusetts. American patriots boarded ships and threw chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company into Boston Harbour, as a protest against the British tax on tea.

200 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1823 that the poem *The Night Before Christmas* was first published (anonymously) in the Sentinel newspapers in Troy, New York. It was written by Clement Clarke Moore.

175 years ago – on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1848 that Emily Bronte, British novelist and poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 30. Best known for her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*.

100 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1923 that Ramsay MacDonald became the first Labour Prime Minister. The General Election had resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour Party had formed a coalition with the Liberal Party.

Also 100 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923 that the BBC broadcast the chimes

of Big Ben for the first time, to welcome in the New Year. The tradition continues to this day.

95 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 1929 that Mother Teresa arrived in Calcutta, India to begin working with the poor and sick.

80 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1943 that Beatrix Potter, children's writer and illustrator, died. She created animal characters including Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle, Jemima Puddle-Duck, and many more.

75 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948 that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Also 75 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1948 that the first Midnight Mass to be televised was broadcast from St Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Also 75 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1949 that the British Nationality Act came into effect. It established the status of 'Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies' and granted those citizens the right to enter and live in the United Kingdom.

70 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1953 that former US Secretary of State George Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for creating the



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Marshall Plan. The aid package helped Europe rebuild after WW2.

65 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1958 that Britain's first motorway, the Preston By-pass, was officially opened. (It is now part of the M6 and M55.)

60 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1963 that the Daleks made their first appearance on the British science fiction TV series *Doctor Who*.

50 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1973 that the Geneva Conference opened in Switzerland, aimed at finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. No agreement was reached, but Israel signed a military disengagement agreement with both Egypt and Syria in 1974.

40 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1983 that Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (It was accepted by his wife, as he feared he might not be allowed back into Poland if he travelled to Norway to accept it.)

30 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1993 that Monkwearmouth Colliery in Sunderland closed down. It marked the end of more than 800 years of coal mining in the region.

Also 30 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1993 that Israel and the Vatican City agreed to recognise each other and established diplomatic relations.

25 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1998 that the UN General Assembly listed anti-Semitism as a form of racism.

Also 25 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1998 that the Palestine Liberation Organisation voted to remove clauses in its charter that called for Israel's destruction.

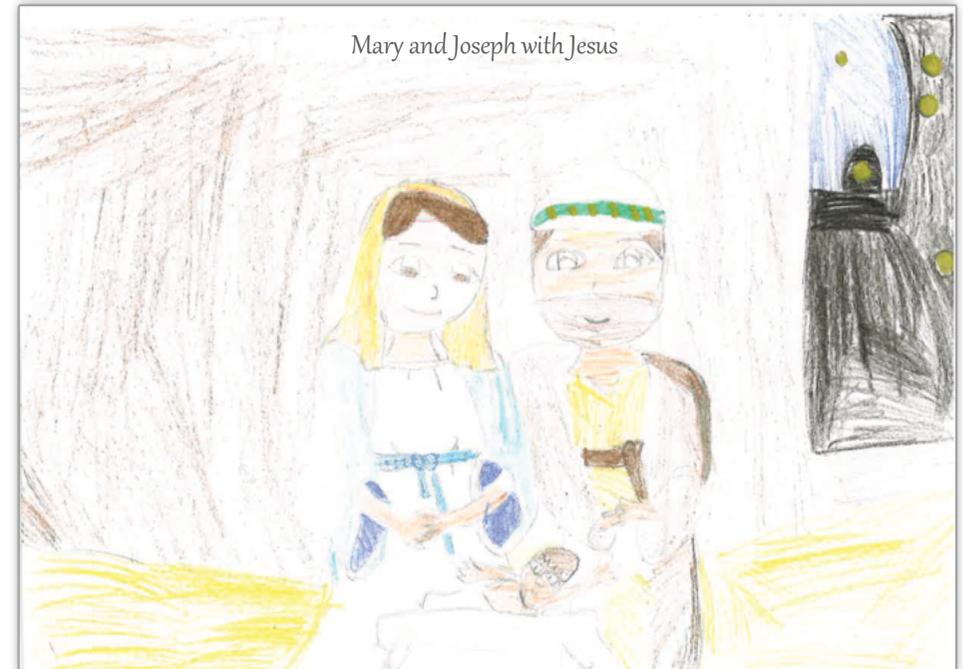
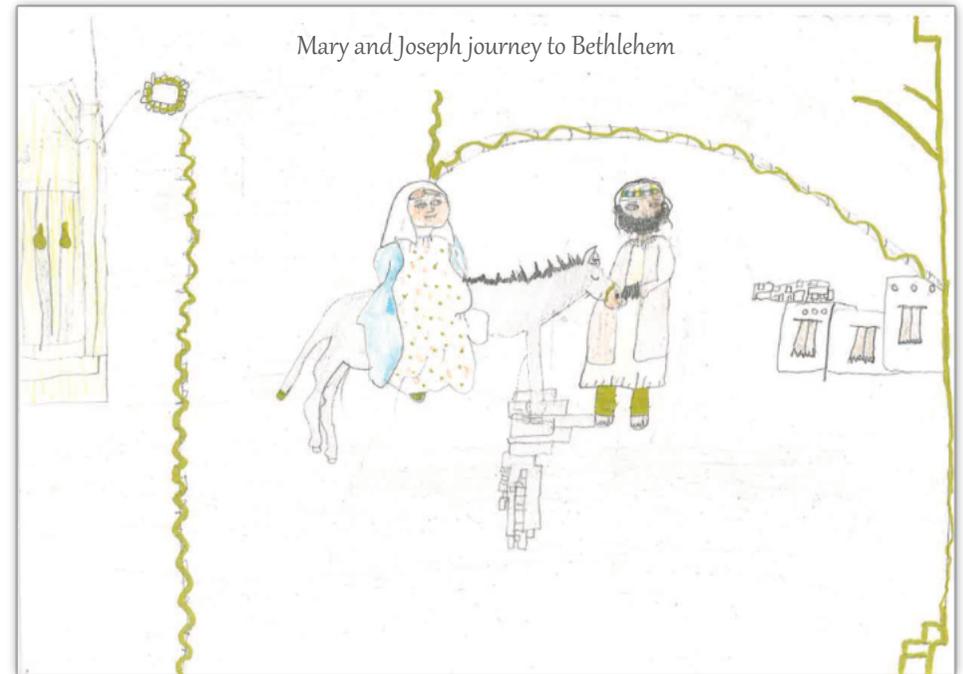
Also 25 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1999 that the Euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries. (Coins and banknotes entered circulation in Jan 2002.)

20 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003 that using a handheld mobile phone while driving became illegal in the UK.

Also 20 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2003 that during the Iraq War, former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was captured by US forces, who found him hiding in a hole at a farmhouse in ad-Dawr, near his hometown of Tikrit.

10 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 that Nelson Mandela died. This anti-apartheid revolutionary and politician had become President of South African 1994-99. He served as President of the African National Congress (ANC) 1991-97. Winner of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.

*from Parish Pump*



## Old Parish Life

Old Parish Life – a guide for the curious, was published last year and is a picture of parish life from medieval to mid-Victorian times, culled from churchwardens' accounts and other contemporary sources. It deals with the all sorts of aspects: the church building itself; the church's year; treatment of the poor and matters of discipline. The following may be of interest, now the restoration of the organ at St John the Baptist's is complete.

In 1567 St Edmund Salisbury needed a new organ:

To Thomas Milbridge for carrying of 2 letters to the organ maker of South Molton 5s.

2 dozen of sheeps skins and 4 calves skins 12s (for the bellows).

A white whine cask to make the pipes 2s6d.

Seat for the organs for Bluet to sit and play 6s8d.

To the organ maker for making of ye organs £12.

Once installed the organ would need regular maintenance, as at St Mary at Hill in the City of London:

To the organ maker for a reward for tuning of the pipes 12d.

Spent on him and divers of the company at the ale house 6d.

At St Benet Gracechurch Street (another City church), John Howe received 10s3d for mending of ten pipes

and other faults that the rats had eaten in our organs.

At rather cryptic entry appears at Somerton in Somerset:

1641 To Mr Hayward of Bath for making the organ musical 10s3d.

Payments to organists are recorded. One name springs out from St Mary at Hill:

1536 To Thomas Tallis for half a year's wages £4.

Some payments come with a caveat as at St Martin Leicester in

1756 Agreed that Mr Wm Bolton be organist so long as behaves well at £10 per annum.

The job of organ blower was sometimes given to poor and needy parishioners, again at St Mary at Hill:

To the almsmen to every of them 2d for their work when they do blow the organs 8s8d.

And at the city church of St Giles Cripplegate in

1714 it was order that John Ballard's blind daughter be organ blower.

*Leslie Grout*

*Old Parish Life - A guide for the curious is published by the Bunbury Press ISBN: 9780956204622 It is available from [Waterstones](#) and other booksellers.*

# WDS

**Windsor Decorating Services**  
All aspects of interior/exterior  
Domestic and Commercial  
Property repairs & maintenance  
Telephone: 01753 867920 Mobile: 07961 949969

## Community Carols with the Westminster Chamber Orchestra



Saturday  
16<sup>th</sup> December

7.30pm



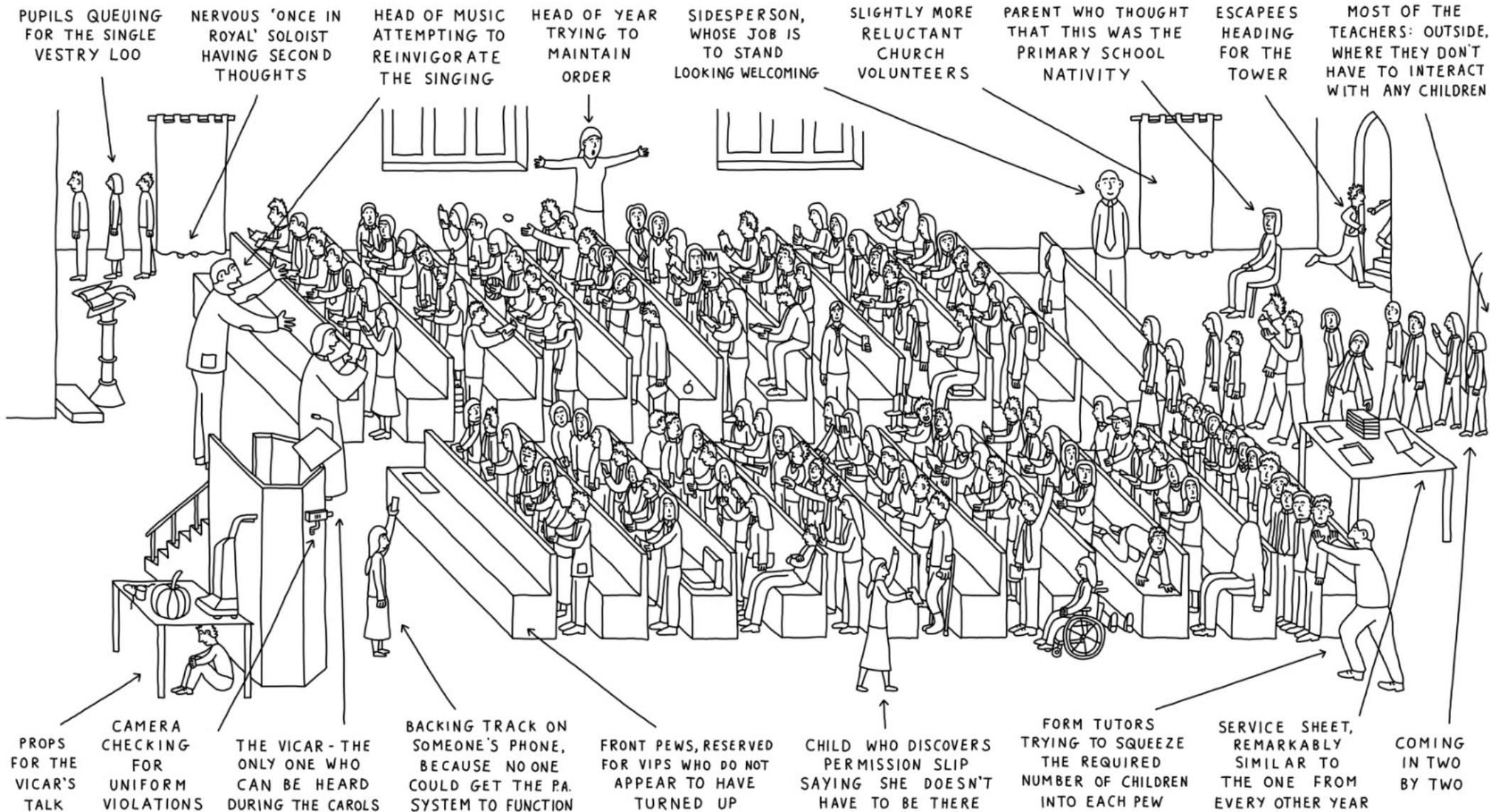
**St Edward's R C Church**  
44 Alma Road SL4 3HJ

Join local and London-based professional musicians for a hearty sing and some refreshments afterwards, with a retiring collection for Windsor Homeless Project.

**Please click to book or  
book via [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)**

# THE SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

YEAR 8 VISIT THE PARISH CHURCH



## Eaten by a lion

Harold Francis Davidson was torn between two professions, the church and the theatre. In the event he chose the former, but the latter extended a greater influence.

In 1906 he became Rector of Stiffkey in Norfolk. Now he had full parochial responsibilities, but the call of the theatre was so strong that he would take the first train to London on Mondays, returning by the last train on Saturdays. He became chaplain to several West End theatres, ministering to the needs of actors and backstage staff in general and chorus girls in particular.

Out-of-work chorus girls would be brought back to Stiffkey, where pyjama parties took place, much to the astonishment of his parishioners. What his wife made of it all can only be imagined. Besides chorus girls he tried ministering to young waitresses and was consequently banned from a large number of cafes.

All these goings-on meant that Davidson was frequently late for his Sunday services. Sometimes he didn't turn up at all, or else the congregation got tired of waiting and went home. Matters came to a head in 1932 when the churchwardens decided that enough was enough and complained to the Bishop of Norwich, who summoned Davidson to appear before Norwich Consistory Court on a charge of conduct unbecoming of a Clerk in Holy Orders.

Davidson's name and reputation were well known by this time and the press had a field day with reporters by the dozen eager to see what would happen next. Several actresses and chorus girls travelled to Norwich to testify on his behalf, but eventually it all turned on a photograph of Davidson with a naked chorus girl (possibly staged), the case against him was proved and he was unfrocked.

Davidson was down but not out: with no job and no stipend he returned to his first love and appeared in a several music halls, then sitting in a barrel on the front at Blackpool delivering sermons. In the same year he was unfrocked, he announced his intention of returning to Stiffkey to take a service. Vast numbers descended on the village to await the outcome. Not surprisingly he was physically booted out of the church whereupon he preached to the assembled multitude.

After more music hall appearances and another spell in the barrel, he went to Skegness in 1937 (he considered it less vulgar than Blackpool). He performed in a cage with a couple of lions called Freddy and Toto (together with a sixteen-year-old female assistant who knew as much about lion taming as Davidson did) and where he was photographed still wearing his clerical collar. From these bizarre surroundings he denounced the Church of England, the Bishop of Norwich and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Eventually Freddy had enough of these tirades and, soon after the photograph was taken, went for the hapless Davidson who died of his injuries two days later. He was buried at Stiffkey and his grave is still looked after.

What has this to do with Windsor? Well, from 1903 to 1905 Davidson was a curate at Holy Trinity.

*Leslie Grout*

## Morning Prayer

A small group of us meet to say Morning Prayer at gam on weekdays on Zoom and some days also in a church. Please contact [Revd Sally](#) if you'd like a Zoom invitation. You can download the Daily Prayer app with the order of service [here](#) (there are also books available in churches).

Daily  
Prayer

**Alone on Christmas Day?  
Or do you know somebody who is?**

**Join us for**

**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**from 12.30 to 15.00**

**St Edward's Parish Centre  
Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3HJ**

**Please book your place  
by contacting the SVP - 07547 514467  
or email: [presidentb170321@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidentb170321@svp.org.uk)**

**Free transport available for those who need it**



**St Vincent de Paul Society and Churches together in Windsor**  
Helping those in need, of all ages, in our community

# From the November registers...



## Baptisms

Seren Willetts (St Stephen & St Agnes Church)  
 Ffion Willetts (St Stephen & St Agnes Church)  
 Malika Mendyk (Windsor Parish Church)  
 Kareli Jones (Windsor Parish Church)  
 Ruby Jones (Windsor Parish Church)



## Weddings



## Funerals

Mary Evans (Windsor Parish Church)  
 Marion Cameron (Holy Trinity Church)  
 Joyce Ludlow (St Stephen & St Agnes Church)

## Church Opening Times

Windsor Parish Church  
 of St John the Baptist,  
 High Street - daily, all day

~  
 St Stephen & St Agnes Church,  
 Vansittart Road - daily, all day

~  
 All Saints' Church, Frances Road  
 Mon-Wed & Sat, all day

~  
 Holy Trinity Church, Claremont Road  
 Wed, Thu & Fri, 9:30-11:30am

# New Pathways

An informal bereavement group for anyone who has lost a loved one

We meet for tea, cake and conversation on the last Thursday of each month 2.30pm—3.30pm in the Mountbatten Room at Holy Trinity Church Claremont Road, Windsor Everyone welcome

## Puzzle Solutions



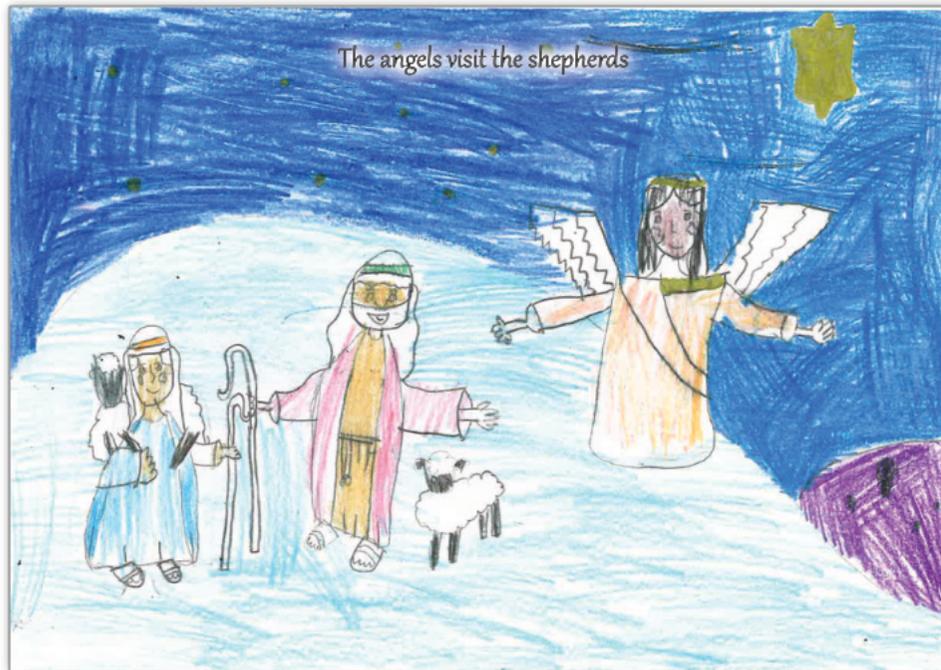
# G&S Services

All aspects of garden and property maintenance including

- Painting and decorating (internal & external)
- Plastering, kitchen and bathroom refurbishment
- Patios and decking
- Garden maintenance (regular or 1 off clearance)

☎ 01753 859691 or 07795 417717

✉ [sean@gands-services.co.uk](mailto:sean@gands-services.co.uk)



# December

- 1 *Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916*  
4pm Messy Church – All Saints' Church
- 3 **Advent Sunday**  
10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church  
5.30pm Songs of Praise for Advent – All Saints' Church
- 4 *John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749*  
*Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637*
- 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326
- 7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397
- 8 The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**3-7pm Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Trinity Church**
- 9 **2-8pm Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Trinity Church**
- 10 **The Second Sunday of Advent**  
10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church  
3pm Claremont Singers' Concert – Holy Trinity Church  
**2-8pm Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Trinity Church**
- 11 **3-7pm Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Trinity Church**  
6.15pm RBWM Living Advent Calendar – Holy Trinity Church
- 13 Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304  
*Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784*
- 14 John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591  
3pm Mothers' Union Advent Service – All Saints' Church
- 17 **The Third Sunday of Advent**  
10am Sung Eucharist – Windsor Parish Church  
6pm Carols by Candlelight – Holy Trinity Church
- 22 6pm Carols by Candlelight – Holy Trinity Church
- 24 **The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)**  
3pm Crib Service – St Stephen & Agnes Church  
3pm Crib Service & Christingle – All Saints' Church  
6.15pm RBWM Living Advent Calendar – Windsor Parish Church  
11.15pm Midnight Communion – Holy Trinity Church  
11.15pm Midnight Mass – St Stephen & St Agnes Church
- 25 **Christmas Day**  
8am Holy Communion (BCP) – Holy Trinity Church  
10am Family Eucharist – All Saints' Church  
11.15am Christmas Praise with Holy Communion – Windsor Parish Church
- 26 **Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**  
10am Patronal Eucharist – St Stephen & Agnes Church
- 27 **John, Apostle and Evangelist**
- 28 **The Holy Innocents**
- 29 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170
- 31 **First Sunday of Christmas**  
10am Sung Eucharist – Windsor Parish Church



**Friday 5 January**

**4-6pm**

at

**All Saints' Church  
Frances Road, Windsor**

**Fun for all ages!...crafts,  
bible stories and a meal**



Please email [windsor.churchbookings@gmail.com](mailto:windsor.churchbookings@gmail.com),  
or click to book on our website,  
to let us know you are coming

**Children must bring an adult**

- 1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
- 2 Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389  
*Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833*  
*Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945*
- 5 4pm Messy Church – All Saints' Church
- 6 The Epiphany
- 7 Epiphany Sunday
  - 10am Sung Eucharist – St Stephen & Agnes Church
  - 10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645
  - 11 Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915
  - 3pm Mothers' Union Meeting – All Saints' Church
  - 12 Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167  
*Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689*
  - 13 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367  
*Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603*  
*George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691*
  - 14 Second Sunday of Epiphany
    - 10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church
    - 5.30pm Choral Evensong – All Saints' Church
    - 17 Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356  
*Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932*
    - 18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
    - 18 Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951
    - 19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095
    - 20 Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349
    - 21 The Third Sunday of Epiphany
      - 10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church
      - 4pm TBC Service for St Agnes' Day
      - 22 Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304
      - 24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622
      - 25 The Conversion of Paul
      - 26 Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul
      - 28 The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
        - 10am Sung Eucharist – Windsor Parish Church
        - 30 Charles, King and Martyr, 1649
        - 31 John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888