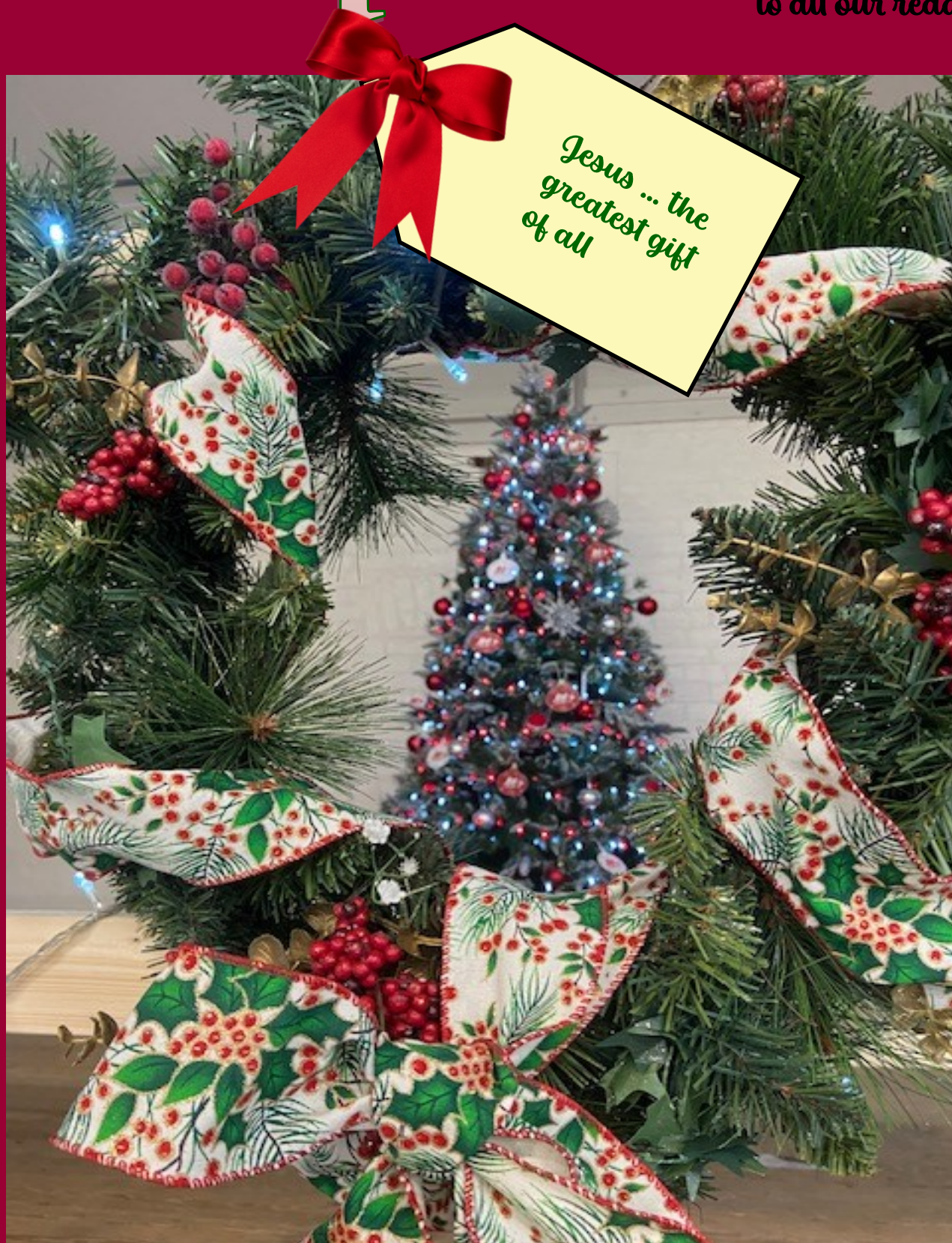


InSpire

Issue 88
December 2024

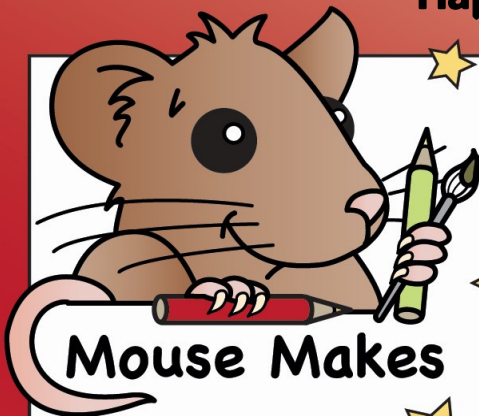
Happy Christmas
to all our readers



The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley
Free of charge - donations welcome in honesty box in wall

Junior InSpire

Happy Christmas to our young readers



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

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

Dec24 © deborah noble @ parishpump.co.uk

Issue 88 December 2024

Contents:-

- 3 Contents & Church contacts
- 4 Services & Events—December
- 5 Rev Liz writes
- 6 News from the Pews
- 7 Café Church in December
- 8 News
- 10 Christmas Quiz
- 11 News from the Belfry
- 12 The most beautiful story
What sort of a Christmas card
person are you?
- 13 Prayers, Prose and Poems
- 14 Our churchyard: A haven for
Fungi
- 17 Editor's Letter
- 18 Faith and the Atlantic Project
- 19 Can you sponsor InSpire in
2025?
- 20 Christmas Geese
- 21 Christians facing persecution
- 22 The Situation in the Middle
East: A Guide to prayer from
Tearfund
- 23 Bethlehem Carol Sheets
celebrate 70 years in print
- 24 Scott-Broadwood's
Consultation results
- 25 Book Reviews
- 26 Bishop Andrew reflects on
Ten years as Bishop of
Guildford
- 28 Sol Invictus, Emperors and
how Christmas began
- 29 No Room? On the contrary
- 30 6th December - How Father
Christmas got to where he
is today.
- 31 Reflecting Faith: Christmas
decorations
- 32 Quiz solutions
- 33 Puzzles
- 34 Puzzle solutions
- 35 Fundraising Events
- 36 Happy Christmas to all our
Readers!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9 v 2-6

Would you prefer to receive InSpire online?

You can register to receive **InSpire** via email each month OR download individual issues!

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine

This issue is sponsored by

John Dale

*in memory
of Margaret Dale*

Church Contacts:-

Vicar - Rev Liz Richardson The Vicarage, High Lea, 54 The Street, Capel. vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260

Parish Pastoral Assistant: **Sylvie Beckett** 07711 849338

Safeguarding Officer: **Leigh Smith** 07732 825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

Diocesan Safeguarding **Jackie Broadfoot**

Advisor: 07918 559387

safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

See our **Safeguarding Notice** in 'News from the Pews' each month.

Churchwardens

churchwardens@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Capel:

Norman Ede 01306 713247

Joy Harman 01306 711482

Ockley:

James Lee-Steere

jamesleesteere@jayedestate.co.uk

Treasurer:

Capel & Ockley

Helen Burt

helenmb0909@gmail.com

01306 711671

Capel Organist & Choir

Anthea Smallwood 01306 711883

Ockley Organist

Andrew Collings 01403 265794

PCC Secretary

Chev. Richard Winter-Stanbridge

sirrichard@giganticworx.com

InSpire Editor

inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Suzanne Cole 01306 711449

Church website:

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Webmaster

webmaster@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Cover photo: Suzanne Cole

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - DECEMBER 2024 at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

December

Sunday	1st	Advent Sunday
	9.30am	Matins - Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion - Capel
Sunday	8th	Advent 2
	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) - Ockley
	10.30am	Christmas Cafe Church - Capel
	4.00pm	Christingle in aid of The Children's Society - Ockley Cricket Pavilion
Sunday	15th	Advent 3
	9.30am	Parish Communion with blessing of the crib - Ockley
	4.00pm	Parish Nine Lessons and Carols with Scott Broadwood School - Capel
Sunday	22nd	Advent 4
	9.30am	Holy Communion BCP - Ockley
	10.30am	Morning Worship - Capel
Tuesday	24th	CHRISTMAS EVE
	4.00pm	Crib Service - Capel
	11.00pm	Midnight Communion - Capel (SERVICE BEGINS AT 11PM!)
Wednesday	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY
	10.00am	Christmas Holy Communion - Ockley
	10.00am	Christmas Celebration Worship - Capel
Sunday	29th	First Sunday of Christmas
	9.30am	Parish Matins - Ockley

JANUARY

Sunday	5th	The Epiphany
	9.3am	Matins - Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion - Capel



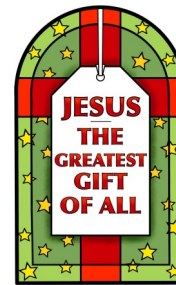
*Don't forget you can find details of all events & services on
our website!*
<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>



Rev Liz writes

Dear friends,

Christmas comes early this year as the beautiful community Christmas trees gather once more to welcome everyone to church and bid us all a happy Christmas as we walk or drive past. I believe we have more than ever this year and because of the way the month falls they will be decorated and the lights switched on at the end of November (30th). Well Advent Sunday is the following day so we will then be counting down the days before Christmas Day, with many services and events happening in our churches this December. The usual Christmas services will be held with a choice on Christmas Day as to which church you would like to worship with family services at both churches. Communion will be offered at Ockley as well and of course at Capel we have Holy Communion at 11pm Christmas Eve. Christmas Day then is likely to be a celebration worship with traditional carols and readings. Both services are at 10am on Christmas Day. For our annual Nine Lessons and Carols we are celebrating these with our lovely village school Scott Broadwood staff and children this year. They will be helping us with some of the readings and some of the singing! We can't wait! For the last two school terms we have been running a weekly afterschool Church Club for the children which has been a runaway success. We now have over half the school joining us each week and Mr Baguley says he has never known an afterschool activity to be so popular! How about that then? Bob and the band are holding a Christmas Cafe Church on December 8th - see elsewhere in the magazine for that. We have a very informal Christingle in the cosy surroundings of Ockley Cricket Pavilion later on the same day and the following Sunday, again at St Margaret's church we have a whole parish communion with a blessing of the crib. At Capel we have our traditional Crib Service on Christmas Eve as usual. There are other carol events being held by the Capel Choral Society in church as well, so plenty to choose from. I am really looking forward to seeing you all, over the festive season.



At home at the Vicarage the Nativity will be assembled once again on our front lawn with the usual characters plus a couple of new animals! I am planning to have a QR code outside to collect donations for LeatherHead Start - formerly Leatherhead Night Shelter. LeatherHead Start provides emergency, direct access, short term accommodation for homeless men and women over the age of 18. I cannot think of a better charity to connect to our re imagination of the holy family all those years ago, sheltering in a stable. So please enjoy the nativity again this year and if you wish to you can donate. Alternatively please donate to another charity - that would be lovely.

Finally it with much sadness and regret that we have learned of the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth made public through the recent Makin Review. This led to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby with various statements by senior clergy within the Church of England, one of which stated that the Church is not safe. I would like to reassure you all that the levels of safeguarding in the Dioceses are high and especially in Guildford Diocese. Our own Bishop of Guildford himself was a victim of Smyth's abuse and he is very aware that the Makin Review may stir up very deep feelings for some who read it or have heard of it through the media. If you or anyone else has been affected by this report or any concerns about safeguarding please contact Safe Spaces on 0300 303 1056 or the Samaritans helpline on 116123. If you have any safeguarding concerns at all don't hesitate to contact:

Revd Liz Richardson - 07837408239 / 01305 711260 or Leigh de Souza - Parish Safeguarding Officer - 07732 825908

As we celebrate the feast of Christ the King this coming Sunday as I write just before Advent, let us remember that our ultimate refuge is in God made possible by his incarnation of his only Son Jesus whose birth we celebrate in a very little while! With all God's richest blessings, love and prayers for Christmas and the year ahead! Enjoy!

With my love and prayers as ever.

Liz

liz@myhostserver.co.uk 01306 711260 Vicar St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley

NEWS from the Pews

From the Registers

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of

Ruby Sawyers

15th November 2024

May she rest in peace and rise in glory



Capel Christmas Fair

Our sincere thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who came and gave their time on Saturday 16th November to help run the 2024 Capel Christmas Fair.



This year's Fair was even bigger than before with more outside stalls. We have raised £3,323.26 which gives £1,661.63 for each charity—that is the Parish Churches of Capel & Ockley and the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND).

Thank you to all our visitors, stallholders and volunteers for making it another day to remember!

Thank you

Suzanne, Helen & Kerena
The Capel Christmas Fair committee

The Pavilion Café



Every Wednesday at Ockley Cricket Club Pavilion
9 am until midday

Come and enjoy a warm welcome and a delicious range of homemade cakes and savouries - including gluten/dairy free. Bacon butties every fourth Wednesday and freshly made teas and coffees.

The Pavilion Café was originally the idea of Kindred Spirits, the women's outreach group from Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green Parish, 11 years ago. It is run by a team of volunteers in support of charities, local charitable causes and Ockley events.

If you would like to volunteer, please let Liz know on either 07951 710176 or lizthorne2053@hotmail.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

This notice will appear each month in InSpire

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding Officer: Leigh Smith 732825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

Update January 2024: New diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns:
safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

Café Church— DECEMBER 2024

Have You Got All the Gifts You Need?



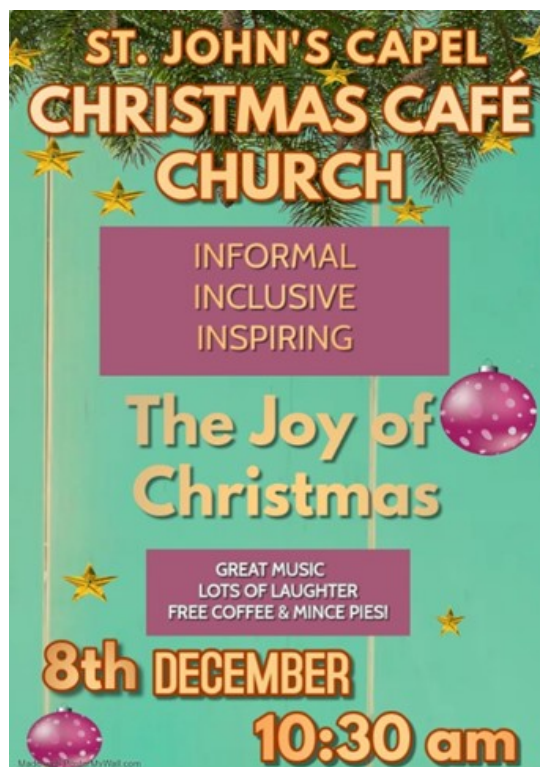
Can we please get one thing straight? Christmas does *not* begin in September. Nor, come to that, does it happen in October or November. You could be forgiven for thinking that the “festive season” is starting earlier year by year judging by the amount of Christmas goods available in the shops. I wouldn’t be surprised if, once they’ve cleared away the Easter eggs next year, they don’t start playing carols in their stores to get people “in the mood”.

Whatever, it all seems to speak of the deceit that you can buy happiness and security. There is a relentless pressure to have the latest, biggest, fanciest and best of everything through increasingly desperate advertising campaigns. If we are to believe some of the major retailers then the focus of Christmas is gnomes, elves, singing oven gloves and Kevin the Carrot!

There is only one “reason for the season”. There’s a clue in the title, *Christmas*. The true focus at this time of year should be the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the gifts that *he* brought to the world. What were they? Well, he spoke about the importance of not only loving your neighbour but also loving your enemy; he spoke about living a life without the need to judge others; he showed by his actions that it doesn’t matter where you come from, what your standing in society is or who you’re living with, you are never excluded from receiving the healing power of God in your life. And, of course, he came to reveal God’s love for His creation and His forgiveness for the way that we have all chosen to abuse His goodness.

So, this Christmas, of course I will be buying some simple gifts for my family. But if I want to leave a lasting legacy then I want it to be the gifts that I know that Jesus has offered to me: love, grace, forgiveness, acceptance, understanding. And do you want to know the best thing of all about these gifts? They’re free!

Bob Cranham





Bishop Andrew's statement on the Makin Review

After a long wait, the Makin Review into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth, was published. The report by Keith Makin detailed horrific abuse of around 130 boys and young men that took place over several decades.

Following the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby over the findings, Bishop Andrew has written the below statement.

He said: "Events have moved on significantly over the past week, following the publication of the Makin Review last Thursday and my subsequent statement. The major focus has been on Archbishop Justin himself, who has admitted failings of his own since he first became aware of John Smyth's catalogue of abuse in England and Africa; but his decision to step down has equally shown a willingness to take responsibility for the wider Church's failings, and to demonstrate the seriousness of his commitment to those who have suffered as a result.

"My prayers remain first and foremost with my fellow victims of Smyth's abuse. I am personally aware that this is a time of heightened emotion for many (which I share), as the depth of Smyth's brutality has been so clearly revealed; and I pray for some kind of closure for those who have waited so long for it.

"On the ground our churches have continued to make significant improvements in our safeguarding practice, and I am deeply grateful for the skill and commitment of our Parish Safeguarding Officers, and the victim-centred focus of Jackie and our Safeguarding team at Church House, in whom I have great confidence. I'd encourage us all to redouble our efforts in this regard, in pursuit of our commitment to achieve the safest of churches, schools and communities. Please do flag up even the most tentative of concerns with the team.

"I am deeply grateful for all who have reached out to me over the course of the past week, and for your concern and prayers; and please do pray for Archbishop Justin and Caroline too, who have given so generously of themselves in this most challenging of callings. Given the turbulence at the Church right now - at least at its senior level - it would be easy to lose heart: but God is Good and Christ is Risen in amidst all of our many flaws and failings; and peace will return in time."

*Taken from the Parish Brief from the Diocese of Guildford
13th November 2024*

Church of England delivers on its responsible investment strategy

The Church Commissioners for England has published its 2023 Stewardship Report, outlining the key steps taken to deliver on its responsible investment strategy focused on 'Respect for People and Respect for the Planet'.

In 2023, the Church Commissioners restricted several oil and gas companies from investment as part of the climate change motion passed by General Synod in 2018.

Following this, it published a Climate Action Plan which set out the Church Commissioners approach to addressing the issue moving forward. It also co-led the Policy track at the Net-Zero Asset Owners Alliance and was part of the launching group for the Nature Action 100 (NA100) Initiative.

"The Church Commissioners, as an in-perpetuity faith-based endowment investor, must take the long view, allocating capital with an eye on intergenerational equity. So we must know our past to understand our present," said Alan Smith, First Church Estates Commissioner. "We invest to play our part in creating a flourishing future for all – for people and planet – doing so in an ethical, responsible way."

The Church Commissioners also convened a multi-trillion-dollar collaboration of investors seeking to improve the quality and consistency of human rights data at scale. This collaborative engagement also complemented the Church Commissioners' own internal voting action against companies who failed to demonstrate a commitment to respect human rights.

Continued on page 9

The 2023 Stewardship Report also details actions undertaken in the Real Assets part of the portfolio, such as supporting the provision of affordable housing or more sustainable farming practices.

These activities were recognised at the Environmental Finance IMPACT Awards, where the Church Commissioners won the category 'Endowment/Foundation of the year'.

Archbishop of Canterbury warns against legalising assisted suicide

This, the Archbishop's statement on assisted suicide below, was made ahead of a recent new Private Member's Bill introduced in the House of Commons.

"Though our society might be divided over the question of assisted suicide, we all ultimately want the same thing for those who are suffering. We want compassion offered to those in deep distress and we want our loved ones to be able to die with dignity. My concern is that however well-intentioned, the Private Member's Bill being introduced in the House of Commons today will not achieve those things.

"The introduction of this Bill instead serves as an important call to properly fund and resource palliative care, community support services and mental health provision. As we listen to many of the heart-breaking experiences of those who have lost loved ones, it is important to remember that dying in pain is not inevitable. Good palliative care can provide us with the dignity and compassion we are all searching for as we reach the end of our lives. This proposed legislation risks eroding funding for palliative and hospice care.

"Furthermore, legalising assisted suicide would disproportionately impact many millions of vulnerable people, who might perceive themselves as a burden on those around them and the health service. My concern is that once you can ask for assisted suicide, it soon becomes something that you feel that you ought to do. Permission slips into being duty. This does not represent true choice for all, and I worry that no amount of safeguards will ensure everyone's safety at the most vulnerable point of their lives.

"A good death and compassionate care should be available to everyone, but the Bill being introduced will not achieve that."

Lambeth Palace makes statement on Archbishop and Living in Love and Faith

Since the beginning of the *Living in Love and Faith* process, people across the Church of England have been studying, praying and sharing together about sexuality, identity, relationships and marriage. That process has revealed profound differences in theological conviction and biblical interpretation. But that does not change the fact that every group and every Christian has a place in the Church of England.

In his recent interview on the Leading podcast, the Archbishop of Canterbury was asked whether gay sex is sinful. Alastair Campbell was returning to this question having first put it to the Archbishop in 2017, during an interview for GQ magazine. In both interviews, Archbishop Justin spoke honestly about the fact that these are complex questions that have caused deep division in the Church. In both interviews, he said that what seem most central to him are stable, committed and faithful relationships.

Archbishop Justin was giving a personal view that reflects the position now held by himself, the Archbishop of York and many other bishops regarding sexual intimacy. He has been honest that his thinking has evolved over the years through much prayer and theological reflection – particularly through the *Living in Love and Faith* process – and he now holds this view sincerely. It reflects his commitment to continuing to welcome, love and include LGBTQ+ people more fully in the life of the Church.

However, there is no consensus among the bishops on this question, and the Church remains deeply divided. Archbishop Justin stressed his absolute commitment to those who hold a traditional view having "a full and undoubted place in the Church of England".

His answer does not indicate a changing of teaching from the House of Bishops. This is an ongoing conversation across the Church – and Archbishop Justin hopes that the bishops, together with clergy and laity, will keep praying and reflecting on these questions.

Christmas Quiz 2024

1. This year was a Leap Year. Were 1900 and 2000 Leap Years?
2. What is Whamaggedon?
3. Alan Bates hit the headlines in January. He shares his name with a famous actor, but why is he well known?
4. HRH Duke of Edinburgh met a special resident at St Helena in January who had also met his grandparents. Who is he?
5. A young actor, fresh out of drama school, was told by Arthur Lowe, "don't worry if there's not a lot of lines. They'll come. In the meantime get yourself a funny costume and stand near me". Who was the actor who passed away this year and starred in this classic sitcom?
6. Why did a family photo taken for Mothering Sunday lead to a lot of media speculation?
7. Why did North Korean television object to Alan Titchmarsh and his trousers?
8. How did a black cat called Matins get into trouble on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey?
9. Where was the Carnation Revolution fifty years ago?
10. What product manufacturer (a byword in usefulness) announced in 2024 they would introduce the first bladeless version?
11. Which Oxford Don applied unsuccessfully to be a code breaker in the 1940s? there was a note by his name "keen"
12. Where is the Elephant and Bear Line?
13. What is Election purdah?
14. What was Gamblegate?
15. 17th July was National Emoji Day. One of the most popular is known as ROTFL. What does that mean?
16. In this year's Olympics the Philippines gold medallist Carlos Yulo got an unusual reward as well as the medal. What was it?
17. In August a north Italian city advertised for people to learn an ancient skill. The job requirements include being 18 or over, having a high school-level education, knowing how to swim, and possessing a medical certificate that proves "a healthy and robust constitution". What job was this for?
18. What music celebrated its 200th anniversary? Liked by many, and Karl Marx thought it "a solemn mass of earthly joy"?
19. Why might you be looking forward to not looking back in anger?
20. What types of special judges were cancelled after 147 years' service and replaced electronically?



NEWS FROM THE BELFRY

Year's End

As we approach the end of the year it is wonderful to report that we have a new member in the band. He started learning earlier this year and has been ringing for Church Services for some time now, including his first wedding.

Remembrance Sunday was on November 10th and we rang on half-muffled bells as customary from 10am ahead of the service at 10.45 and act of Remembrance at 11am. Ringing is generally considered a joyous sound associated with calling the congregation to Sunday Service and for celebrating happy events such as weddings or anniversaries. Half-muffled ringing on the other hand is a special sound for sad and solemn occasions, and this experience was be another first for our newest ringer.



The muffle is a leather pad which you may have seen in a previous item when we had ours repaired by the Cranleigh Cobbler. Each muffle is strapped to the clapper where it strikes the bell resulting in a much softer sound. Half-muffled means that the clapper is muffled on one side only, resulting in alternate loud and soft blows: all the bells sound loud for one row and then soft for the next. The result is a melancholic sound, a bit like an echo, which is also used for funerals on request as an alternative to tolling a single bell.

As this magazine also covers the festive season may we take this opportunity to wish you all A Very Happy Christmas. We are expecting to ring for the service on Christmas Day at 10am (ringing starts half an hour beforehand) but we will not be holding our usual Wednesday evening practice, much as we all love to ring. We may keep the practice on the following Wednesday though, as it will be New Year's Day, depending on individual availability.

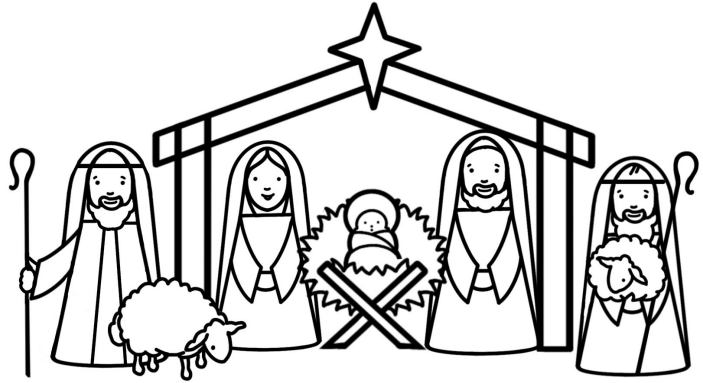
If you would like to come and watch or have a go and perhaps learn to ring for a particular event in the future please come along and join us on a practice night. We meet on Wednesdays, 7.45 pm to 9.15 pm
For more details call Sue on 01306 627168 or email ockleybellringers@btinternet.com

For more details call Sue on 01306 627168 or email ockleybellringers@btinternet.com

Editor: Canon David Winter reflects on the coming of Jesus...

The most beautiful story

A well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. "But you're an atheist", his interviewer protested. "Yes", he replied, "but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told."



That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

Probably the best-known statue in the world is 'Christ the Redeemer', towering over the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough.

His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, it is 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.

What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again. It's time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.'
Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!



PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

Prayer for December 2024

Father, the days are short; darkness deepens in December and this year it seems to reflect the darkness in so many parts of the world. We think especially of the land You came to, all those years ago, and other nearby lands where so many are suffering.

Father, thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.

Thank you that, in Jesus, You have conquered death and darkness; that one day, everyone will bow before Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, whose Kingdom shall never end.

Help us, in thankfulness and love, to share Your Christmas Light and Hope and Joy. Hallelujah! In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship
might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in mission,
that the hope within
might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in service,
that the path we follow
might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.

Amen

<https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers>

Prayer for the Middle East

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in the Middle East. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

Amen.

© Tearfund

Christmas Trees

Norway sent a Christmas tree
It marks the Saviour's birth,
The incarnation manifest
As God came down to earth

A babe born to a virgin
Would grow up as a man,
Yet still divine, such mystery,
To implement God's plan.

Another tree was put in place
A sacrifice was made,
As on that cross He gave His life
That all men could be saved.

So celebrate that wondrous day
When Jesus left His home,
To bring salvation down to man,
And claim us as His own.

By Megan Carter

*Faith dispels doubt and hesitation, it liberates
you from suffering and delivers you to the city
of peace and happiness.*

(His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

Our Churchyard – A Haven for Fungi

by Nick Ward

You may have occasionally noticed mushrooms in the churchyard as you make your way to and from Church. This year, we have been blessed with a super-abundance of fungi in the many grassy areas around the Church. We have also been blessed by the dedicated work of a very knowledgeable lady in the village, Sarah Crowder, who has been identifying the numerous species to be found there. Sarah guided Liz, Dineke and me on a memorable walk around the churchyard to show us some of the many treasures to be found there. Liz thought it would be a great topic for inclusion in 'Inspire' - and somehow I found myself agreeing to write it!

On our trip around, I took a lot of photos and thought it would be good to share some of them with you. Photos of course enable us to have a permanent reminder of what's there. Although fungi can be found through the year, their main season is quite short: mid-September to mid-November, although it varies considerably with weather and individual species.

There is a group of mushrooms called 'waxcaps' which are small, often brightly coloured, and which grow in older untreated grassland. At the first sniff of chemicals, fertilisers and so on, they are off, so habitats for these mushrooms has been declining at an alarming rate for many years. We have many different species of waxcaps in our churchyard. Indeed the same could be said for many of the other species which have found sanctuary in our churchyard. And sanctuary is what it is – a sanctuary so important the it may receive the accolade of 'nationally important' for the variety of the fungi to be found there. Not only are there lots of different species; some are rare, even to the point of being critically endangered.

Here are just three of the many different waxcaps to be found in our churchyard.



It's important to remember that what we see as mushrooms are only the outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible world of 'mycelia' which dwell beneath the surface, often in huge quantity and sometimes of great age. Indeed, the world's largest and possibly oldest living organism is not a tree, or whale, but a fungus in a forest in Oregon which covers four square miles, could be more than 8,000 years old and weigh as much as 35,000 tons! These mycelia form a vital role in recycling dead matter and also in feeding living plants, especially trees, most of which rely on a relationship between their roots and fungal mycelia to grow vigorously and healthily. So fungi are not just slightly slimy things that pop up in the autumn, they are absolutely crucial to the biodiversity and health of the planet.

Time for some more pictures. I chose these to demonstrate the variety of shapes and forms that fungi take. Some are very different from the usual mushroom shape we are familiar with from trips to the supermarket and when we are out and about.



You can see how different these are; more like little tongues arising from the earth. There is in fact a species called the earthtongue which Sarah has found in the churchyard and this is one of the ones which is quite rare, and though they might not look much at first sight, are indicator species of the value the churchyard has as a site of old and unspoiled grassland (Sarah's photo).



Next to the earthtongue is a species known as the lilac pinkgill in a little group which is also quite a rarity, and to finish off, we have the snakeskin grisette, again distinctly uncommon, photographed from above to show the perfect beauty of some mushrooms. Keep your eyes peeled and you never know what you might find! There are dozens more and below, is a list, prepared by Sarah, of what has been found so far – which itself will be by no means exhaustive!

Continued on page 14

Next to the earthtongue is a species known as the lilac pinkgill in a little group which is also quite a rarity, and to finish off, we have the snakeskin grisette, again distinctly uncommon, photographed from above to show the perfect beauty of some mushrooms. Keep your eyes peeled and you never know what you might find! There are dozens more and below, is a list, prepared by Sarah, of what has been found so far – which itself will be by no means exhaustive!



- *Agaricus augustus* - The Prince
- *Aleuria aurantia* - Orange peel fungus
- *Amanita ceciliae* - Snakeskin grisette.
- *Clavaria fragilis* - White spindles
- *Clavaria fumosa* - Smoky spindles
- *Clavulinopsis corniculata* - Meadow coral
- *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* - Golden spindles
- *Clavulinopsis luteoalba* - Apricot club
- *Clavulinopsis umbrinella* - Beige coral
- *Clitocybe nebularis* - Clouded funnel
- *Clitocybe rivulosa/dealbata* - Fool's funnel. Deadly.
- *Cuphophyllus pratensis* - Meadow waxcap
- *Cuphophyllus virgineus* - Snowy waxcap
- *Dermaloma cuneiform* - Crazy cap
- *Dermaloma* spp
- *Entoloma lampropus* - Azureleg pinkgill
- *Entoloma* spp - Possibly Papillate
- *Entoloma* spp - Possibly serriceum
- *Entoloma porphyrophaeum* - Lilac pinkgill
- *Geoglossum* sp. infected with *Hypomyces papulosorae* - Earthtongue
- *Gliophorus irrigata* - Slimy waxcap (moderately rare)-
- *Gliophorus psittanicus* - Parrot waxcap.
- *Hygrocybe ceracea* - Butter waxcap
- *Hygrocybe chlorophana* - Golden waxcap.
- *Hygrocybe glutinipes* - Glutinous waxcap.
- *Hygrocybe coccinea* - Scarlet waxcap
- *Hygrocybe conica* – Blackening waxcap
- *Hygrocybe mucronella* - Bitter waxcap
- *Hygrocybe inspida* - Spangle waxcap
- *Inocybe* sp.
- *Lactarius rufus* - Rufous milkcap
- *Lepiota* sp.
- *Macrocystidia cucumis* - Cucumber cap
- *Melanoleuca* spp.
- *Mycena* spp. – Bonnets
- *Rugosomyces carneus* - Pink Domecap
- *Scleroderma* spp - Earthball
- *Stropharia caerulea* - Blue roundhead
- *Xerocomellus* spp with secondary *hypomyces* infection

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

December 2024

Welcome to the Christmas edition of InSpire 2024. Amazing to think that we are not far off our 100th issue and I'm not sure that when I started the magazine in February 2017 I thought it would last this long, but I'm glad it has! Hopefully, it is a way of connecting us all together in our faith and in our church life. I know it is also enjoyed by some who do not worship at our churches, but choose to go in and get a copy of the magazine. For that, I am hugely grateful as it has always been an aspiration to reach as many people as we can with InSpire!

This is a packed issue so I won't write too much, but as mentioned on page 6 in News from the Pews, I'm really thrilled to be able to report that the 2024 Capel Christmas Fair raised £1,661.63 for each of our charities—the parish churches of Capel and Ockley, together with the Motor Neurone Disease Association. There are messages of thanks on page 6 so I won't repeat it here! Well done to the hardworking teams who organised the Harvest supper and Murder Mystery once more. They raised £1,777. Today, we are more reliant than ever on effective fundraising, but these opportunities have also created new and enjoyable events for members of our communities to attend and join in the fun!

Thank you to Nick Ward for his fascinating article on fungi in our churchyard at Capel on pages 14-16. It is well worth a read! My thanks to Chris Cooper too for his latest article connected to his time at the Bluebell Railway—see 'Faith and the Atlantic Project' on pages 18 and 19.

The Rt Revd Andrew Watson became the Bishop of Guildford 10 years ago this month and took the opportunity to reflect on his the last 10 years in his Presidential Address at Saturday's Diocesan Synod. His words are included on pages 26,27 and 29. Also you can read Bishop Andrew's statement on the Makin Review on our news pages 8 and 9.

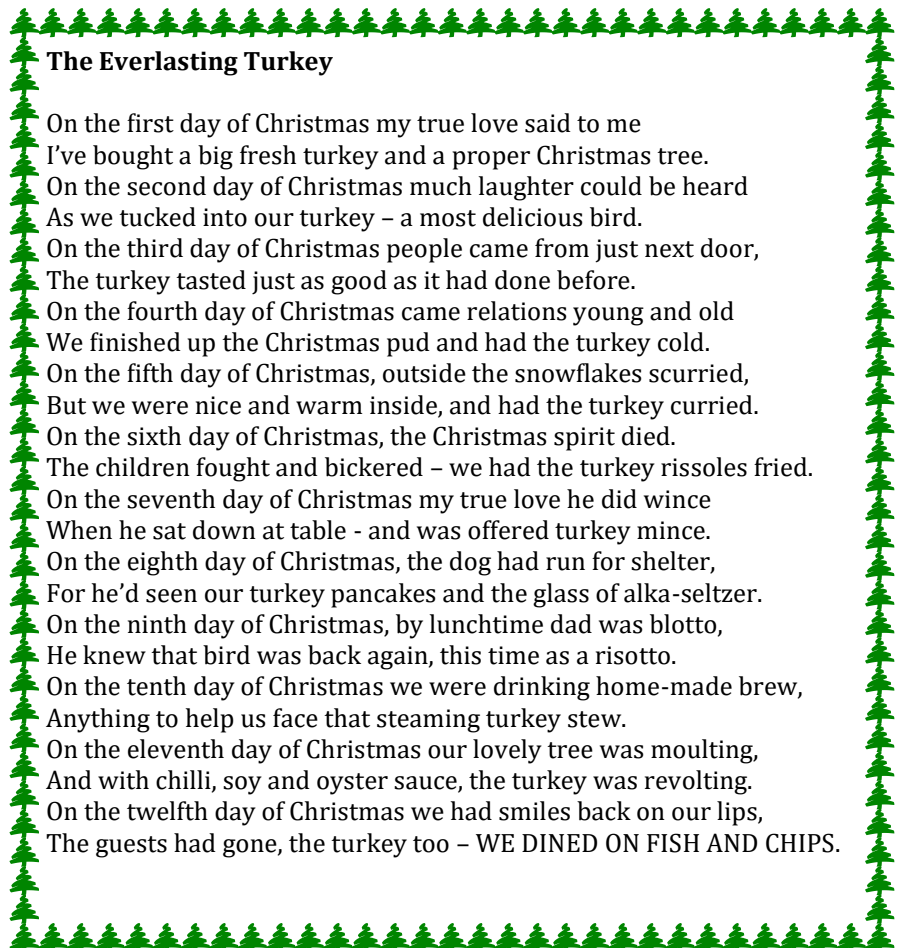
We are actively looking for sponsors for the 2025 issues of InSpire magazine, so if you might be interested, please have a chat with me or Helen Burt, our Treasurer. Quite often sponsors can share an issue, keeping the costs down. We would be very grateful of your support as this enables us to keep the magazine free of charge to our readers.

In the meantime, best wishes for Christmas and the New year and let's pray for Peace to grace the troubled regions of our world.

With my best wishes,

Suzanne

inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

Faith and the Atlantic Project

by Chris Cooper

On the afternoon of Tuesday March 5th 2024 a new steam locomotive emerged from 'Atlantic House' works at Sheffield Park on the Bluebell Railway. This was the first full size engine to be constructed in Sussex since the Brighton Works closed in 1958. This great act of faith came about in many chapters, but it all started back in 2000 after a suitable boiler was discovered in an Essex firm's yard in 1999.

The excellent state of the ex Great Northern Railway (GNRY) boiler was due to its short life on a locomotive from 1941 to 1945 when the engine was cut up and the boiler sold for industrial use. With the discovery of the boiler, still with its construction dates stamped on its plates, gave rise to the formation of the Atlantic Project.

The project was to reconstruct the 4-4-2 loco 'Beachy Head' withdrawn by British railways in 1858 and scrapped at Eastleigh despite protests from railway enthusiasts. The project was launched in 2000 by members of the locomotive department and the trustees, so members of the public were invited to sponsor parts of the engine rebuild programme. Such was the interest that not only were we able to order parts, but a contract was placed for a two road shed on a site opposite the Locomotive Works.

'Atlantic House' was opened in 2006 so work could take place in the dry and keep tools together. Even now the Project was full of naysayers. 'We have enough locomotives already' and 'the new build is impossible' or 'too expensive!'. Despite all this we decided to carry on, and with the shed constructed, we had a home!

The National Railway Museum at York had become interested in the project and offered the use of the original plans of construction. This was fine but the snag was that they were all in Imperial measure so had to be converted to metric. Fortunately, God gave us some very clever engineers and in due course the main frames were cut, not by the old hammer method, but by high pressure water jets. With the frames now assembled all the other parts began to take shape, the most and largest items being the driving wheels. A specialist foundry was found for these as they are 6ft 8ins in diameter. Wooden patterns have to be made for the moulders and these are used for the castings in metal at very high temperature.

By 2018 the project was well advanced, but non of this was possible without a great deal of money being raised. The Atlantic Sponsorship Scheme was started so that everyone who wanted to could help, and a list was published in the Atlantic News of the parts available. Not everyone could cover the cost of the main frame at £2,750 each, so in order to allow junior members to help, fitted bolts at £6.00 each proved a success. Despite the original naysayers the project was well supported, and each contributor has received an A4 size certificate which carries the name of the sponsor, and the item involved.



By 2018 the Westinghouse brake and pump and front foot plating were in place, the boiler tubes installed and tender work resumed. 2019 saw the smokebox fitted and the boiler claddings fitted. Later in the year the main part of the engine, the boiler, passed the hydraulic test.

All this work by just a few people attracted visitors on open days from far and wide. Some made donations to the project and such was the interest and support that the cost of just over 1.1 million pounds will be covered. On March 5th 2024 the completed locomotive was moved from its home of 28 years to the running sheds of the Bluebell to await trial running and final approval for service later that year. It finally entered service on August 23rd 2024.

Due to the faith of so many people 'Beachy Head' will grace the Sussex countryside once again after the original locomotive was cut up in 1958.



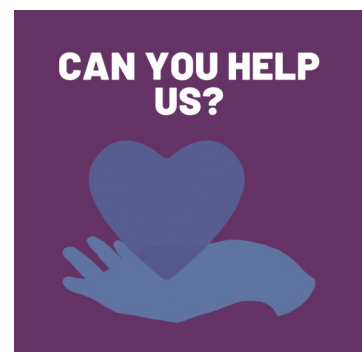
Could you sponsor an issue of InSpire in 2025?

We are grateful to all our sponsors of the 2024 issues! It is that time of year again when we start to appeal for sponsors for the year ahead.

If you would like to sponsor an issue in 2025, please speak to Suzanne or Helen Burt our Treasurer. We'd love to hear from you. Often, sponsorship can be shared with someone else to halve the costs!

Our sponsors enable us to keep the magazine free of charge for our readers.

Thank you for considering and thank you to all past sponsors.



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham gives thanks to the God who comes among us...

Christmas Geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''.* Matthew 1:23.

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?"

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

Christmas play

The Sunday School Christmas play was in full swing when the teacher prompted: "And what was it that guided the Wise Men from the East?" Right on cue, the pre-schoolers turned their large white letters to face the audience. However, the last four children in the lineup had somehow reversed their sequence, and so the answer was: C H R I S T M A S R A T S.

Christmas - time to remember Christians facing persecution

This Christmas, there are about 360 million Christians worldwide who will not be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

They dare not do so.

That's because 1 in every 7 believers globally live in countries where they suffer oppression and discrimination for their faith.

So, instead of going to church and singing carols, they face violence and abduction, while others risk losing their jobs and livelihood. According to the latest World Watch List from Open Doors, there are 13 countries where Christians face extreme persecution, and 37 more where they face general persecution.

Fortunately, there are charities working on the frontlines to help these persecuted believers. You may wish to support one this Christmas, as a way of showing solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters worldwide.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide - specialises in freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). They work in 25 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. CSW is the only advocacy organisation with a sole focus on freedom of religion or belief that has United Nations accreditation.

Go to: <https://www.csw.org.uk/home.htm>

Help The Persecuted – works in 13 countries, including the Middle East, Turkey, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Yemen and North Africa. They currently provide a safe refuge in Lebanon to those fleeing the Middle East Conflict.

Go to: <https://htp.org>

Open Doors - has been helping persecuted Christians in over 60 countries for more than six decades. They supply Bibles, provide emergency relief and help persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term.

Go to: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

Release International - supports persecuted Christians in 30 countries around the world - prayerfully, pastorally and practically. Go to: <https://releaseinternational.org/>



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Editor: As the situation in the Middle East worsens as 2024 comes to a close, you might like to see the guide below from Tearfund as to how and what to pray. (There is also their prayer for the Middle East on page 13.)

The Situation in the Middle East - a Guide to Prayer from Tearfund

Over the past year, conflict in the Middle East has devastated lives across the region and millions have fled their homes in search of safety.

In Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, local churches and Tearfund's partners are responding to people's urgent needs and providing life-saving aid.

You can use this prayer guide to call out to God in intercessory prayer, which simply means praying on behalf of someone else. God hears your prayers. You can trust him with them.

What to pray...

Pray for peace

- Pray for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the violence, and the release of all hostages.
- Pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that lead to lasting peace. Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

Pray for safety

- Pray for all civilians – that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with disabilities.
- Pray for humanitarian workers – for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.
- Pray for the safe distribution of food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies and fuel. Pray for people forced to flee their homes. Pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home.

Pray for strength

- Pray for church leaders – for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty. Pray for bravery as they guide their communities and offer loving support.
- Pray for faith leaders and communities across the region – that they would stand firm, and for unity, connection and mutual understanding so that they can help bring people together and show kindness.
- Pray for Tearfund and our partners in Gaza, Lebanon and neighbouring countries – that God would strengthen them as they support schools and hospitals, and as they provide food and essentials to families who have been displaced.

Pray for hope

- Pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering. Ask God to save them from despair – for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.
- Pray that people across the Middle East wouldn't lose hope – that peace is possible.
- Pray for the families of hostages from Israel and beyond who are desperately awaiting news of their loved ones. Pray for the tens of thousands of people in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Israel who have had to leave their homes under horrific circumstances and are dealing with the trauma of the ongoing conflict.

Pray for healing

- Pray for people who have been traumatised or injured; ask God to heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them deep comfort.
- Pray for hospitals and medical staff – for strength as they continue to provide life-saving services to all those affected. Ask God to provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and injured.

Continued on page 23

Ways to pray...

In 2022, we shared [creative ways to pray for Ukraine](#). You can try some of these ideas while praying for the Middle East:

- Use scriptures on peace to centre your thoughts on God and his promises in the Bible.
- Pray with a map of Gaza and Israel to guide your prayers.
- Light candles to help you meditate on Jesus as the light of the world.
Set up prayer stations in your church.

Thank you for joining us in prayer. Let's continue to pray and act together on behalf of people suffering the effects of violence everywhere.

tearfund

Iconic Bethlehem Carol Sheet celebrates 70 years in print

It was back in 1954 when the charity, BibleLands Mission Aid Society, first tentatively decided to print a colourful compilation of popular Christmas carols, alongside images of some of the people BibleLands served.

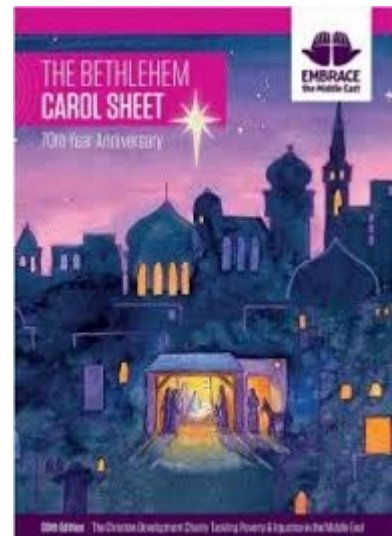
From the start, the scheme was an immense success. The carol sheets were so popular that even that first year, 100,000 copies were insufficient to meet the demand of schools, churches, British army bases at home and abroad and Royal Navy ships across the world. The donations appeal towards the BibleLands projects in the carol sheet also raised hundreds of pounds.

When 500,000 copies were quickly sold in 1955, BibleLands knew it had a winner on its hands.

So it was that, in 1956, with 1.5 million carol sheets sales as the target, an accompanying catalogue of Christmas cards and gifts and prayers for God's favour was also launched. The plan was overwhelmingly successful – much needed funds were raised for the work of BibleLands.

Since then, many millions of carol sheets have been sold, until this year the charity, now renamed Embrace the Middle East, has produced a new-look Edition with 27 popular carols, including three new additions for this year: *O Holy Night*, *See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw (Calypso Carol)* and *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*.

For more information or to purchase your copy, visit <https://shop.embraceme.org/collections/bethlehem-carols>



Editor's Note: With thanks to Phil Partridge for this information which will also be published in the Capel & Beare Green magazine.

SCOTT-BROADWOOD INFANTS SCHOOL: Proposed Move

The (below) consultation data was obtained on 19 Nov 2024, by Capel Parish Council (CPC), after a Freedom Of Information request.

Some totals and percentages have been added, also grouping of numbers for Pro- and Anti- move.

Scott-Broadwood Infant and Weald Primary Schools Formal Consultation July 2024

129 Responses

Total Answers: **903**

Status: Closed

Question	Yes		No Opinion		No	Pro- Move		Anti- Move
<i>I am broadly in favour of amalgamating Scott-Broadwood and the Weald to a single academy on a single site</i>	39		1		89	30%	1%	69%
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Dis-agree	Strongly Dis-agree			
<i>I believe that, by moving to a single site, the quality of education will improve for all pupils</i>	29	9	11	30	50	29%	9%	62%
<i>Relocating Reception/KS1 pupils on to the Weald site is a logical option given the challenges faced by the schools</i>	35	10	7	28	49	35%	5%	60%
<i>Closing the Scott-Broadwood site and consolidating to The Weald would <u>not</u> present logistical barriers for parents, carers or others in the local community</i>	19	12	5	31	62	24%	4%	72%
<i>Offering provision on a single site at The Weald would attract more pupils than the current 2-site offering</i>	25	6	14	30	54	24%	11%	65%
<i>Closing the Scott-Broadwood site would <u>not</u> have an impact on the local community</i>	11	9	6	15	88	16%	5%	80%
Date in 2025	Jan	Feb H/T +Easter			Other			
<i>What would be your preferred date to move to a single site, if confirmed (NB: 6 for Feb Half Term, 14 for Easter)</i>	25	20			84	35%	0%	65%
TOTALS	183	66	44	134	476	249	44	610
						28%	5%	68%

The CPC email says "Dept for Education already have enough, including a Business Case"

After the Good Shepherd Trust's promise at the 8 July '24 Consultation meeting, we still await the posting of any information about progress on this onto websites (their way to inform people), especially now they have, apparently, formally applied to the Department of Education to close the school in our village.

philip_partridge@btinternet.com

BOOK REVIEWS

by Parish Pump



Do Not Be Afraid - the Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2024

By Rachel Mann, SPCK, £10.99

These meditations tell stories of God waiting with us when we're in fear or distress; of coming - bidden or unbidden - to relieve our loneliness; of disconcerting us, desiring us and surprising us with joy... Most of all they remind us that Jesus Christ comes into the world as one long waited for; as the Servant who waits on others; as the One on whom we are, adoringly, called to wait.

The Love That Moves the Sun - Advent hope in a time of crisis

By Paul Dominiak, Canterbury Press, £10.39

The season of Advent traditionally involved meditation upon the Four Last Things: heaven, hell, death, and judgement. This ancient but nearly lost sacred art of contemplation encouraged Christians to evaluate who they were, what they treasured and how they ought to live in view of the world to come. *The Love That Moves the Sun* revives this ancient practice and blends it with contemporary concerns such as climate emergency, rise of populism, racial injustice and economic inequality.

The Big Big Big Christmas - (That Was Also Very Small)

By Emma Randall and Mei Shan Dibble, 10Publishing, £4.99

The wonder of the Incarnation is told here in a fresh, funny and child-friendly way. The book offers a hilarious series of zany comparisons that get bigger and bigger until they help children discover just how big God is and how completely mind-blowingly amazing it is that He became a tiny baby at Christmas.

Whose Promised Land? - The Continuing Conflict over Israel and Palestine

By Colin Chapman, SPCK, £16.99 (revised & expanded edition)

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has profoundly affected the Middle East for almost 80 years, and shows no sign of ending.

With two peoples claiming the same piece of land for different reasons, it remains a huge political and humanitarian problem. Can it ever be resolved? If so, how? These are the basic questions addressed in this revised and expanded sixth edition of Colin Chapman's highly acclaimed book.

Having lived and worked in the Middle East at various times since 1968, Chapman explains the roots of the problem and outlines the arguments of the main parties involved. He also explores the theme of land in the Old and New Testaments, discussing legitimate and illegitimate ways of using the Bible in relation to the conflict.

This new and fully updated edition covers developments over the past ten years, including the war that broke out between Israel and Hamas in October 2023.

Wow! Christmas - Creatively explore stories in the Bible

By Martha Shrimpton. SPCK 10.99

Here is a well designed and colourful Christmas activity book for children.

The stories cover the birth of Jesus, the shepherds, the journey of the Wise Men, and the giving of gifts. With each story there is a prayer, a craft, and a chance to act out the story, followed by a time for reflection, discussion, and creative praise.



Bishop Andrew reflects on his last 10 years at Diocesan Synod

The Rt Revd Andrew Watson became the Bishop of Guildford 10 years ago this month and took the opportunity to reflect on his the last 10 years in his Presidential Address at Saturday's Diocesan Synod:

"Ten years ago this month I became the Bishop of Guildford in a strange legal ceremony in the Crypt of St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, famous for its 'Bow Bells'. I didn't properly take up my post till the beginning of 2015, so I don't count the 10th anniversary as especially significant. But it gives me the opportunity to share a personal reflection on where we've come from in the past ten years, where we are now, and a little of where we may be going next – which I hope will be helpful at the start of this new Triennium.

"Reflecting back over the past decade, it seems obvious to divide it into three distinct eras: pre-Covid, Covid, and post-Covid. The global pandemic had such a revolutionary impact on every aspect of our lives, not least our life as a Church, that it will always be regarded as one of the epoch-making moments of the 21st century.

"Pre-Covid, back in early 2015, we gathered together a diverse and creative group from around the Diocese to work on the first bullet-point of my episcopal job description: 'to review the diocese's current aspirations set out in 'Common Purpose' and to shape a vision for the gospel message and church which serves a diverse society' – and a few of you were part of that group.

It had the best possible agenda at every meeting, which went something like this: 'What's been happening? What's happening now? And what do we do next?' And following a major listening exercise around the diocese, in which 1500 people participated, we came up with Transforming Church, Transforming Lives (TCTL).

"TCTL, as it came to be known, was launched to the clergy in 2016 in a large marquee in front of the Guildford Cathedral and was greeted with enthusiasm. People warmed to the focus on Transformation, because of a shared sense that the best thing in Christian ministry is to witness lives transformed by the gospel of Christ, and communities transformed through the witness of God's people within them. They were positive about an approach which recognised and celebrated the diversity of the diocese, putting forward a framework for discussion not a blueprint for implementation. And they also liked the idea of returning to their parishes with a clearer mandate to focus on vision, around the drawing together of a Church Development Plan.

"We also agreed on twelve goals through the TCTL process, covering almost every aspect of our life together, from children's work to communications, church buildings to overseas mission. Some of those goals were very specific: developing a hundred new worshipping communities by 2027; growing the number of clergy by 50% by 2020; and it was exciting to see how quickly we reached the target of 100 new worshipping communities, as many of our parishes developed some fresh areas of outreach - whether a new midweek congregation, a Messy Church group, or a service in a care home. Nationally, over that time it was also exciting to witness a growth in ordinand numbers. We didn't quite make 50%, but we got up to 43%, from 400 and something a year to over 600.

"At the same time, we were witnessing some significant changes to the senior team, including the appointment of a new Diocesan Secretary in Peter Coles and Guildford's first female bishop in Bishop Jo. Under Peter's leadership, we brought the central team together into one place, Church House Guildford, and then undertook a review of our central services, on the basis that the sole purpose of Church House was to support our parishes, their churches, chaplaincies and schools. It was a necessary exercise, but also a painful one, with a significant number of redundancies. In particular, we became aware of how much we were subsidising our local authorities through the then set-up of our Community Engagement Team and reshaped that aspect of our ministry completely. And it was also during that time that the idea of Mission Enablers and the Parish Needs Process began to develop.

"And then Covid came along. And all of a sudden old dogs like me had to learn a whole host of new tricks. Clergy and laity across the diocese responded brilliantly, quickly learning new tricks themselves so as to keep the home fires burning. Zoom, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, and good old-fashioned Phone trees came into their own, as ways of keeping connected. Churches developed local partnerships to reach out to the most lonely and deprived in their communities. And there were huge challenges, not least the deaths of some dearly loved members of our church communities, and the debilitating effects of long Covid. But there were also opportunities for churches to rethink their vision and priorities.

"As part of that rethink, we began to recognise that the 12 goals of TCTL were all very well, but no one could remember them – so we boiled them down to three: Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community. We also recognised a second flaw in our original thinking, which was that the Church Development Plans were extremely patchy – some of them clearly thought through and prayed over, others giving the appearance of having been written on the back of an envelope the night before they were due. How could we create a greater sense of partnership between the coalface and those in our central team, was the question, creating a culture of 'us and us' rather than 'them and us' in our shared endeavour to be a TCTL? And how could we get better at sharing good practice between the parishes, given that the real wisdom is generally out there, rather than held in some depository in Church House, or down the road at Willow Grange?

"Post-Covid, our worshipping numbers were well down, at only around 75% of where they'd been before. Some had died, others had lost confidence and still others had simply got out of the habit of going to church. Nationally, ordinand numbers plummeted too, and have still not properly recovered.

"It was during that time, though, that our Parish Needs Process began in earnest: the first-ever attempt to bring the parish and the centre together in quite such a systematic way. There was plenty of learning there too, and the learning continues. But very quickly some significant benefits began to emerge. For one thing, our training became much more focussed, being determined by the real needs on the ground, rather than a scattergun approach from the centre. For another, the fragility of a number of our parishes became far more evident, leading us to deploy a range of different approaches so as to secure healthy, viable ministry for the future. And for third, the synergy between parishes – where one could learn from the experience of another – became increasingly significant.

"As the Mission Enablers started reporting back, it also became clear that there were some real gaps in our mission strategy and approach to vocations. For one thing, we were failing to connect with the large majority of young people across the diocese. For another, we needed new vocational pathways so as to raise up more theologically-trained lay leaders and a broader cohort of ordinands. And during the course of this Diocesan Synod, we will be receiving regular updates from our new Youth Catalyst scheme (largely funded by the central Church of England) and from our Local Ministry Programme, and will need to get used to phrases like 'Caleb ordinands' (i.e. those who start their training in their 60s) and LAMS (i.e. 'Lay Associate Ministers').

"Now all of this, praise God, is beginning to bear some significant fruit. We have had three years of solid growth since 2020, and our numbers are now getting close to 2018 levels, placing us top of the table of dioceses in the country if you're feeling competitive, or if the Bishop of Guildford is needing cheering up after a difficult day! And we're also experiencing a welcome rise in our vocations to both lay and ordained ministries, on top of the boost that will be provided once our Caleb ordinands start coming through.

"On the wider front, we are grateful for the work of our Diocesan Board of Education in overseeing our church schools, and will receive periodic reports from Alex Tear, our Director of Education, not least at a time when the new government is rethinking the business of academisation; and we also give thanks for the appointment of Bob Cooper as our new Dean, who will be taking up his post in January, and also for Stuart Beake and the team who have been steering our Cathedral through some choppy waters. And meanwhile, Church House Guildford is on the move once again, relocating onto the Cathedral site following the restructuring of the central team and the new patterns of hybrid working since Covid – which will bring in considerable savings in the long term.

"But there are, of course, some brutal facts here too as we look to the future – some of our churches that continue to struggle to keep their heads above water, whether missionally, financially or both and, most especially our continuing disunity over Living in Love and Faith and the recent fall-out from the Makin Review, including the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Living in Love and Faith will return to this Synod in the Spring, and meanwhile, I give thanks for the graciousness and generosity of so many in this diocese who take opposing views in these matters. The Makin Review is clearly a deeply troubling document, not least personally in my unusual role: and I would value your prayers for endurance, integrity and wisdom. And meanwhile, I'm sure you'll join with me in praying for all victims of abuse, and in recognising the magnificent work of our Parish Safeguarding Advisers in the parishes and our excellent safeguarding team at Church House.

Continued on page 29

Sol Invictus, Emperors and how Christmas began

It was 1,750 years ago, on 25th December 274, that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded and launched the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion. He erected a temple and declared 25th December a national holiday, to be known as the Feast of the Unconquered Sun. In 336, after the conversion of the emperor Constantine, the Church in Rome began to celebrate Christmas on 25th December.

Aurelian, who was born in Moesia – the south-eastern Balkans – rose from modest beginnings to become a strong and successful Emperor at one of the most difficult times in Roman history. He defeated many attempts to destroy the empire from without and within, notably attempts by the Gallic and Palmyrene Empires, and improved the lot of the common people.

His idea in promoting Sol Invictus as the main divinity of the Empire was to try to give everyone a god to believe in without betraying their own gods. However, when Constantine the Great, who was born during Aurelian's reign, became Emperor in 306 and converted to Christianity, it was the beginning of the end for Sol Invictus – and the start of the dominance of Christianity in the Roman Empire.

The date of 25th December was taken over and celebrated as the birthday of Jesus – and has been ever since, though scholars agree that this is an impossible date because flocks of sheep would not have been out in the fields in the dead of winter, and therefore shepherds would not have been out either. Other dates have been suggested, of which perhaps the most convincing is September 11.

It is a happy irony that in English, Christmas can be described accurately as the Feast of the Unconquered Son.



HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS - 3rd December - Birinus, an apostle to the English

Thousands of our churches are currently involved in various mission initiatives across the UK. If it is tough going at times, we should spare a thought for poor Birinus, a priest from Lombard, who was sent here on his own 14 centuries ago. Pope Honorius 1st gave him the daunting task of being the apostle to Wessex.

It was about 635 that Birinus first sailed across the Channel. He planned to convert all of Wessex, and then press on into the Midlands, where no Christian preacher had ever yet been. But once he began ministry in Wessex, Birinus found the West Saxons so pagan that he decided he better just stay and concentrate on them.

So Birinus began his ministry, endlessly travelling around Wessex, and preaching to whomever he encountered. Gradually he became known, and his message began to seep through.

Then a great breakthrough occurred: the King of Wessex, Cynegils, asked Birinus for instruction in the Christian faith. His daughter was going to marry Oswald, the Christian king of Northumbria, and for political reasons Cynegils now wanted to convert. So Birinus taught and baptised Cynegils and his family, and in return they gave him the Romano-British town of Dorchester as his see, and Birinus became the first bishop of Dorchester.

It was an excellent strategic move: Dorchester was on a main road and river in the centre of an area of dense Anglo-Saxon settlement. From his new 'headquarters', Birinus spent his last 15 years going on to build many churches around Wessex, and to baptise many people. Towards the end of his life Birinus dedicated a church at Winchester, which later became the ecclesiastical centre of the kingdom. (There is no record of Wessex bishops at Dorchester after 660.)

Any lesson in all this? Bloom where God plants you, and be faithful to your calling, however tough things may look at first, and however obscure the place. Birinus' obedience and faith planted Christianity in a key part of Britain, and so helped shape British history for centuries to come.

Editor: *The Ven John Barton considers the Christmas story ...*

No Room? On the Contrary

All over the world, doors are being slammed shut this Christmas. As the wars in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in Sudan rage on, millions are losing their homes and places of safety. Elsewhere, hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers and would-be immigrants are on the road, seeking refuge anywhere they can find it.

Meanwhile, in recent years vast numbers of Christians have been forced to flee from their ancient homelands in Syria and Iraq. They mirror the Holy Family's escape into Egypt. Every time yet another infant dies violently, it is a reminder of the first century massacre of babies in the Bethlehem region.

So perhaps this year, one carol will be sung with particular poignancy. It retells the message of angels, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests" and continues:

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled,
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, you men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.*

The angels' goodwill message will persist despite our clamour, for it proclaims God's all-embracing and eternal welcome. Whatever is happening on earth, Heaven's doors are ever open: it is home for everyone. The final biblical vision is of an all-encompassing city: "On no day will its gates ever be shut... the glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it."

Jesus, for whom there had been no room at the inn, taught that God's kingdom is home for every race: "I say to you that many will come from the East and the West, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." He reassured those anxious about the future: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms..."

No room in heaven? Don't you believe it!



Luke 2:14

Bishop Andrew reflects on his last 10 years at Diocesan Synod

continued from pages 26 & 27

"To finish with, I've been reflecting over the past week on Psalm 46, one of the Psalms for last Monday's Morning Prayer, whose metrical version has been rather improbably set to the Dambusters March!

"It's a Psalm written in the midst of global turmoil: 'The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken'. But it's equally a Psalm of extraordinary trust: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble'. And though this must be one of the most familiar verses in the whole Old Testament, I was struck afresh by verse 10: 'Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth'.

"It's partly, perhaps, because it's a brilliant example of that hope that I addressed in my homily this morning – confronting brutal facts, but never losing faith that we – ultimately that God – will prevail in the end. But it's also that I noticed for the first time, that this is a prophetic word from God Himself during the Psalmist's reflections.

"And with both world and church in real turmoil right now – perhaps we might hear that word again, spoken prophetically into our Synod this morning, and then have a few moments of stillness to strengthen our faith and our awareness of God's presence:

"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.'"

- *The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford at Diocesan Synod Saturday 23 November 2024*

6th December - How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. 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 lifework 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 around 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 already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

Editor: *The Revd Dr Jo White considers tree decorations*

Reflecting Faith: Christmas Tree Decorations

Over the decades the decorations on my home Christmas tree have come and gone. From an eclectic colourful mix of baubles and home-made items when the children were young, to a radical change to 'contemporary' and 'sophisticated'. It didn't last long, as quite frankly they seemed a bit dull, lifeless and lacking real meaning.

We quite rapidly added mementoes from holiday places to the mix to jazz it up a bit. In more recent years we've been receiving and proudly displaying creations from the next family generation - so we come back to the start.

How about your tree?

And what about the tree decorations you have in your church? What is the story behind those? Are they identical or very different?

In 1957 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Danville, USA, Frances Kipps Spencer thought that the traditional, brightly coloured Christmas ornaments were not fitting for a worship setting, so she started thinking about a way to reflect the Christian faith through ornaments.

The first ornament was the name of Jesus and His title: Christ. The Greek *Chi (X) Rho (P)* is the monogram for the Greek word *Christos* (Christ).

There followed over the years a whole collection symbolising the life of Jesus and his ministry.

These ornaments even have their own name: 'Chrismons,' which comes from the words *Christ* and *monogram*.

Just as wall paintings and stained glass in churches tell the Christian story these Chrismons are a clever way to communicate the same key ideas of the Christian faith particularly to annual church visitors.

Chrismons are white and gold, representing purity and value. When used with an evergreen Christmas tree, symbolising eternal life, and white lights covering the tree, symbolising Jesus as the light of the world the whole gives a story just in its use of colour with no words required.



This month: Have a look at the tree decorations in a church near you. What does the overall effect say? and are there any 'Chrismons' on it?

Easy Sodoku

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

© 2011 KrazyDad.com

Medium Sodoku

		1		7				3
			8				7	
		5				6		
1				4			3	
9			7		6			5
	8			3				1
		6					5	
	9				4			
4				8		7		

© 2011 KrazyDad.com

Solutions on
page 34

Quiz solutions

This year was a Leap Year. Were 1900 and 2000 Leap Years? *The year 2000 was a leap year. But 1900 was not. Every 4 years is a leap year.*

What is Whamageddon? *Whamageddon is a game played during the 24 days before Christmas in which players try to go from 1 December to the end of Christmas Eve (24 December) without hearing "Last Christmas" by Wham!.*

Alan Bates hit the headlines earlier this year. He shares his name with a famous actor but why is he well known? *Sir Alan Bates has been very active in trying to address the Post Office scandal.*

HRH Duke of Edinburgh met a special resident at St Helena in January who had also met his grandparents. Who is he? *A giant tortoise.*

A young actor, fresh out of drama school, was told by Arthur Lowe, "don't worry if there's not a lot of lines. They'll come. In the meantime get yourself a funny costume and stand near me". Who was the actor who passed away this year and starred in this classic sitcom? *Ian Lavender, who played Pike.*

Why did a family photo taken for Mothering Sunday lead to a lot of media speculation? *The photo taken by HRH Princess of Wales had been not very successfully altered.*

Why did North Korean television object to Alan Titchmarsh and his trousers? *He was wearing American style jeans.*

How did a black cat called Matins get into trouble on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey. *The cat fell asleep on the Coronation throne.*

Where was the Carnation Revolution fifty years ago? *Portugal.*

What product manufacturer (a byword in usefulness) announced in 2024 they would introduce the first bladeless version? *Swiss Army knife.*

Which Oxford Don applied unsuccessfully to be a code breaker in the 1940s? There was a note by his name "keen". *JRR Tolkien. The word "keen" may have been a misspelling of his surname.*

Where is the Elephant and Bear Line? *Near Coventry from Nuneaton down to Royal Leamington Spa.*

What is Election purdah? *The rule that civil servants and others will normally observe discretion about making new announcements or decisions that could influence voters.*

What was Gamblegate? *The allegations that some politicians took bets on when the general election would be when they had insider information.*

17th July was National Emoji Day. One of the most popular is known as ROTFL. What does that mean? *Roll on the floor laughing.*

In this year's Olympics the Philippines gold medallist Carlos Yulo got an unusual reward as well as the medal. What was it? *A lifetime of free colonoscopies.*

In August a north Italian city advertised for people to learn an ancient skill. The job requirements include being 18 or over, having a high school-level education, knowing how to swim, and possessing a medical certificate that proves "a healthy and robust constitution". What job was this for? *Gondolier.*

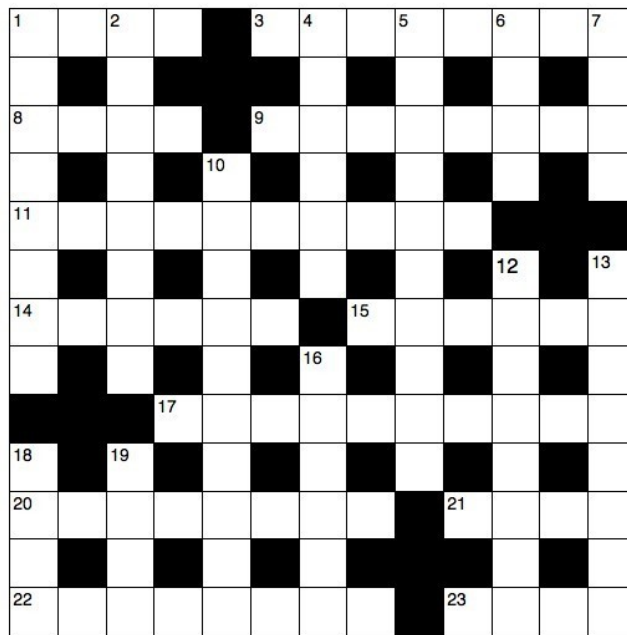
What music celebrated its 200th anniversary? Liked by many, and Karl Marx thought it "a solemn mass of earthly joy"? *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.*

Why might you be looking forward to not looking back in anger? *The news that the group Oasis are performing again.*

What types of special judges were cancelled after 147 years' service and replaced electronically? *Line judges at Wimbledon.*

QUIZ can be found on page 10

PUZZLES



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)

Puzzle solutions on page 34

Puzzle Solutions

Crossword Solution

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.

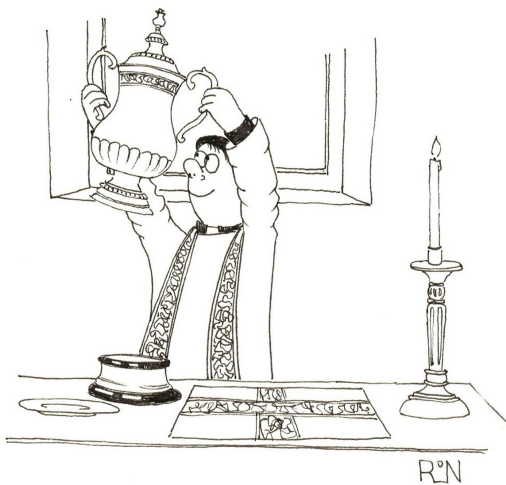
L	A	M	E		O	B	T	A	I	N	E	D	
O		A			R		C		E		A		
O	M	I	T		M	E	R	C	H	A	N	T	
K		N		P	A		O		R		E		
B	U	R	D	E	N	S	O	M	E				
A		O		S		T		P		B		T	
C	R	A	F	T		Y		P	L	E	A	S	E
K		D		I		A		I		S		T	
				B	L	A	C	K	S	M	I	T	H
A		C		E		T		H		L		E	
S	P	L	E	N	D	I	D			T	I	E	R
A		A		C		O				C		E	
S	I	N	G	E	I	N	G			H	A	N	D

Easy Sudoku solution

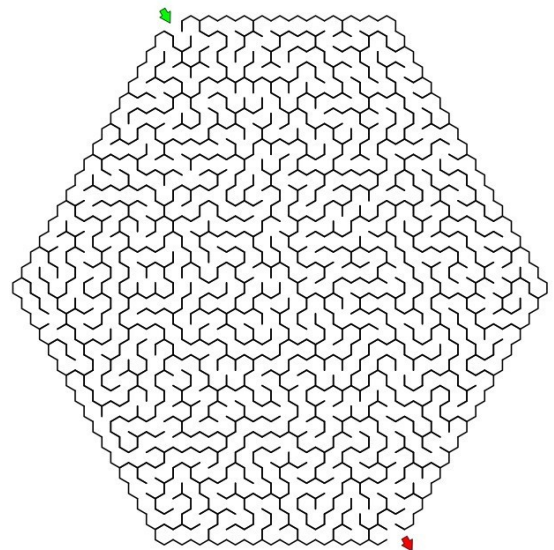
6	9	8	7	2	4	5	1	3
7	4	3	5	1	9	6	2	8
2	5	1	6	8	3	7	4	9
1	6	2	9	7	5	3	8	4
9	7	5	3	4	8	1	6	2
3	8	4	1	6	2	9	5	7
4	1	6	8	9	7	2	3	5
8	3	7	2	5	1	4	9	6
5	2	9	4	3	6	8	7	1

Medium Sudoku solution

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



*The special silverware only came out
once a year*



Harvest Supper – The Murder Mystery Play Returns Again

As with previous years, the Murder Mystery play was thoroughly enjoyed by audiences in both Ockley and Capel. Our thanks to Sylvie and the cast and those who kindly did the catering for both nights. We are delighted to announce that we raised £1,777. Thank you to everyone for their hard work!



Fundraising Activities



So many wonderful local businesses and crafters!

The Parish Churches of
Capel & Ockley receive
£1,661.63

and The Motor Neurone
Disease Association (MNDA)
receives £1,661.63

Capel
Christmas Fair
2024

Raised
£3,323.26 which is
split between our
two charities



A HUGE thank you to our
wonderful team of
volunteers without
whom we could not do
the Fair

Thanks to Pippa of @balloonsofnewdigate for
our wonderful balloon arch!



Photos: Suzanne Cole

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

*Wishing our readers a Happy Christmas
and every blessing for 2025*

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to
Suzanne Cole inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk By 20th of each month please.
If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, you can subscribe to InSpire via the church website:-
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine