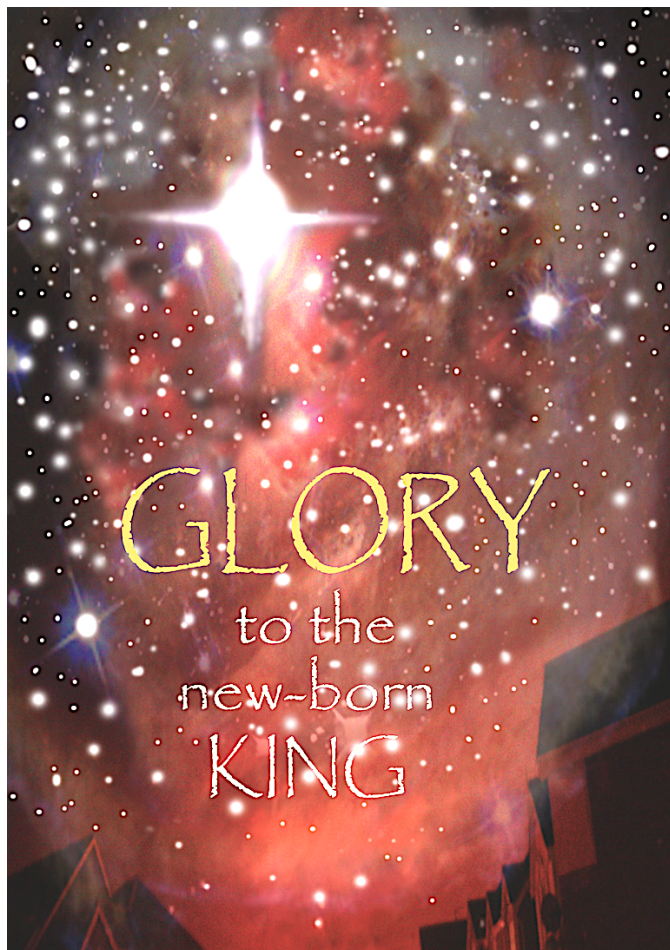


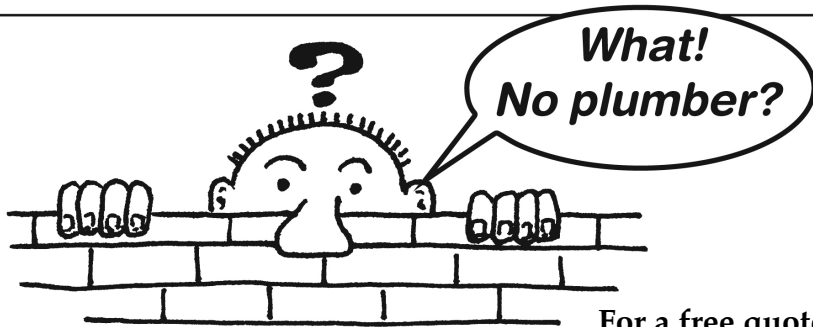


# *Church News*

for the Parishes of  
**Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden**



**December 2022**



*Need a plumber at any time?  
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 But not with my competitive rates,  
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## Who's Who in Bromham cont....

Children & Young	} Carol Jones	823307
People's work	} Rene Farquhar	307996
Electoral Roll	Mrs Rene Farquhar	307996
Ringers	Mr Robert Jones	881741
Thursday Prayer Gp	Mrs C Wisson	306833
Friends of St Owen's	www.friendsof stowens.org	
Secretary:	Mr David Butler	407351
	 facebook Friends of St Owens	

## Who's Who in Oakley

### Church Officers

Churchwardens	Mr G Palmer	07710 462535
	Mrs H Worley	262166
PCC Secretary	Mrs C Ord	823477
PCC Treasurer	Mrs S Ball	823133
Organist & Choirmaster - contact Jenny Sudworth		822859
Messy Church for pre-school children (birth - 4yrs) & their carers	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
Flowers	Mrs A Rolph	824849
St Mary's Ringers	Mr Bill Sellars	823473

## Who's Who in Stagsden

### Church Officers

Churchwarden	} Post holders names not published	
PCC Treasurer	} please contact thru Revd Di Harpham	918691
PCC Secretary	Caroline Heaton	
Ringers	Mr Richard Brown	823289
Flowers Team	please contact thru Revd Di Harpham	918691

If you know of further details for this page, or have information or articles to publish please send all material to the Editor by post or (preferably) by email - see details on page 3.

The Editor thanks Contributors and Advertisers for their material with acknowledgements to the "Parish Pump" website. Nevertheless, views expressed, and goods and services advertised are not endorsed by the PCC. **Please send material for publication to the Editor by the 22nd of the month.**



## Principal Services in the Benefice

<u>4th December</u>	<u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Ordination of Petra Yates (Stagsden)</b>
<u>11th December</u>	<u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley)
<u>14th December</u>	
6.30pm	Carol Service (Bromham)
<u>18th December</u>	<u>4th Sunday of Advent</u>
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)
3.30pm	Carol Service (Stagsden)
6.30pm	Carol Service (Oakley)

## For Christmas Services - see page 11

### Weekday Services

Mondays	
11.30am	Messy Church (Bromham)*
Thursdays	
10.00am	Messy Church (Oakley)*

*\*Messy Church closes at the end of School Term*

NB 10.30 church services are streamed via Zoom for those who find it difficult to attend in person (details on website [www.bromhambenefice.org](http://www.bromhambenefice.org))



‘We would love for you to join us to celebrate...’ So begins a card which has been sitting on our mantelpiece for some months. Isn’t it exciting to think that someone wants your presence at a special event or on a special occasion? This particular one is a wedding invitation – and in response Tim and I fly out on Boxing Day to attend our son and his fiancée’s wedding in Australia!

Maybe you’ve had an invitation recently – if not to a wedding, then to a birthday, anniversary or family party. Or simply to go out for a cup of tea – it doesn’t have to be a grand affair if ‘the pleasure of your company is requested’ and you will make the moment better for someone by being there. And then you have to decide – will you go??

This year the Church of England’s Christmas theme is ‘Follow the Star: The Great Invitation’. It is firstly an invitation to us all to come to a Christmas service – to experience the joy of a Carol service or a Crib service as we sing familiar carols and hear the Nativity story once again; to stay up for Midnight Communion and welcome the birth of the baby Jesus as the shepherds did; or to join in the Christmas morning

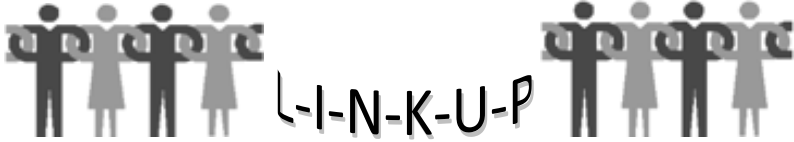
celebrations of the Good News of God coming to earth as a human child. You can find details of all the Christmas services in our Benefice on our website ([www.bromhambenefice.org](http://www.bromhambenefice.org)).

It's also an opportunity to invite someone else to come with you to share the joy and the mystery of the Christmas message – to encourage them that you would be delighted if they would join you (and maybe have a glass of wine or something to eat with you afterwards?). Could this be the opportunity to invite someone back who hasn't been to church for a while - to offer them a warm welcome and your company?

Another part of 'The Great Invitation' is the opportunity to reflect on that theme through a booklet containing a reading, reflection, prayer and action for each day from Christmas Eve through to Epiphany. The booklets will be available at all our services from Dec 11<sup>th</sup> (suggested donation £1) – or you can get the content delivered free to your inbox by signing up at [churchofengland.org/FollowTheStar](http://churchofengland.org/FollowTheStar) .

But the most important part of The Great Invitation is that, as Archbishop Justin Welby has written, 'we are all invited to Follow the Star and find out what it is pointing to: the person of Jesus and the light he brings to each of us.' The invitation comes to us from God himself – He requests the pleasure of our company and would love for us to join Him to celebrate the birth of His Son, and to go on learning more about life with Jesus through the year ahead. And we each have to decide – will we go, will we join the party?

*Catherine Wilson*



The December meeting on **Thursday December 8th** in the Fellowship Room will be the Christmas party starting at 1.p.m. with a light lunch. (not our usual 2.30 start to avoid dark evenings.)

Our first meeting after New Year will be held at 7 Leyside at 2.30pm on Thursday 12th January; we shall be making calendars and planning the new year.

Do get in touch if you would like to join us - 822949

*Anne Tombs*

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### **Coffee at St Owen's**

Next coffee morning at St Owen's is on

Friday 2nd December

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### **AMIGO - Forthcoming Events**

Please let John Dixon know if you wish to attend either event: Tel 01234 824959 or e-mail [jwdixon30@gmail.com](mailto:jwdixon30@gmail.com)

#### **Tuesday 13th December 2022**

Carol singing at the Bedford Arms, Oakley from 8.00 p.m.  
We shall also be able to use handbells.

#### **Tuesday 24th January 2023**

A film show at Oakley Methodist Church beginning at 7.30 p.m. The film to be confirmed.





UNI SONG  
Community choir

Christmas  
Concert

Friday 16th December  
7.30pm

St Owen Church, Bro

Tickets £10 (£5 children) on -

Includes refreshment

Christmas Raffle & proceeds in aid of Bedf  
and St. Owen Church.

Reservations recommende

call 01234 826551





## **Christmas Celebrations 2022**

You are warmly invited to celebrate Christmas with us

### **Tuesday 13th December**

3.30 - 'Messy Church for All' Christingle activities  
5.30pm at Oakley Methodist Church - all welcome

### **Wednesday 14th December**

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service (Bromham)

### **Sunday 18th December**

3.30pm Christmas Carol Service (Stagsden)

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service (Oakley)

### **Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

3.00pm Crib Service for younger children (Bromham)

4.00pm Crib Service (Stagsden)

4.30pm Crib Service (Bromham)

4.30pm Crib Service (Oakley)

5.00pm Short Holy Communion (Stagsden)

11.00pm Midnight Communion (Oakley)

### **Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day**

10.00am Family Communion with carols Bromham)

### ***Bedford Refuge***

*There will be opportunities for gifts of cash/cheques in support of their work to be made at any of the services on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day*



## **Archbishop of Canterbury visits Mozambique and meets Prime Minister and victims of conflict**



The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Mozambique on the weekend beginning 21st November in order to meet with people displaced by the conflict that has forced nearly a million to flee their homes.

The Archbishop also visited Mozambique to take part in celebrations for the new Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola, which became the 42nd province of the Anglican Communion in 2021.

The Archbishop met the Prime Minister of Mozambique, Adriano Maleiane, in the capital city Maputo, and they spoke about the importance of peace, reconciliation and preventing more violence in the country, as well as Mozambique's future potential in terms of natural resources and tourism.

He then flew to the north of the country, to Pemba, where there is an ongoing insurgency. Four thousand people have been killed and nearly a million have fled their homes because of the violence.

In Pemba he met government officials, Christian leaders, Muslim leaders, teenagers and young adults who are involved in reconciliation work. He also visited people who've been displaced by war and are now living with local families in Pemba. Eighty percent of people who are displaced are staying within the local community rather than in IDP camps.

On the Sunday of his visit three thousand people filled

Maputo's Maxaquene Sports Hall for a Eucharist and Thanksgiving Service to mark the creation of the new Anglican Province.

The Church in Mozambique and Angola (IAMA) became a new province in 2021 and is now the 42nd province of the Anglican Communion. In September last year Archbishop Justin led an inauguration service via video link from Lambeth Palace but now covid restrictions have eased he's there in person to mark this milestone. During the six-hour service he also affirmed the Presiding Bishop, Carlos Matsinhe, as the Acting Primate of IAMA, and presented him with the Provincial Cross.

In his sermon, the Archbishop spoke of the shared colonial history of Mozambique and Angola and their struggles for freedom. He spoke about the current peace work being carried out in the north of the country and how communities are standing up against radicalisation.

He said, "This is your treasure to share with the world: the story of reconciliation."

"This province knows the message of 2 Corinthians. We are afflicted in every way but not crushed. Perplexed, but not driven to despair. Persecuted but not forsaken. Struck down but not destroyed."

During his visit, the Archbishop opened a new Anglican church, Sao Marcos da Matola, in the Maputo suburb of Matola.

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### **St Owen's Church Bazaar**

Huge thanks to all our helpers and buyers for participating in this event which raised £480.50+ *Frances Bulmer*

## Stir-up Sunday - 20th November

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they may plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works....



Anne Tombs, having organised the stirring up of a goodly cake mix brings forth from the oven .... Cup Cakes! These were much enjoyed by those attending the Fellowship Lunch. Thank you Anne for putting the new kitchen at St Owen's to such good use and here's the recipe:

### Ingredients

125 gm butter or margarine	60ml milk
125 gm soft brown sugar	250gm SR Flour
3 large eggs	1 tablespoon mincemeat
	2 teaspoons mixed spice.

Put all in a large bowl and beat well. Finally add 400gm mixed fruit and **everyone has a stir.**

Bake in a loaf tin for 45 mins at 160 degrees or we made 24 small cakes to bake in 20 mins.

## **90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages**

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact, the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the Second World War. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year –

except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

*Tim Lenton*

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### **Friends of St Owen's**

Next month it will be time to **renew** your membership of **FoSO** and, if you participate in the **100 Club**, to pay for your shares for 2023. For more information regarding either please contact Frances on 01234 602718. **New members always welcome.**

Note for your diary: FoSO AGM on Thursday 16 Feb 2023

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### **ST OWEN'S ALTAR GUILD**

Decorating St Owens Church for Christmas will take place on Friday 23 December from 10 30 am. Anyone who would like to help will be most welcome.

Donations for the purchase of flowers will be gratefully received.

*Margaret Parrott*

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### **Thank You**

Anne and Terry Rooke thank everyone who helped them celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Over £700 was given in lieu of presents which has been put towards a new noticeboard for St Owen's Church.



Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the very fundamentals of Christianity.

## **Christian Basics - No 12: the Return of Jesus**

*'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people... while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ' (Titus 2:11,13-14).*

Advent is the time when we focus on the first and second coming of Jesus. He first came as a baby in Bethlehem as our Saviour, *'to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own.'* (14), through His cross and resurrection. Now we wait for His return to judge the world and finally put an end to sin and death.

We can understand the relationship of these two events by considering D Day and VE Day in World War 2. D Day marked the allied invasion at the beaches of Normandy on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. It was not the end of the war, but it was a decisive turning point in which victory was assured, although not finally achieved until VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945.

For us, Jesus' death and resurrection marks our D Day, when He secured victory over sin and death. However, only when He returns, will Jesus finally end sin and death and all who have put their trust in Him can share the great victory celebration in heaven.

In Advent we reflect on what it means to live in the time between these key events. Paul says, we need to *'to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age'* (12). More troops died in the period between D Day and VE Day than during the rest of the war. Although we live under Christ's victory, we will still struggle with sin and suffering.



Editor: David Pickup offers the following challenge to those who love quizzes....

### **Christmas Quiz 2022**

1. How did No Vac Novak become No Match Novak?
2. 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. What did they choose?
3. Which rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that?
4. What unexpected occurrence at the Winter Olympics caused problems in the icy setting?
5. He would have celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote The hippopotamus song mud, mud, glorious mud
6. What was the career of the President of Ukraine before he entered politics?
7. At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock, What film did Smith go on to get an Oscar for?
8. What were the following "gates"? Why are they called "gates"? Partygate - Tractorgate - Beergate
9. In May a footballer's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million. Whose was it?
10. What were two places outside the UK that gained city status?
11. There was a television series this year called Infamy. Which film features the line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me."?
12. A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the Platinum

- Jubilee was Paddington Bear. Who voiced Paddington in the Ukrainian language version of the film?
13. The actor who played the Revd Timothy Farthing passed away this year. What comedy series did he appear in?
  14. At the age of nearly 90, he published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years Of Doing Absolutely Everything* - and its advice was simple. "Do your best and be grateful for every single job". Who was he?
  15. Which actress was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King?
  16. Where did Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge?

Answers on page 28

*Parish Pump website*

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### From the Registers

#### **Baptisms:**

20<sup>th</sup> November      Ethan Jules Tranter (Bromham)

#### **Funerals:**

8<sup>th</sup> November (Oakley) Aileen Pebody

11<sup>th</sup> November (Oakley) John Donovan

25<sup>th</sup> November (Bromham) Luke O'Connor

#### **Burial/Burial of Ashes:**

10<sup>th</sup> November (Bromham) Barrie Hood

15<sup>th</sup> November (Bromham) Mona Reed

17<sup>th</sup> November (Bromham) Audrey Wilson

18<sup>th</sup> November (Oakley) Aileen Pebody

19<sup>th</sup> November (Bromham) Sheila and John Gascoigne

26<sup>th</sup> November (Bromham) Robert Dewar

## **The man who married Mary**

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance.

After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise Men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. 12 years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, only to find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named, and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many

things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord’s teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as ‘Father’, knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry, it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of His father’s responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God’s will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God’s call to us and please Him in all that we do.



*Parish Pump website*

## Bromham WI

On 14 November Bromham WI met for our Christmas craft evening, which is always a popular event. Members were given several ideas of decorations to complete and they were supplied with a huge variety of paper, felt, wooden shapes, wools and cottons as well as sequins, bobbles of various sizes, ribbons to complete their tasks.

The ladies set to, with some instructions, to make a Christmas tree or star on a wooden shape, a Father Christmas face, felt hearts and stars and a cracker-shaped voucher holder. We were guided by a 'tutor' in each group, who gave us advice about the best way to complete our decorations successfully.

There was a lot of chatter and laughter with much ooing and aahing at the end of the evening as we admired each other's efforts. Each time we have done this activity we are always impressed by the creativity and artistry of our members.

Our next meeting will be on December 12 when Fiona Harrison will entertain us with a Christmas musical theme. We had a wonderful time last year with her! There will be a Christmas hamper as well.

Please come and join us for an enjoyable evening at Bromham Village Hall at 7.30pm. *Diane Bell*



"Does anyone have a light, please?"





## **Fun, Food & Faith**

**For anyone from school Yr 7 to the age of 18.**

SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 5-6.30PM  
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL  
at the Fellowship Centre, Clapham, MK41 6ER



For more information see  
[www.sharnbrookdeanery.co.uk](http://www.sharnbrookdeanery.co.uk)  
or contact us at [ourvoicetoo@gmail.com](mailto:ourvoicetoo@gmail.com)

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### **The Holy Family**

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

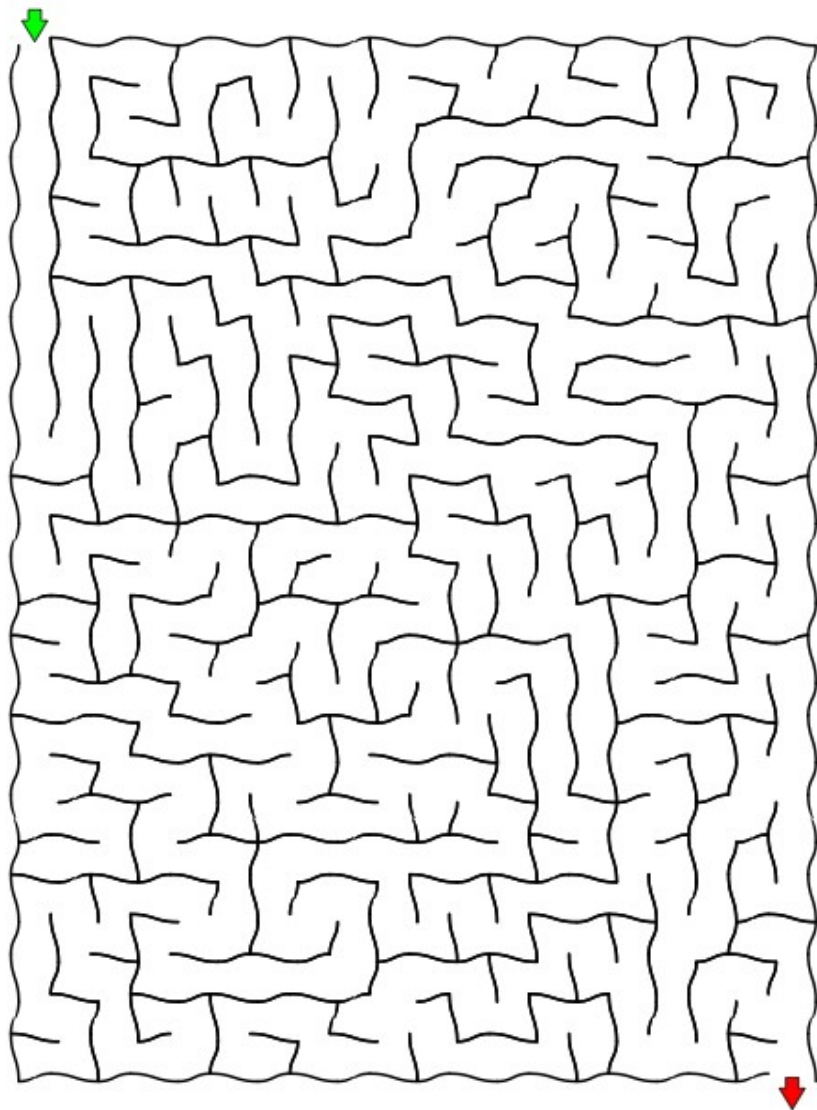
The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

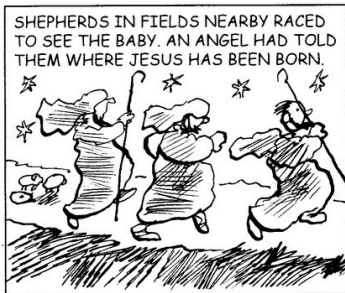
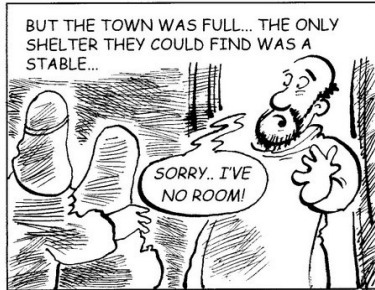
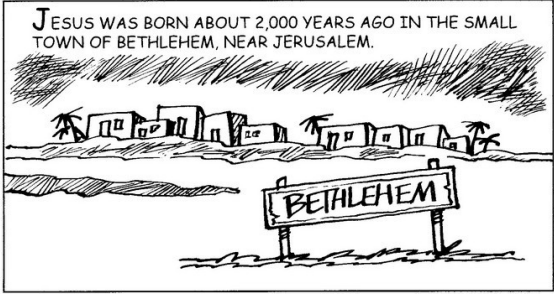
He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

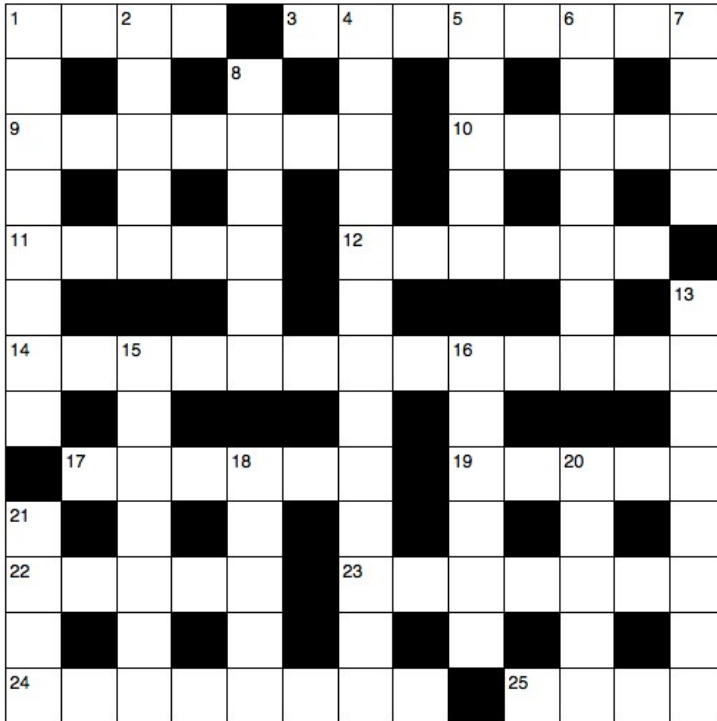
Can you find your way from top to bottom?





For younger readers.....





**Across**

1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)

3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)

9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)

10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)

11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)

12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)

14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)

17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)

19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3)

(3,2)

- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

### **Down**

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles

*Solution on page 30*

## Christmas Quiz 2022 answers

1. No Vac Novak became No Match Novak because Novak Djokovic was due to play at the Australian Open but prevented because he had declined a covid vaccination.
2. 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. They choose to the Morse stories.
3. Meatloaf was the rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that.
4. It snowed at the Winter Olympics caused problems as the organisers had not expected it.
5. Actor and singer Michael Flanders would have celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote the hippopotamus song *Mud, mud, and glorious mud*.
6. Before he entered politics the President of Ukraine was a comedian.
7. At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock. Smith go on to get an Oscar for the film called *King Richard*
8. **Partygate** was the furore about parties held in Downing Street. **Tractorgate** was the alleged incident when an MP looked at inappropriate material online during a session of the House of Commons. **Beergate** was a political controversy concerning allegations that an event in Durham in April 2021 could have been in breach of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The police, after investigating, cleared the attendees. Controversies are often named "gates" after the US political scandal in 1972 involving a break-in at the Democratic National Committee offices located in the Watergate Office Building.

9. In May footballer Diego Maradona's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million.
10. The two places outside the UK that gained city status this year were Ramsey on the Isle of Man and Stanley in the Falklands. Before you google it the Isle of Man is not part of the UK.
11. There was a television series this year called *Infamy*. The line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me!" comes from *Carry on Cleo* 1964 and was spoken by Kenneth Williams.
12. A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the jubilee was Paddington Bear. Paddington was played by Ukrainian President in the Ukrainian language version of the film.
13. The actor who played Rev Timothy Farthing passed away this year. He was Frank Williams in the BBC television sitcom *Dad's Army*. He became a prominent lay leader in the Church of England.
14. At the age of nearly 90, Bernard Cribbins published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years of Doing Absolutely Everything*.
15. Nichelle Nichols who played Uhura in the Star Trek franchise was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King.
16. Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit Durham instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge.

Hope you enjoyed the quiz and remembered some of these events and people from 2022.

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I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

## Book Reviews

**The Christmas Star** - by Hilary Robinson, SPCK, £7.99

This is a fresh, heart-warming retelling of the story of Christmas for 3-5-year-olds. Children will love the story of the small, plucky star that becomes the Christmas star, and will learn that everyone can play a part in God's story, no matter how small they are, and that everyone should be given a chance to shine.

The clear, simple text is perfect for children just starting to read, and for adults to read aloud to them.

**The Christmas Bible Storybook (board book)** - by Maggie Barfield, SPCK, £5.99

Get your young children off to a good start in learning the Christmas story. Your under-5s will enjoy this full-coloured board book which opens to show them Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, wise men and, most of all, Jesus!

Solution to puzzle  
on page 22

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

Solution to puzzle  
on page 22

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

*The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

## **On giving the after-dinner speech**

The Rectory  
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his

keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying – several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but no thank you. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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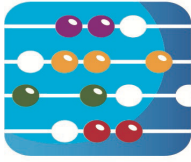
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