## Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden



## January 2022

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Image: State of the stat

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#### Welcome to Parish News in Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden

Find us at: www.bromhambenefice.org

**facebook** Benefice of Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden Please note: the Church Office is closed and replaced by "working from home". Contact Administrator at 07957 126145 or the email below.

#### **Clergy:**

Vicar:	Revd Catherine Wilson	825665
A		vicar@bromhambenefice.org
Assistan	t Priest: Revd Di Harpham	918691

#### Benefice Administration

Church Officers

Website &} Administrator	07494 069540
Wedding	
organisation} Tues, 9.30am -1.00pm)	
Fees Accounts} administrator@bron	nhambenefice.org
Safeguarding Officer - Judith Denyer	07981 928522

Parish NewsEditorMr Edward Jonesstowensnews@btinternet.com826551DistributionMrs B Cryer825463Pew LeafletSarah Smale, as Administrator825463

Who's Who in Bromham

Church Officers		
Churchwardens	Ms T Woodcock	340089
	Mrs F Bulmer	602718
PCC Secretary	Mrs Vivien Butler	407351
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Emma Harrison	823121

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David P Williams

Messy Church	n for pre-school children	(birth - 4yrs) & their carers
-	Mrs Suzi Webb	07967 311628
Altar Guild	Mrs M Parrott	824402

#### Who's Who in Bromham cont....

Children & Young }	Carol Jones	823307
People's work }	Rene Farquhar	307996
Electoral Roll	Mr Terry Rooke	409916
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
	<b>F</b> 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>2nd January</u>	<u>Epiphany</u>	
9.00am	Holy Communion (Bromham)	
10.30am	Holy Communion (Oakley)	
<u>9th January</u>	<u>Baptism of Christ</u>	
9.00am	BCP Holy Communion (Stagsden)	
10.30am	LEP Service (Oakley)	
6.00pm	Evensong (Bromham)	
<u>16th January</u>	<u>Epiphany 2</u>	
9.00am	Holy Communion (Oakley)	
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)	
4.30pm	Wild Church (Bromham Scout Hut)	
<u>23rd January</u>	<u>Epiphany 3</u>	
9.00am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)	
10.30am	Holy Communion (Bromham)	
6.00pm	Evensong (Oakley) or by Zoom	
<u>30th January</u>	<u>Candlemas</u>	
10.30am	Holy Communion (Stagsden)	
Weekday Services		
Mondays 11.30am Thursdays	Messy Church (Bromham)*	
10.00am	Messy Church (Oakley)* 1s at the start 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)

Please continue to check the Pew Leaflet or our website as venues sometimes have to change at short notice.

#### From the Vícarage



I'm surrounded by Christmas preparations as I write this, and among the Christmas messages, I saw a cartoon from Christmas 2020 on social media the other day: the three wisemen approaching the

stable with one saying 'Don't forget, if they ask, we're all from the same household!'. As well as raising a smile at the conspiracy to agree, it was a salutory reminder of the restrictions we faced at Christmas 2020 and of the possibilities that may lie ahead again. I wonder what we will face as we go forward into 2022.

It is certainly helpful if we can face challenges and opportunities together, with the same purpose and direction. The message throughout the pandemic has been to work together, to care for our neighbours, to consider others' wellbeing, so that with each person doing their part the country can get through the crisis. So, whether we should stay at home, wear masks, be socially-distanced or get vaccinated or boosted - we are doing it together, we're working as a Team.

Children at school are taught how to work collaboratively as a team – to put the best interests of their side ahead of their personal desires. This doesn't always guarantee success, as the England Cricket Team's recent Test Match results demonstrate; however, it is inspiring to see sports players competing in teams, watching each other and anticipating what the next move will be. Any team needs a full complement of different skills, and each member must be prepared to use their skills alongside their team mates.

Our Benefice was awarded a trophy for teamwork recently! It was given to us (as a picture on an email!) by the Reaching New People team in the Diocese, and was their weekly award for the Innovator of the Week – we won it for 'Wild Church', our exploration into outside worship. It is a collaborative venture between our Benefice and Christ Church in Bedford, meeting once a month on a Sunday afternoon at the Scout site in Bromham – we work as a team, sharing ideas, resources and people, and together can offer a new experience of church which neither of us could achieve alone. All are welcome (next meeting Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm), but do dress for the weather as we are outside whatever the conditions!

In January the church celebrates Epiphany (the visit of the wisemen) and Candlemas (the baby Jesus being presented in the temple). In between these two special times is another - the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Whatever our style of worship or tradition or prayer, Christians are called to work together, because we are on the same team and in the same family, and have a great message of hope and love to share with those around us. But being a team needs work and commitment, and so we pray that we will grow in love for our Christian brothers and sisters in other churches, and that we will all learn to work more closely together to share the light of Jesus in our communities. Jesus prayed that his followers 'may be one' – he has welcomed us into his team, and we must each play our part!

Catherine Wilson



The next planned LINKUP for people living on their own is on Thursday 6th January at 2.30pm at 7 Leyside for a New Year gathering; subject, of course, to any new Covid rules. Please let Anne Tombs know if you wish to come. Tel 01234 822949

#### Bring and Share

Epiphany Fellowship Party in the Fellowship Room at St Owen's after the morning service on Sunday 23rd January\* for which ideas for games or activities and offers of help with moving tables and chairs, washing up etc most welcome. \*subject to any new Covid rules Anne Tombs

#### Friends of St Owen's

It is now time to renew your membership of FoSO and, if you participate in the 100 Club, to pay for your shares for 2022. For more information regarding either please contact Frances on 01234 602718.

Note for your diary: FoSO AGM on Thursday 17 Feb 2022

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

St Owen's Social Committee plan to hold a Coffee Morning in the Fellowship Room at the Church on Friday 7th Jan from 11.00am to 1.00pm - Covid permitting, of course.



**Distribution Manager - Binny Cryer** 

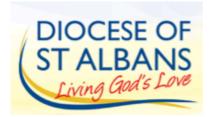
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#### The soaring cost of heating our churches

Here is some chilling news about the church's heating and electricity bills: they could be doubling this year. The energy crisis is hitting the UK hard, and churches are not protected by the domestic energy cap.

Some churches have already turned off all their heating, apart from pew heaters for services. We do not intend doing so: in our three churches we only use the heating for 2-3 hours or so before a service and it's usually off again before the service ends. It then provides a frost protection programme. Nevertheless, utilities bills are certain to be substantial in the coming 12 months although, with generous support, we hope to avoid the scene depicted on page 24!



#### First Female Dean of St Albans Installed

On Saturday 4 December, the Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore

was installed as Dean of St Albans, during a special service at St Albans Cathedral.

St Alban, Britain's first saint, was executed near to where the Cathedral stands today and since that day, no female has



had the role of Dean of St Albans.

Dean Jo's appointment was approved by the Queen in September, after spending four years at Canterbury Cathedral and prior to that, Jo was Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland, New Zealand.

The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore said: "It is a huge privilege and a joy to become the 10<sup>th</sup> Dean of St Albans and to work with the Cathedral community and in our Diocese as we, inspired by Alban, Britain's first saint and martyr, serve and support the communities we are part of. In this challenging and anxious world there can be no doubt of our need to work together, across our communities, as we seek to build communities of care where all have what they need and can reach their potential. I am committed to that partnership. Thank you for the warm welcome already and I look forward very much to meeting you all over the coming months and to life and ministry here in the counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire".

The Bishop of St Albans said: "I'm delighted that Jo has arrived to take up her responsibilities as Dean of St Albans. As well as being the 'mother church' of the diocese, the cathedral is a centre of worship and tourism, welcoming large numbers of people on a daily basis. I am confident that under her leadership the cathedral will continue to play a major role in the life of the city and the region. We are looking forward to working with her over the coming years".

Tim Fleming, Chief Operating Officer at St Albans Cathedral said: "The Cathedral's staff and many volunteers are absolutely thrilled to be welcoming Jo in her new ministry, here at St Albans and throughout the communities we serve. St Albans Cathedral is known to be a welcoming and friendly

place, and Jo's energy and enthusiasm will fill it beautifully. Jo has talked about the importance and joy of being the people of God in all that we do. It is that message of love and care, inspired by the witness of Alban, that I'm sure Jo will find here as we welcome her and her family."



#### SHARNBROOK DEANERY SYNOD

#### Notes from Deanery Synod 15/11/21

**Pastoral Aid Support Grants** – applications from Stodden Benefice, Harrold & Wymington parishes approved by Standing Committee & submitted to Diocese.

#### **Re-imagining the Deanery - updates**

**Digital Enablement Workgroup** – Revd Paolo Di Leo wanting to hear asap from those interested in helping to take this forward. **Please contact** rev.pdileo@gmail.com

**Resources Log** – now includes info on church building repairs & building projects.

**Listening to YP & 'Our Voice'** – a group of YP from across the Deanery have been meeting for the past 4-5 months, including an enjoyable residential w/e at the Chellington Centre. The LTYP workshop enabled people from around a third of our churches to meet together to map their current provision for YP, children & families and school links. More work needed to focus on specific issues and develop collaborative relationships. Crucially we are looking for Children & YP 'Champions' in each benefice to help raise awareness. Development funding has been applied for and Diocesan Childrens' & YP's advisers and other partners are supporting this workstream.

AP: for details & further info contact Keith Williams skwilliams110677@gmail.com

**Smaller Churches** – a headline report (*attached*) from Revd Tim Wilson & Revd Nick Munday outlined the main issues identified from parish visits in August/September.

The way forward is to :-

**Release** people into ministry, by releasing the pressure on church wardens, exploring whether the load can better be shared as a team, encouraging new people into the role. **Release** the burden of maintaining buildings by better/wider use as a creative place to gather. Explore a Deanery 'Clerk of Works' role to co-ordinate repair, maintenance and development of buildings.

**Rediscover** our strength comes from God, we cannot do this on our own.

**Rediscover** our potential, by identifying gifts that we can all offer, both practical and spiritual. Explore our variety of gifting and be prepared to share with other parishes.

**Relationships** - support and encourage the relationships within and between churches,

by encouraging sharing between parishes, benefices and across the deanery.

Next Step: The full report to be submitted to senior clergy for further discussion.

**Rural Mission Solutions** – David Wells, former Church Army Captain, now works for RMS, working with rural churches to help identify their resources, to look at the needs of their community & plan how to be more effective in reaching out to & relating to others.

**AP: for details & further info contact Revd Stephen Liley** vicarcpc@btinternet.com

Next meeting: 7.30pm THURSDAY 24th February 2022 at Bletsoe Village Hall – visitors welcome!

#### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18th to 25th January

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to 25th January – the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

This year, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East. The Christians of the Middle East say that they offer these resources "conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences", and that it also "yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness."

More at: https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christianunity-2022/



The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. Indeed, we have recently celebrated Christmas; the Feast of Incarnation and Epiphany. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires. The Magi travel from far-off countries, and represent diverse cultures, yet they are driven by the same hunger to see and know the new-born king and are gathered into the little house in Bethlehem in the simple act of giving homage. In this we can find a metaphor for Christian unity: that is, of different Christian peoples drawn together in their common search to recognise Christ, to know him and to worship him and witnessing to wider need for unity and to overcome injustice.

But now where is the star that leads the way to him? It is the mission of the Church to be the star that lights the way to Christ who is the light of the world.

#### Canon Paul Hardingham considers 2022.

#### Looking to the New Year

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to *forget the things which are behind*. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to *focus on the things that lie ahead*. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the

prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'

#### His Unfailing Presence - Author unknown

Another year I enter Its history unknown; Oh, how my feet would tremble To tread its paths alone! But I have heard a whisper, I know I shall be blest; "My presence shall go with thee, And I will give thee rest."

What will the New Year bring me? I may not, must not know; Will it be love and rapture, Or loneliness and woe? Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper; I surely shall be blest; "My presence shall go with thee, And I will give thee rest." The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece of the Nativity by Botticelli.

#### What hope, at the turning of the year?

A few years ago, one of the Sunday magazines printed a Doom Directory. It surveyed the possible ways in which the world might come to an end - nuclear disaster, famine, global warming and so on. The cover showed a man bearing a placard, 'The end of the world is at hand': he was at a bus stop peering down to see the times of the last buses!

The speed at which we are using the earth's resources has put

humanity's very survival at risk. It is a bleak thought to consider as one year ends and another begins. Where can we place our hope and find any assurance? we ask ourselves. Do we need to think of the last buses on our earthly journey?

This month's painting was painted in Italy at a time when there was similar speculation about the end of the world.

A mesmerising priest called Savonarola had preached in Florence about portents of this



Nativity by Botticelli. The National Gallery, London.

end time, and the final battle that would take place. His own end was gruesome and horrific as the church authorities silenced his voice, but his influence lingered on among people. Nowhere more so than in Botticelli, who painted this 'Mystic Nativity' in 1500, two years after Savonarola's death.

At first glance, it looks a typical Epiphany scene, for the wise men are shown to the stable by an angel. But everything is basic and rudimentary. The wise men do not wear luxurious clothing, they have no servants, they bear no gifts. The stable is just a thatched roof propped against the mouth of the cave, with Joseph oddly hunched at one side. The babe kicks a leg into the air as Mary and the animals watch on, looking from the inside of the cave.

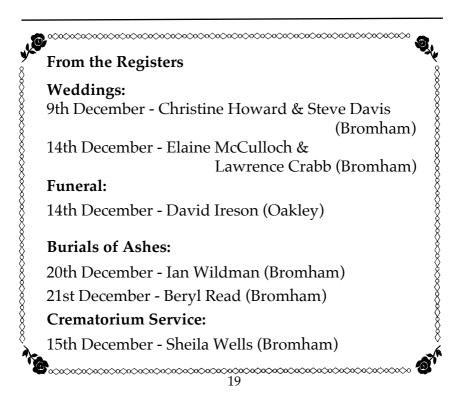
But then look above the scene. There is a long inscription from Botticelli: it announces that he painted this Nativity at the end of 1500, to provide a key to the violent and confused times in which he lived. At the bottom little demons scramble back to the underworld, and those who have been through the battle of life are comforted by angels, and there are more angels engaged in an ecstatic dance above the stable with olive branches and scrolls in their hands.

At the heart of it all is the simple nativity scene.

Botticelli seems to be making a heartfelt statement about his faith in the light of all that he had experienced and seen around him: his distress at the suffering war had brought, and his sense of doom that war was a portent of worse things to come. But the painting also shows his calm resignation that as one century turned into another, and one year into another, there is a birth which can be the pivot of that turning. A birth which is a sign of a future, a sign of new life, a sign of love. We can come through, he says, if we realise where our hope and trust should be placed - not in the pursuit of power which leads to death and destruction, but in a birth that leads ultimately to a heaven of victory and dancing and celebration.

The painting is not about winter, it is about spring: a season of hope and new life. We can draw the curtains across this nativity scene and shut out the light and springtime. But then, says Botticelli, chaos and war and greed will flourish. Go to the stable with the wise men, open the curtains, invite the Christ-Child in, and all will be transformed.

Savonarola had preached the same message a few years earlier, 'If you wish to be at rest, seek Christ. Come to this crib, seek none but Him, and you will find rest. Be well assured that you will never have peace until you come to this crib and to this light of faith in Christ.'



#### 80 years of Desert Island Discs

Some 80 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1942, the BBC radio show *Desert Island Discs* was first broadcast. It is Britain's longest running radio show, and the world's longest running weekly factual radio programme.

Devised and originally presented by Roy Plomley, it was first broadcast on the BBC Forces Programme, then was switched to the Home Service before finding its present home on Radio 4 in 1967. Each week a guest 'castaway' has to choose eight recordings, a book and a luxury item they would take with them if they were stranded on a desert island. In discussing this, they also reveal hopefully offbeat elements of their life. Past presenters have included Michael Parkinson, Sue Lawley and Kirsty Young, but the show is now fronted by Lauren Laverne.

More than 3000 episodes have been broadcast, with some guests appearing more than once. In the early 1970s, Roy Plomley interviewed Alistair MacLean, who turned out not to be the famous author but someone else with the same name, and the programme was never broadcast.

Very few episodes from the first 20 years of the show have survived; the earliest known to exist was broadcast in 1951 and features actress Margaret Lockwood.

All participants are allowed to take a Bible and copy of Shakespeare: needless to say, the National Secular Society has called for the Bible to be dropped, but known atheists such as Philip Pullman have wanted to keep it. A recent poll suggested that 56% of people questioned would not choose to take a Bible, and another 13% were unsure.

Parish Pump website

#### St Timothy and St Titus,

#### how local church leaders should be!

Timothy and Titus, commemorated on 26 January, are the saints for you if you've been a Christian for some time, and now suspect that God wants you to move into some form of leadership. A daunting prospect!

The books of First and Second Timothy and Titus are what are known as the three pastoral letters, where Paul writes to ministers in charge of important churches, instead of writing to the churches themselves. Paul gives both Timothy and Titus explicit instructions for how to shepherd the sheep in their care. Timothy had been given the responsibility of the church at Ephesus, and Titus the care of the church at Crete. Both Timothy and Titus were young men, and both felt quite daunted at the task ahead of them!

Timothy, half Jewish, had met Paul when he was still a child, living with his mother Eunice at Lystra. Paul had come to their city and preached, and they had both become Christians. Timothy had then accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey – a great training experience. But experience is given to us so that we might in turn become productive – and in due course Paul entrusted the vastly important church of Ephesus into Timothy's care. This church was so vibrant in its faith that within 50 years so many Ephesians became Christians that the city's pagan temples were almost forsaken. A huge responsibility!

Titus was a gentile, almost certainly converted through Paul. Paul had used Titus as a trouble-shooter with the Corinthians, and when Titus was successful in that, gave him a real bit of trouble: the church at Crete. Again, Titus served his Lord faithfully, even in this most difficult of situations. Timothy became the first bishop of Ephesus and was finally martyred when he opposed pagan festivals (probably in honour of Dionysius). He was killed by stones and clubs, easily to hand during the pagan festival of Katagogia. His supposed relics were translated to Constantinople in 356.

Titus went on to become the first Bishop of Crete, and is believed to have died there, though history does not tell us how. His relics are supposed to be buried in Crete, except for his head, which was allegedly taken to Venice in 823.

Both Timothy and Titus were good and faithful servants, and they could look back on lives well spent.

Parish Pump website

#### Sitting down in church

Did you ever wonder how our churches first acquired pews? Dr Nicholas Orme, Emeritus Professor of History at Exeter University, has written a book, *Going to Church in Medieval England* (Yale University Press), in which he points out that "no medieval church pronouncement ordered the provision of seating in churches other than for the clergy. General seating was a lay invention."

It is easy to understand those laity of long ago: the services could go on for hours. And so, as Dr Orme explains, general seating "seems to have begun with the nobility and gentry who wished for comfort .... The desire spread downwards to the congregation during the  $14^{th}$  and  $15^{th}$  centuries."

Parish Pump website

#### A M I G O Update

A great experience awaited those who ventured out to the Observatory at Bedford School on the 23rd November where we were given a fascinating talk about the heavens and were able to look at the Planetarium and learn about the universe. I very much enjoyed the view of the earth from the Space Station. It was a pity that there was too much cloud for us to look through the telescope. I hope that when we make a second visit to the Observatory on the 8th March 2022 the sky will be clearer. Please let John Dixon know if you wish to come. The visit begins at 7.00 p.m. Please note that the maximum number is 14. There are only a few places left.

The film to be seen at Oakley Methodist Church on Tuesday 25th January 2022 is "The Personal HIstory of David Copperfield" Please take your seats by 7.00 p.m. There is no charge but donations will be welcome to go towards the cost of the licence.

A light hearted quiz hosted by Sue Brecknock will be taking place at Oakley Methodist Church on Tuesday 22nd February beginning at 7.30 p.m

Further details from John Dixon 01234 824959 or e-mail jwdixon30@gmail.com

#### Another Scam

There is no limit to the ingenuity of 'scammers' it would seem! This example provided by Anne Tombs:

- a text on an unknown number saying "hi mum this is my new number." It isn`t. Its a scam. Be careful. Do not respond.

You should forward all Scam text messages to Ofcom on 7726, they will then respond asking you for the originating phone number.

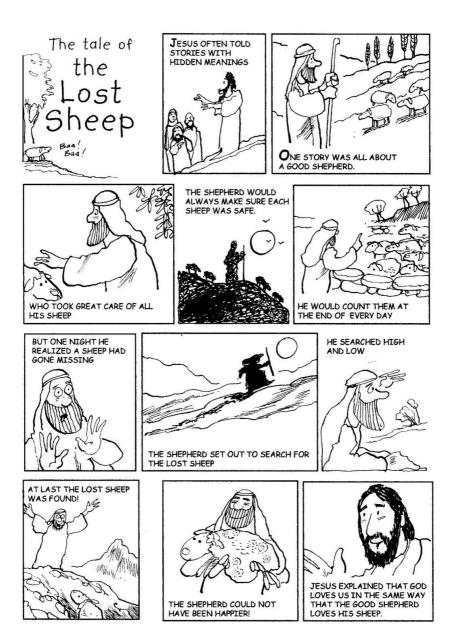


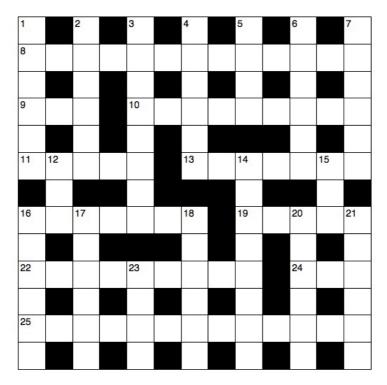
The Churchwarden did her best to combat rising heating bills

#### With Epiphany in mind...

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my sixyear-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

#### For younger readers.....





#### Across

8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)

9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)

10 The Ten Commandments (9)

11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)

13 Des cons (anag.) (7)

16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)

19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)

22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)

24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)

25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

#### Down

1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)

2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)

3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)

4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)

5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)

6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)

7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)

12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1) 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8) 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)

16 Vat car (anag.) (6)

17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)

18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)

20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)

21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)

23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

#### All in the month of January

It was:

150 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1872 that Greyfriars Bobby, a Scottish Skye terrier dog died. He was famous for having guarded his master's grave in Edinburgh for 14 years.

100 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1922 that Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Irish-born British Antarctic explorer, died of a heart attack in South Georgia. He had led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

Also 100 years ago, 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1922, that Ralph Vaughan Williams' *A Pastoral Symphony* was performed for the first time, in London.

80 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942 that Stephen Hawking, theoretical physicist and cosmologist was born. Author of *A Brief History of Time*, he suffered from motor neurone disease for more than 50 years and communicated from his wheelchair via a speech synthesizer. (Died 2018.)

Also 80 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942 that Muhammad Ali (previously Cassius Clay), American heavyweight boxing champion, was born. One of the most significant sports figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Also 80 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942 that the first US troops arrived in Europe. 4,508 soldiers from the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment docked in Belfast.

Also 80 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942 that the BBC Radio Show Desert Island Discs was first broadcast. It is Britain's longest running radio show, and the world's longest running weekly factual radio programme.

75 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1947 that the UK's coal industry was nationalised when the Coal Industry Nationalisation

Act 1946 came into effect. The industry was run by the National Coal Board. It was renamed the British Coal Corporation in 1987 and was subsequently privatised.

Also 75 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1947 that David Bowie, pop/ glam rock singer, songwriter, and actor, was born. He became one of the most influential musicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (Died 2016.)

70 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1952 that the nuclear reactors at Windscale (now Sellafield) in Cumbria began producing enriched plutonium for use in Britain's first atomic bomb.

50 years ago, from 9<sup>th</sup> Jan to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1972 that British miners staged a major strike over pay. This led to power shortages, and a state of emergency was declared on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. The miners returned to work when the National Union of Mineworkers accepted an improved pay offer.

40 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1982 that Mark Thatcher, son of the British Prime Minister, was found safe and well after going missing in the Sahara Desert for six days while competing in the Paris-Dakar rally.

25 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1997 that Princess Diana walked through a minefield in Angola, visited victims, and called for an international ban on landmines.

20 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002 that the first prisoners arrived at the USA's military detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They were members of al-Qaeda who were captured in Afghanistan during the War on Terror.

Also 20 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2002, that the Larsen B Ice Shelf in Antarctica began to collapse. The whole 3,265 sq. km structure disintegrated over the next 35 days.

Parish Pump website

Learning to treasure the innumerable tiny incidents that tell the story of our relationships - whether with our spouse, our children or our friends – leads to fulfilment and true companionship and leaves space for God at the centre. -

Fiona Lloyd

#### **Remembering Ralph Vaughan Williams**

by Tim Lenton of Parish Pump website

One hundred years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1922, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *A Pastoral Symphony* was performed for the first time, in London.

Later designated Symphony No. 3, it was said to be inspired by the composer hearing a bugler practising and is frequently thought of as a memorial for the fallen of the First World War, many of whom Vaughan Williams knew. He later said he saw music as an antidote to a war-torn world.

He had been born in 1872: his father was vicar at Down Ampney in Gloucestershire, but he died two years later. His mother, an evangelical Christian, was also the niece of Charles Darwin. This combination of events may have led to his uncertainty in questions of faith: his second wife Ursula said he "drifted into a cheerful agnosticism, but he was never a professing Christian".

Nevertheless, Vaughan Williams frequently attended church, where he found musical inspiration. His first job after graduation was as a church organist, and he wrote many compositions for the Anglican Church, including well known hymn tunes<sup>\*</sup>. He edited *The English Hymnal* in 1904 and wrote an opera of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. But he said there was "no reason why an atheist could not write a good Mass".

A Pastoral Symphony received some criticism at first but was

later regarded as stunningly beautiful, combing the grace of the wildly popular *The Lark Ascending* with the deep sadness of war.

\* *Ed* - our hymn book contains 46 hymns set to music by him, or harmonised by him, and these 4 first lines will, doubtless, bring to mind some of his best loved work:

Come down, O Love divine

O little town of Bethlehem

For all the saints who from their labours rest

Who would true valour see

#### Help your garden, help your planet

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has launched a modern-day 'Dig for Victory' campaign to help tackle climate change.

It is asking the UK's 30 million gardeners to consider digging up their garden paving and instead to plant trees, grass and bee-friendly flora, to help nature survive.

The RHS has calculated that if every gardener in the UK grew at least one medium-sized tree in their garden, then that would be the equivalent of storing the carbon produced from driving 11 million times around the planet. \*

Further research from a YouGov survey has found that only 19 per cent of gardeners say that they have adopted sustainable gardening practices. *Parish Pump website* 

\* or, to put it another way that's 9,130 miles for each of the 30 million gardeners! - Ed







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Solution to puzzle on page 26





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