

St. Augustine and St. Aidan  
Tonge Moor and Hall i'th' Wood

**PARISH PAPER**  
“Lockdown Edition 8” - December 2020

*MERRY CHRISTMAS*



Dear friends

At the time of writing, news has just been released of a third coronavirus vaccine having produced encouraging results in trials. “Encouraging” is perhaps an understatement! However, the data from all the trials have to be studied carefully, and an accurate assessment of what each of the vaccines can - and more importantly cannot - do has to be made and publicised, to avoid unrealistic expectations.

That we have come this far in a little over 10 months is truly remarkable and is a testament to what can happen when science, Government and sheer will, work together. Similar examples of super-fast turnarounds include the setting-up of the Nightingale Hospitals during the first lockdown.

Human beings are made for co-operation. All our daily material needs are met through countless other human beings working in collaboration with others to produce our food, our clothes, our technology, our homes: and this has been true ever since mankind began living together in groups, which is probably always.

As human beings, we are dependant on each other. As Christians, we recognise this as part of God’s plan in creation. One of the Creation stories in the Book of Genesis speaks of male and female being so-formed in order to be helpmeets of each other, and this principle extends across the whole of human society.

John Donne wrote that: “No man is an island, complete of himself”, and our appreciation of the often-unseen members of our society who help provide the material necessities of life, has rightly been rekindled and enhanced during this year’s lockdowns. As the “new normal” begins to seem imminent, we must maintain that appreciation.

Our co-operation, though, is not limited to our fellow-human being. God has called us to work in co-operation with him, too. At the end of this moth we celebrated the greatest gift in the universe: the gift of God of himself to the world, in the person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God shared our human experience in all its fullness, and suffered our human death

so that death itself could be defeated, and hope and life - eternal life - be restored to us.

The war with sin and death, if you like, is won, but the final skirmishes are still in evidence. God calls us to co-operate with him in bringing his peace and love into the places we live and work and play. As during Advent we prepare for Christmas, and celebrate it from the 25th onwards, let us each welcome the Peace of Christ into our own hearts, and seek God's grace to respond to his gracious invitation, and bring that Peace of Christ into the lives of those we meet.

I wish all our readers and parishioners a blessed Advent and a holy and peaceful Christmas.

With my love, prayers and best wishes

*Fr Tony*

### **CHRISTMAS IN TONGE MOOR**

Although public worship is being resumed on the 2nd of December, we will still be unable to sing. Sadly, this means that we will be unable to hold our usual Carol Service at St Aidan's.

Our Christmas services will begin with Midnight Mass on Thursday 24th December at 11.30pm, when the Nativity Crib in the Lady Chapel will be completed by the addition of the Christ-child. Mass at St Aidan's on Christmas morning will be at the usual time of 9.00am, when the Christmas Crib there will also be completed. Mass will also be celebrated at St Augustine's at 10.30am.

As you know, seating capacity at both of our churches has been much reduced due to the requirements of social-distancing, so this year I am asking that members of the congregation attend only one of these services (this does not, of course, include those acting as Sidespeople or Welcomers).

Our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place, albeit in a different form. Because we cannot gather together to sing, we are inviting everyone to gather around their TV sets, laptops, tablets or phones at 3.00pm on Sunday 27th December to share in our Nine Lessons and Carols online.

The Readings are being pre-recorded and the resultant programme will be broadcast on our YouTube channel at 3pm that afternoon. Importantly, a request for prayer - that the editing and compilation go as planned, and that the technology will work as intended!

### **TOY SERVICE**

Our appeal for toys is continuing as usual this year. The Bolton Lions are receiving new and unwrapped toys and gifts to help underprivileged children at Christmas. Please bring any toys and gifts to one of the services on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am) and a representative from the Lions will formally receive them during the 10.30am mass.

## **SOLEMNITIES IN DECEMBER**

The most important solemnity in December is, of course, Christmas Day, details of which are given elsewhere in the *Parish Paper*.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on Tuesday 8th December, and mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm, replacing the usual 6.15pm mass.

Just outside December, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, falls on Friday 1st January: mass will be celebrated at 10.30am.

All these masses will be live-streamed on YouTube for the benefit of those unable to be present in person, as are all masses at St Augustine's.

## **CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS**

It has been the Church's practice for centuries - if not millennia - to encourage the faithful to make their sacramental confession before the major solemnities of the faith, including Christmas.

Confession is one of the Seven Sacraments of the Christian Church, and is a means of God's healing and restorative grace. Only the priest and penitent are present, and anything confessed by the penitent is subject to the Seal of the Confessional, and may not be divulged by the priest under any circumstances. The priest does not judge: he is himself a sinner and in need of God's grace. The priest is present as

Christ's minister, and offers counsel as well as pronouncing absolution, the assurance of God's forgiveness.

Due to social distancing rules, confessions cannot be conducted face-to-face at present. However, confessions may be made via Zoom at a mutually-convenient time. Please speak to Fr Tony about arranging your confession in this way as you prepare your heart for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

*Fr Tony*

## **CAROLS IN THE PARISH**

Sadly, it is not possible to hold our usual Carol Service at St Aidan's this year, but we will still be hosting the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols at St Augustine's on the Sunday in Christmastime (27th December) at 3.00pm: this latter will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel (<http://tiny.cc/SATMYouTube>).

Although we won't be able to share in the traditional mince pies and mulled wine after the carol service, we hope you will still join us on YouTube and sing the glory of the birth of the world's Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Fr Tony*

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## LOCKDOWN UPDATE

Since last month's edition of the *Parish Paper* went to press, the Government imposed another Lockdown on England for one month. Thankfully, and unlike the during the first lockdown, churches were able to open for private prayer, although any form of communal worship has been banned. St Aidan's has been open for an hour on Wednesday mornings, from 10.30-11.30am, and St Augustine's on Tuesday 7.00-8.30pm and Saturdays 10.30am-12.00pm. Masses have continued to be celebrated, with the congregation present online, sharing live on YouTube and making a spiritual communion. When possible, Pam has been joining me. As the weather gets colder and heating is required, masses have moved into the Lady Chapel, which is both easier and cheaper to heat.

The PCC has agreed to replace the now-failing laptop, and one with a better camera - more suited to live-streaming - has been obtained. A more adequate stand has been acquired for it to sit on in the Chancel.

Members of the Electoral Roll have also been contacted once more by lay volunteers, exercising an all-member-ministry, and this has been expanded to include other members of the congregation, whose phone numbers we have.

This period of lockdown is due to end at 12.01am on Wednesday 2nd December, and our public worship will resume that day with the 10.30am mass at St Aidan's. Social distancing rules will continue to be observed, and all worship from St Augustine's will continue to be live-streamed on our YouTube channel (<http://tiny.cc/SATMYouTube>).

## 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Immaculate Conception teaches that Mary, the mother of Christ, was conceived without "original sin" (of Adam) and her conception was therefore immaculate. Her sinless conception is the reason why Catholics refer to Mary as "full of grace".

Many people confuse the Immaculate Conception with the "virgin birth", the belief that Mary gave birth to Jesus while remaining a virgin.

Mary received God's grace from the first moment of her existence and was totally and completely redeemed by this grace. As a result she spent her whole existence in a perfect relationship with God. God did this so that Mary would be worthy to be the mother of God.

Christians believe that God's redeeming grace is available to all believers. Mary was only able to receive this grace because Christ would later redeem all humanity through his death on the cross.

## 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER - WINTER SOLSTICE

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia,

kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. *“Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green...”* But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: *‘Against the feast of Christmas, every man’s house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene.’*

## *A CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY*

### **24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE**

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year’s log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12<sup>th</sup> Night (6<sup>th</sup> January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

## CHRISTINGLE

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle. Especially one Moravian clergyman: John de Watteville.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".

John de Watteville then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: *"Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become"*.

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: "hereupon the children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed".

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that.... The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany,

so they took the custom with them: to Labrador, to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."

## 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN WORLD\*

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.

Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25<sup>th</sup> December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The significance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God. And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.

*This is from: [https://christianity.org.uk/christmas-throughout-the-christian-world/#.W9Ll\\_xNKhsM](https://christianity.org.uk/christmas-throughout-the-christian-world/#.W9Ll_xNKhsM)*

*\* The Orthodox celebrate Christmas on 6<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany*

## THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the third century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring equinox, 25<sup>th</sup> March, popularising the belief that He was born nine months later on 25<sup>th</sup> December. John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day in about 400.

In the early Middle Ages, Christians celebrated a series of midwinter holy days. Epiphany (which recalls the visit to the infant Jesus of the wise men bearing gifts) was the climax of 12 days of Christmas, beginning on 25<sup>th</sup> December. The Emperor Charlemagne chose 25<sup>th</sup> December for his coronation in 800, and the prominence of Christmas Day rose. In England, William the Conqueror also chose 25<sup>th</sup> December for his coronation in 1066, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting.

Cooking a boar was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas feasts, and singing carols accompanied it. Writers of the time lament the fact that the true significance of Christmas was being lost because of partying. They condemn the rise of 'misrule' - drunken dancing and promiscuity. The day was a public holiday, and traditions of bringing evergreen foliage into the house and the exchange of gifts (usually on Epiphany) date from this time.

In the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a rejection of many celebrations that were associated with Catholic Christianity. Christmas was one of them. After the execution of Charles I, England's Puritan rulers made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years. The restoration of Charles II ended the ban, but religious leaders continued to discourage excess, especially in Scotland. In Western Europe (but not worldwide) the day for exchanging gifts changed from Epiphany (6<sup>th</sup> January) to Christmas Day.

By the 1820s, there was a sense that the significance of Christmas was declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it. His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance. Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26<sup>th</sup> December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect 'boxes' of money or gifts from their customers.

In Europe Santa Claus is the figure associated with the bringing of gifts. Santa Claus is a shortening of the name of Saint Nicholas, who was a Christian bishop in the fourth century in present-day Turkey. He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor. By the Middle Ages his appearance, in red bishop's robes and a mitre, was adored in the Netherlands and familiar across Europe.



Father Christmas dates from 17th century England, where he was a secular figure of good cheer (more associated with drunkenness than gifts). The transformation of Santa Claus into today's Father Christmas started in New York in the 1880s, where his red robes and white beard became potent advertising symbols. In some countries (such as Latin America and Eastern Europe) the tradition attempts to combine the secular and religious elements by holding that Santa Claus makes children's presents and then gives them to the baby Jesus to distribute.

*From: <https://christianity.org.uk/the-history-of-christmas/#.W9LmchNKhsM>*

## **AND THERE WERE SHEPHERDS**

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told - the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to be called 'John', who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds ...' - that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet

another angelic message - a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds, in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.

Ever wonder why Jesus was born when He was? The Bible tells us that "when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son..." The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the 'time had fully come' for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire's sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into 'enemy territory' or needing a 'passport'. For the first time ever, it was possible for 'common' people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages - Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv)

and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years. After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of Him to be able to travel, had indeed 'fully come'.

## **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. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, and 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.

### **WHY WAS JESUS BORN IN A BARN?**

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice - the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for His beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least - instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for His unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

### **HOW FATHER CHRISTMAS GOT WHERE HE IS TODAY**

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. 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 life-work 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: 'Twas 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 round 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.

## **WHERE DID CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COME FROM?**

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

## **WHERE DID CHRISTMAS TREES COME FROM?**

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8<sup>th</sup> century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a

tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: "This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the One who will give you life, because He gave His life for you."

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea and took up the custom.

## **THE STORY OF MINCE PIES**

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

## **WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE.....WHAT?**

"A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The way's deep, the weather sharp, the days

short, the sun farthest off, in *solstitio brumali*, the very dead of winter."

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews' words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem 'The Journey of the Magi'. What a vivid picture - we can see it all! The camels' breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold, and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were 'wise', or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Caspar (or Gaspar). But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing - anticipating His death.

There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed... straight to Jesus.

## THANK DICKENS FOR CHRISTMAS AS YOU KNOW IT!

Ever wonder where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount of our modern Christmas celebrations can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens.

When you read 'A Christmas Carol', you discover almost a template of the 'ideal Christmas' which we still hold dear today. Dickens seems to have selected the best of the Christmas celebrations of his day (he ignored some of the odd excesses) and packaged them in such a way as to give us traditions that we could accommodate and treasure - more than a century later.

So, for instance, in A Christmas Carol, Christmas is a family day, with a family-centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents. Scrooge even gives donations to charity (!).

And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas - in the shape of Christmas Present. Only the Christmas tree itself came later, when Prince Albert imported 'a pretty German toy' that won the heart of the English court, and hence the rest of Victorian society.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

We celebrate the liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 1<sup>st</sup> January, which is in the Octave of Christmas. Only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave (an eight-day extension of the feast).

The honouring of Mary as Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. By the 7<sup>th</sup> century, the date was observed as a celebration of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ had come to replace the feast honouring Mary.

However in 1751, Pope Benedict XIV allowed Portugal's churches to devote a feast to Mary on the first Sunday in May. Eventually, the feast extended to other countries and in 1914 began to be observed on 11<sup>th</sup> October. In 1931, Pope Pius XI extended the feast to the entire church and in 1974 Pope Paul VI removed the feast of the Circumcision of Christ from the liturgical calendar and replaced it with the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, bringing the feast day back to the first day of the year.

Just as Christmas honours Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honours Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



Last month we held our AGM via zoom. With no other nominations, Barbara Davis, Ruth Taylor and myself will continue as Secretary, Treasurer and Branch Leader.

There will not be a MU Mass this month, The Intention will be the MU at Mass at St. Aidans on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

We have received details for 2021 Mothers Union Subscriptions, the price is £25, which includes a twice yearly publication to replace the Families First magazine and also an annual prayer diary.

#### Virtual 9 Lessons and 9 Carols

This will be broadcast on both the Mothers' Union Facebook and YouTube channel. On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

#### Festive Midday Prayers

These will continue throughout the Christmas break Monday to Saturday at 12pm

Hope you enjoy a Happy Christmas.

*Elsie Hollinrake*

### **100 Club News**

The eighth monthly draw was via a Zoom meeting at approx 12.30pm after the 10.30am Mass and the PCC meeting on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

Pam and Fr Tony were in charge of the drum containing the numbers at the vicarage.

Ruth Taylor had list of numbers and names.

**First Prize Number 50 - Jean Pye wins £25**

**Second Prize Number 97 - Christine Latham wins £15**

**Third Prize Number 86 - Sue Loftus wins £10**

**If you are not a member and would like to join it is just £1 a month, contact David or Ruth Taylor.**

The ninth draw will be Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020, probably again via Zoom, watch for details.



### **Walsingham News**

A big 'thank you' to everyone who ordered calendars/notelets to support Tariro, the charity of the year chosen by the Sisters at the Priory. Having passed on just over £125 from orders from our very loyal pilgrims and friends, Sister Carol sends her thanks and writes, 'Wow, you have done really well'. Super us!! It's been a pleasure to be 'the go-between' to allow us to support The Priory (and save postage) in these difficult times as our regular pilgrims would usually buy cards

and small items from the little stalls in the green room and the Priory cloister.

The Shrine has continued to open for private prayer but as part of the November 'lockdown' visitors and pilgrims have been unable to access the Guild of All Souls chapel or the garden, which is a shame for those visiting for the first time.

The 2020 Bible Weekend@Home was excellent. The three addresses linked to the current Shrine's theme of 'Mary, Queen of All Creation' were given by The Revd Dr Kevin Walton, Canon Chancellor at St Albans Cathedral and recorded in advance in the Lady Chapel there. For anyone interested the texts, which are available through the Shrine web-site, are worth looking at. The weekend began with a Friday evening virtual 'First Visit' when Fr Kevin and Fr Ben led us from the Annunciation altar into the Holy House - just as we would in 'real life'. It ended on Sunday lunch-time with Mid-day prayers and virtual 'Last Visit' from the Holy House, including that final hymn sung to Repton - with the last line of 'Our Lady's Shrine, "Farewell." Oh dear!! Streamed masses, Shrine Prayers and a Holy Hour completed the weekend and it seemed to be much appreciated by all those following the programme. It was wonderful to see the Holy House through a rarely used wide-angle lens and get its full glory.

A new resource has just come onto the Shrine web-site. 'Journey with Mary' has been produced for families (young and old) to use during the 4 weeks of Advent and offers readings, prayers and things to do. It seems to have lots to offer.

Thanks to the wonders of video calling, I have had the opportunity to share Compline with Sr Carol and three friends

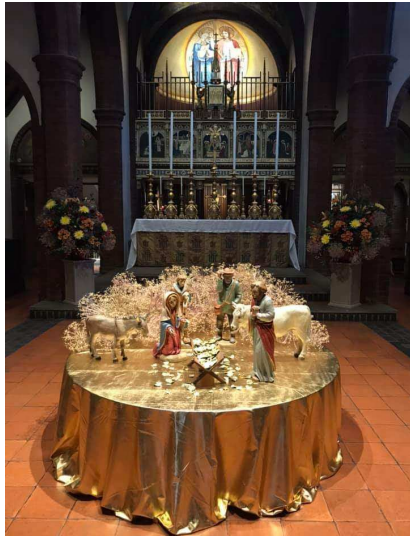
across the country. It has been a highlight of Friday evenings and thanks to Sr Carol for making it happen. Sadly she's in the Priory office, not their chapel, but you can't have everything! Now, [A Challenge!](#) We'd like to receive your thoughts about being a pilgrim at England's Nazareth and use them in future magazines. We have got such a wealth of knowledge in this parish (more than anywhere else in some ways) and many of you readers have been pilgrims over a very long time. Don't keep your memories a secret! Let us know about your unforgettable first pilgrimage, hospitality experiences before the current accommodation and refectory, favourite trips out and memorable performances which formed part of the Entertainment Evenings. The list is endless; your favourite place to be, how the Ministries have affected you or what you consider to be the highlight of a Pilgrimage. To make this as easy as possible you could jot down a couple of sentences on a piece of paper. You could write a little more and make it a paragraph! You could do it on a computer. You could e-mail [magazine@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:magazine@staugustinestm.org.uk) and our esteemed editor Mike Cheetham will forward them to me to put together. Alternatively, put your thoughts in an envelope, marked Walsingham:Magazine and drop it off at church. You can identify yourself - or not - your choice. We've got the coming weeks with continuing restrictions, so what's to stop you? Please, please take a few moments to write something and give a welcome change to this part of our magazine.

We keep the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January. Times are elsewhere in the magazine.

*Linda Parkington*



As this is a festive edition of the Parish Paper here are a couple of seasonal photographs. They are used with kind permission of Keith Tuck, the Shrine's Hospitality Manager.



## Churches Together in Tonge Moor

It was decided that we wouldn't get involved with a joint Advent Service this year as there was so much available to each church already.

We have been pleased with the number of views that 2 of our previous events have received, The Virtual Prayer Walk in August 87 views and A Season of Creation in October 48 views, both still available on the Churches Together in Tonge Moor You Tube channel.

Our next CTiTM meeting will take place shortly and we are to plan the January event Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Do let us know if you want to be involved with planning or at the event.

We are still looking out for someone to act as secretary of the group. If you think you would like to be involved do speak with Fr Tony, Ruth or David who can give you the remit.

STOP PRESS!

### **GRAND EASTER DRAW**

This was drawn on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm via Zoom, on what would have been the date of the Christmas Fair.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated prizes, cash and bought and/or sold tickets. We had 41 prizes and made a profit of £380.

	Prize	Ticket	Name
1	£100 Cash	211	Jeff Butler
2	1l Bottle of Grouse Whisky	668	Barbara Davis
3	Chocolate/sweet Hamper	281	Julie Oxton c/o Pam
4	Try Dive	731	Jayne Butler
5	Baylis & Harding Toiletries	624	June Aspinall
6	Black Tower light White Wine	59	Howard Anderson
7	Doggy Door Stop	266	Mona Davies
8	Body Party glitter toiletries	405	Vivienne
9	Prosecco	734	Jayne Butler
10	Bottle of Mulled Wine	826	Tracy Jones c/o Ruth
11	Black Tower light Rose Wine	130	David Taylor
12	Accessorize Eau do Toilette	358	Enid Butler
13	Cut & Finish from Hair Loft	681	Diane Bloor
14	Kevin the Carrot Gift Mug	297	Yvonne Davidson c/o Pam
15	Jasper, Chantenay and Baby	720	Jayne Butler
16	Sophia Glass Trinket Box	180	Alan Schofield
17	Tub of Roses Chocolates	294	Yvonne Davidson c/o Pam
18	Bottle of Merlot	476	Brenda Green
19	Tin of M&S Belgium Choc Biscuits	17	Mark Harwood
20	Bottle of Asti Martini	25	Vivienne Bennand
21	Grace Cole Toiletries	324	Jenny Hunt
22	Box of M&S Milk Chocolates	779	Ollie c/o Ruth
23	Bottle of Pinot Grigio	751	Veronica Brown
24	Lavender Bathing Collection	273	Madelaine Davies
25	Bottle of Red Wine	408	Vivienne Bennand
26	Sophia Class Photo Frame	532	Ann Worthington
27	Bath Cracker	144	Lilian Schofield
28	Molton Brown Festive gift set	187	Zamda
29	Dove Bodywash gift set	379	Jayne Butler
30	Bottle of Mulled Wine	604	Nicola Lamax c/o Elsie
31	Tub of Quality Street	342	Barbara Wild
32	Bottle of Red Wine	250	Jayne Butler
33	Bottle of Cava	844	Gina c/o Ruth
34	Sophia Glass Jewellery Holder	606	Herbie Reagan c/o Elsie
35	Tub of Celebrations	330	Ruth Crawshaw
36	Baylis & Harding Luxury Sock Set	778	Ollie c/o Ruth
37	1l Bottle of Harvey's Bristol Cream	602	Nicola Lamax c/o Elsie
38	Tub of Heroes	488	Charlotte Wormald
39	Bubble Bath	706	Lesley Emerton
40	Bodycare Body Set	764	Fr Tony
41	1l Bottle of Smirnoff Vodka	500	Steve Benson

# THANK YOU

URBAN  
OUTREACH  
BOSTON



Wow! We had no idea what to expect with this year's harvest appeal. With all of the restrictions and potential barriers to people collecting and donating we were amazed at the response.



Together, along with the other schools and churches, a huge 15.3 tonnes of food was donated! That is the weight equivalent of almost 13 small cars and will feed over 1000 families!

Thank you for your astonishing generosity! It truly is humbling to see the food come in on such a large scale. Please pass on our sincere thanks to all involved.

The Urban Outreach Team



**The Parish of St Augustine's Church, Tonge Moor. Bolton.**

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY**  
**PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH.**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2020.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to

have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.

- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

**Basic Safeguarding Awareness.**

CO is a basic safeguarding awareness course that can be completed by any member of the congregation, to improve their understanding of abuse and enable them to help build a culture of informed vigilance within the Church. It is free to take online at:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

Just go on registration and create a new account. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Margaret Mullen (Parish Safeguarding Officer)*

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**Fr. David Schofield celebrates becoming an octogenarian on 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

**We wish him a very happy birthday.**

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**SHOEBOX APPEAL**

With Christmas approaching, a time of joyful celebrations it brings very cold weather and loneliness for many of our service users.

**THEREFORE WE ARE ASKING OUR SUPPORTERS TO HELP THEM BY OFFERING MORE THAN JUST FOOD.**

We are asking for people to prepare a shoebox of gifts for someone who is facing homelessness or hardship this christmas, with items such as:

<b>TOILETRIES</b>	<b>TREAT ITEMS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Shampoo/Conditioner, shower gel, wet wipes, toothpaste & brush, vaseline/lip balm, sanitary products, razors, shaving foam, hair brushes etc	Chocolates, sachets of soup/drinks, biscuits, note-book/pen, torch, batteries, first aid kits etc.	Small towels, hat/gloves/scarf, underwear, socks.

If you could help us, however small or big the donations, they will be very much appreciated.

## SHOEBOX FOR THE HOMELESS APPEAL

You may recall that last year we contributed to Harper Green Secondary School's project to supply food hampers to the needy of Bolton. Paula Holmes-Patel, a member of our congregation, is an Assistant Head Teacher at the school. This year, because of the difficulties of organising this and delivering to doorsteps due to the issues around COVID, they are asking our help with their *Shoebox for the Homeless Appeal*.

Due to the current pandemic, life on the streets is even tougher than it would normally over the winter, with many homeless men and women facing a particular bleak and lonely period. The shoeboxes donated are being distributed on behalf of the school through Homeless Aid UK at their street kitchens in Bolton and Bury. This ensures that they reach the homeless directly.

Please consider buying an item or two from the list above and place them in the box provided in church. They will then be put together to form complete shoeboxes.

Thank you very much.

*Paula Holmes-Patel and Fr Tony*

## On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

The Rectory

St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set

in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look

better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



**St Augustine's and St Aidan's friends**

**May God bless you at Christmas and throughout 2021 Ken**



**ROSE QUEEN RETINUE - 1950s**

Can anyone recognize the girls? The date?

### PARISH DATES

*All Masses are also being streamed via YouTube*

Wed	2nd	Churches reopen for public worship
Tue	8th	7.30pm: Mass, Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Wed	9th	2.00pm: Mass, Mothers' Union (also via YouTube) 7.30pm: Deanery Synod (via Zoom)
SUN	13th	10.30am: Toy Service (also Sat 12th 6.00pm) 6.30pm: Evening Prayer & Benediction
Mon	21st	Bolton's Big Carol Service
Thur	24th	11.30pm: MIDNIGHT MASS
Fri	25th	9.00am Mass of Christmas Morning 10.30am Mass of Christmas Morning
Sat	26th	no mass
SUN	27th	3.00pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Fri	1st	10.30am: Mass - Mary, Mother of God



## TIME TO SMILE

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will be no Nativity this year for the following reasons:

The Three Wise Men face a travel ban.

The shepherds have been furloughed.

The innkeeper has had to shut because of Lockdown and a slump in bookings.

Santa won't be working as he would break the Rule of Six with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a Covid test.

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Wedding vows should include.....

“Do you promise to always help him find his stuff that is right in front of him” because you will be doing that for ever.

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Being a dad is mostly about being grumpy  
and knowing things



Did you know.....

That there is a species of kangaroo that can jump higher than the average house?

This is due to its powerful legs and the fact that the average house cannot jump!

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A farmer spots God walking through Wensleydale, and greets him with,

“Eeh, lad, it’s reight good to sithee, but what’s up? Is t’end o’th world nigh?”

“Aw, no,” says God, “But Boris says aw’ve to work from home naw...”

*(from Sue Loftus)*

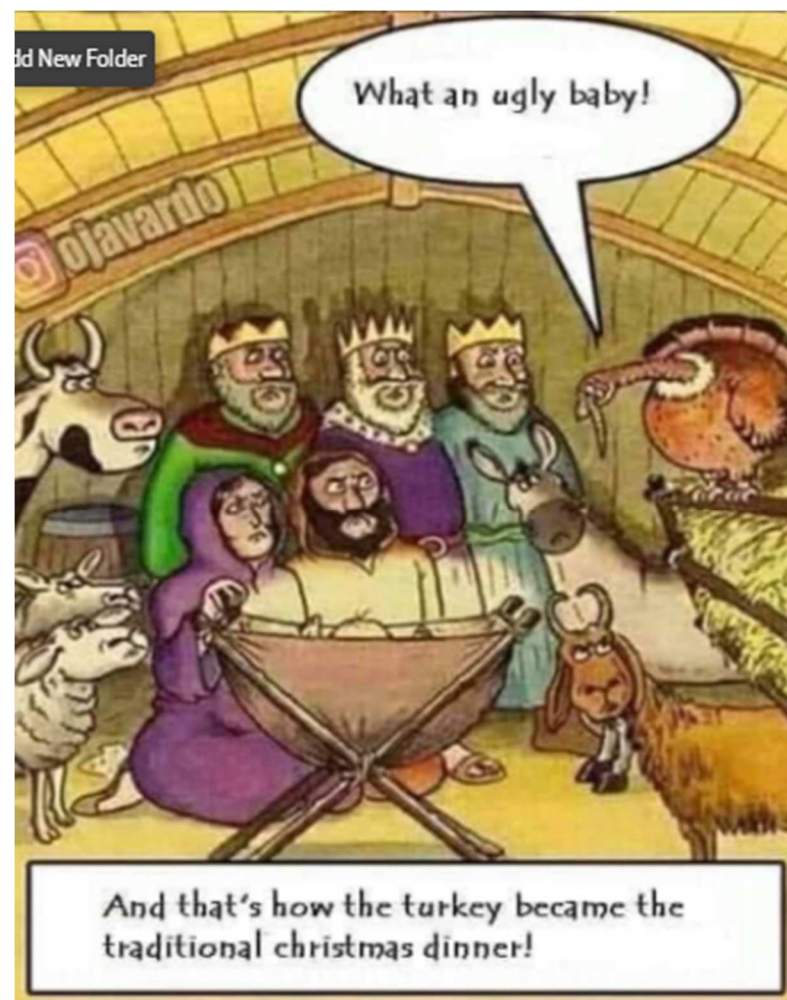
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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

November 10th

Bernard Thomas Lever (80)



## Calendar and Intentions for December 2020

Tue	1	feria: The housebound and self-isolating
Wed	2	feria: Thanksgiving for the resumption of public worship
Thu	3	S Francis Xavier: The Church in the East Indies
Fri	4	feria: The successful completion of the vaccine trials
Sat	5	feria: The Bishop of Beverley, and all Bishops of The Society
<b>SUN</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	7	S Ambrose: All discerning a call to the Sacred Priesthood
Tue	8	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM: The Parish and the People of God
Wed	9	feria: The work and mission of the Mother's Union
Thu	10	feria: Our local tradespeople
Fri	11	feria: The Unity of Christ's church
Sat	12	feria: The fire, police and ambulance services
<b>SUN</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	14	S John of the Cross: all contemplative Orders
Tue	15	feria: Those suffering from Coronavirus and its effects
Wed	16	feria: Walmsley Deanery, its churches and congregations
Thu	17	feria: The Blood Transfusion Service
Fri	18	feria: The Churches Together in Tonge Moor
Sat	19	feria: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate
<b>SUN</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	21	feria: Those sharing in Advent carol services
Tue	22	feria: All who work in Intensive Care Units
Wed	23	feria: Those preparing for our Nine Lessons and Carols
Thu	24	feria: Confessors and their penitents
Fri	25	CHRISTMAS DAY: The Parish and the People of God
Sat	26	S STEPHEN: Those persecuted for their Christian faith
<b>SUN</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>HOLY FAMILY: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	28	THE HOLY INNOCENTS: The Children's Society
Tue	29	S Thomas Becket: right relations between Church and State
Wed	30	Sixth Day in Christmas Octave:
Thu	31	Seventh Day in Christmas Octave:

email: [paroff@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:paroff@staugustinestm.org.uk)

website: [www.staugustinestm.org.uk](http://www.staugustinestm.org.uk)

### **CHURCH WARDENS**

David & Ruth Taylor: 31 Wisbeck Road. Tel: 01204 396409

### **OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS**

*email addresses can be completed by adding  
"staugustinestm.org.uk"*

PCC Secretary: Katherine Taylor Tel. 01204 531053 - email: [pccsec@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:pccsec@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Treasurer: Sue Loftus Tel 01204 302051 - email: [treasurer@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Walsingham Cell: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Church Flowers: Cath and Ted Hale Tel: 01204 533745

Child Protection: Margaret Mullen Tel: 01204 695964 - email: [cpo@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:cpo@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Brownies: Nichola Smith Tel: 07748 188215

Sunday School: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Mothers' Union: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Organist: (St Augustine's) Mike Cheetham Tel: 01204 391963

Organist: (St. Aidan's) Peter Pemrick Tel: 01204 527699

Parish Hall Bookings: Sandra Anderson Tel: 01204 383158 - email: [bookings@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:bookings@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Wednesday Morning Coffee Shop: John Harrison Tel: 01204 792691

Caretaker - St Aidan's Hall: Andrew Settle Tel: 01204 450321

Parish Paper: Mike Cheetham - email: [magazine@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:magazine@staugustinestm.org.uk)