

THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
**ST JOHN**



**THE DIVINE**  
BROOKLANDS • SALE



**50p**

**December 2019**

## ***From the Editor***

Another year almost over and the final e-edition of the magazine for 2019. Added content and colour so do pass on the link. This edition also covers January 2020 but who knows what the new year will bring so inevitably the focus is on Christmas. Between now and then we have the little matter of a General Election. Our politics today is characterised by what is termed ‘post truth’, ‘fake news’ or ‘alternative facts’. It makes the truth that we have to proclaim all the more important as we invite people into St John’s to hear about the birth of the Christ child and what that means for the world. (Editorial soapbox put away!)

We also though live in a world where the need to manage resources is becoming more and more an issue. Extinction Rebellion might be a pain if they delay your journey but they do have a point. So, we have a couple of pieces about a different view of the Christmas spirit to go with our usual features. And, as promised and keenly anticipated, the Christmas Quiz.

For most of us Christmas is a time of joy but there are many around us who find it hard. Many around us have lost a loved one; struggle with financial problems; miss an absent member of the family; or are alone. They must dread the endless parade of jolly families happily spending on unnecessary luxuries that the media gives us. Please hold them in your prayers and if you can reach out in some way do. And you might want to use the prayer aid on page 8.

So, from the Editor, many thanks to those who have supported the magazine through 2019; those who provide content; sort and deliver; and the many readers. Despite the editorial indulgences, it is put together prayerfully in the hope that something touches your heart.

I pray that you will feel God’s love and peace over Christmas and the coming year.

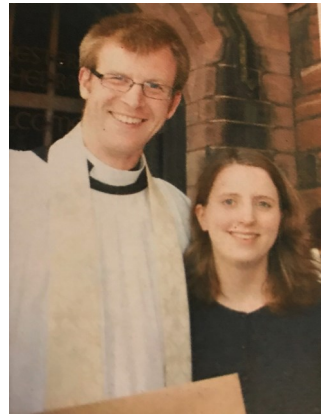
Be blessed.

The Editor

*The front cover is the Angel Tree Christmas Card. See page 5.*

## Richard writes...

Christmas greetings! How has your year been? These past twelve months have flown by and we've been up to all sorts of exciting things: our Pancake Party, Maundy Meal, Messy Easter, Sunrise Service, Summer Fair, Dinosaur Party, Pumpkin Party, Winter Fair, Messy Advent, as well as our regular Craft Chat, Women's Fellowship and Good as New! I hope you were able to join us, if not don't worry!!



We've also got lots of things we'd love to invite you along to over Christmas and next year, including a Burns Night Quiz and Dance!

Perhaps my favourite characters in the Christmas story are the three kings, who followed the star to Bethlehem to see Jesus, the new born king. One of the many questions I have is this: how many steps did they take? It must be in the tens of millions, I would have thought. Each step they took, as they followed the star, took them closer and closer to discovering Jesus for themselves.

What steps might you take this year to discover Jesus for yourself? I hope that you will take the first step and come along to our Christmas services and hear more about how knowing Jesus can change your life! I also hope that you will come along to our Breakfast Alpha which we're running in the New Year, on a Saturday morning along with good coffee and delicious food! If Sunday mornings are a struggle, why not come along to our monthly Messy Church? There are plenty of steps you can take to discover Jesus for yourself. May I invite you to take your next step?

At St John's we want to be a place where you will be known by name, loved, cared for, and supported in your journey of faith, as we move from being strangers to friends and from friends to family. So why not take your first step and join us this Christmas, you'll be sure to receive a warm welcome!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

**Richard**

## Greater Together Manchester

It's that time of year again when we start to think of the joy of Christmas. It's also that time of year when it begins to get cold and wet and increasingly depressing for those on the streets. Greater Together Manchester works with a consortium of churches in offering night shelters to some of those in need. A group of churches commits to open up its space to house up to a dozen men for one night a week. The guests are given a cheery welcome; a hot meal; some company; and a bed for the night. It isn't ideal although it gets terrific feedback from the guests for the way in which it treats the men as individuals. The shelter opens around 6pm and, as church premises are generally well used, the guests have to leave by 8.30am. They also sleep in a different place each night so have to carry their belongings. The Booth Centre in Manchester offers specialist support to try to find permanent accommodation or provide skills training so it is hoped that for most of the guests their stay is short but sadly that isn't always the case.

Shelters are staffed by volunteers, including some former guests, who work on one (or more) of three shifts. From 5.30-10.00pm people are needed to set up; serve meals; and socialise. A smaller team stays overnight and then a third group comes in between 6.00-9.30am to serve breakfast and clear things away. The work requires nothing other than friendliness, compassion and being non-judgmental. Do consider it. Those involved are of all ages and backgrounds. Volunteers are urgently needed and I'm happy to explain what goes on. (brooklandsmag@gmail.com) For further information and how to join look on the website [greatertogethermanchester.org](http://greatertogethermanchester.org) Click on the volunteer tab to look at the video and how two of the priests involved view the work as part of living the Gospel. Even if you can't help directly pray for the guests and the shelters. See also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITC3tKq7-Q>

John Vaughan

## Toy Service



Donations of toys will be collected at the services on 8 December. Please send in new, gift wrapped toys. Please also label them with the suggested age and gender for whom the gift is suitable.

## Angel Tree

The Prison Fellowship is a Christian organisation that undertakes work within the prison system. One of the initiatives it runs is 'Angel Tree'. This allows men and women in prison to have a gift sent on their behalf to their children. The parents write out a gift tag and suggest a gift so it looks to the child as if it has come from Mum or Dad. In many cases of a parent being locked up the child also suffers as a result and anything that keeps the parental link going is positive for the offender, children and society.

The latest Angel Tree video has just been released. If you can get to the end without welling up then you are a lot tougher than me. Rather than give out the long link here, just go on youtube and search for 'Theresa's Angel Tree Story'. Just make sure you have a hankie close to hand.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFclZcLSVJY&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=PF+Master+Mailing+List&utm_ca)

[v=HFclZcLSVJY&feature=youtu.be&utm\\_source=PF+Master+Mailing+List&utm\\_ca](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFclZcLSVJY&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=PF+Master+Mailing+List&utm_ca)



## Church Flowers

A thank you in advance for the work of our flower fairies whose work will beautify our Church and enhance our spiritual senses over Christmas.

If you would like to make a donation for church flowers in memory of a loved one, a birthday or an anniversary, please contact Ruth Shaw on 973 9255 or Lynda Tattersall on 973 7140

*28 October Doris Heads in memory of her husband, Robert.*



## Hymns We've Sung Recently: O Come All Ye Faithful

Depending when you are reading this, you will either have sung or be singing shortly, this hymn. Or is it a 'carol'? The view seems to be that something designed to be sung within a church service should be called a 'Christmas hymn' rather than a 'carol'; the latter term being used to describe something that might have a religious theme but is simply intended as a seasonal song. Either way, who doesn't love 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful'. The joy of the last verse alone makes the Christmas Day service essential.

The author, John Francis Wade, was an English cleric who fled the country to France after the Jacobite Rebellion in 1745. He composed the hymn in Latin as 'Adeste Fideles'. There is some debate about whether he penned it in France or before, but it dates from sometime in the 1740's. There are versions with the Latin words available on youtube including one by Bing Crosby. The English translation was by Frederic Oakeley around 1841. The tune may also have been written by Wade but is usually attributed to Samuel Webbe.

There is an argument that the lyrics were intended to be supportive of the Jacobite Revolution and the exiled Bonnie Prince Charlie and some academics have suggested that they were intended to celebrate the birth of the exiled Stuart Pretender rather than Christ. Whatever the truth of this, the waning of popular support for the 'King Over the Water' and greater tolerance of Catholicism meant that by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was little doubt about the subject of the hymn.

The hymn itself places us among the faithful as we throng to see the holy child with the second verse drawing heavily on the words of the Nicene Creed. We are therefore placed firmly into the early Church tradition before we join with the Angels in a great hymn of praise. But whether a carol or a hymn just let rip and enjoy.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3x)  
Christ the Lord.



God of God, light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
True God, begotten, not created:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

And for a really stonking version with prayers... [https://  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1wHyMR\\_SCA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1wHyMR_SCA)

## Lower Numbers, Rising Prayers

One Sunday morning at the 9 o'clock service, the lights suddenly went out. The morning, already grey, emphasised the darkness in the church. However, the chancel lights remained on, and from where people were sitting, the glow of the chancel area was warm and looked almost like a painting. The small congregation were invited to sit in the choir seats, and we were able to read the service book with ease.

What really struck me was the immense sense of fellowship and the power of prayer in that small group; no sense of separation, but the joining of sincere prayer from the heart raising up towards heaven. It struck me that though there are falling numbers within congregations everywhere, let us put that aside and embrace the prayer time and let the Holy Spirit speak to us. That is the essence of prayer.

Even with the smallest numbers, we are joined with Our Lord, linked to the parish, realising tangibly the words of Jesus "where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with you."  
Mathew 18:20

Sue Newton

## Prayer Labyrinth

During a Multi-Faith Mental Health Day event at Manchester Cathedral, Mrs Editor and I encountered a full sized prayer labyrinth. This was laid out on the floor and the idea behind it was that you walked it, at your own pace, in prayer. We were advised that we should frame a question first and pray with every meditative footstep. Setting one out on the floor has practical difficulties but I came across the idea of the finger labyrinth which I wanted to share with readers.



Unlike a maze, you cannot get 'lost' in a labyrinth. Basically you just follow the route to the centre and back. There are no dead ends or backtracking. The one above is taken from The Labyrinth Society website and was developed by Jeff Seward and Vicki Keiser.



The basic idea of the finger labyrinth is that you put your finger at the start; trace it to the centre; pause; and then return. The suggested method is taken from [pilgrimpaths.co.uk](http://pilgrimpaths.co.uk)

- Find somewhere quiet to sit and spread out your finger labyrinth on a table or tray. You may wish to light a candle or play soft music.
- Allow yourself to become still and settled and then gently pray: Almighty God, I am always in your presence. You are my companion on my path. Your words are a light that guides my feet and your Spirit feeds my soul. May I always hear your voice and love and serve you all the days of my life through Jesus Christ your son, my Lord and brother. Amen.
- When you are ready... enter the labyrinth, trace the path with a finger on the hand you don't write with... and open your heart and mind to God in prayer... Let your thoughts flow... Jesus is with you every step of the way, you are never alone. You are always loved by God.
- When you reach the centre...consider your thoughts... ...pause and spend some time in prayer and reflection receiving God's love and blessing.
- When you are ready return along the same path... return gratefully, prayerfully ... recognising and reflecting on any changes in feelings, any inspiration received or any new decisions made...
- As you exit the labyrinth give thanks and praise to God: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

The key to this seems to be to have a definite intention rather than simply tracing your finger aimlessly. You need time to do it and some peace. There is a longer piece on the history of the practice and on different techniques for anybody interested at <http://www.pattonhq.com/links/uccministry/labyrinth.html> and a Google search will produce links to different labyrinths.



## God in the Arts

*The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world, with some 2,300 works spanning the centuries. During this year we have been journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. By the Revd Michael Burgess.*

He gave us eyes to see them: Gauguin's Portrait of a Breton Girl at Prayer

During this year we have been exploring the wealth of paintings in the National Gallery in London. Each year the Gallery has exhibitions highlighting the work of one particular artist, and until 26 January there is a major exhibition, 'Gauguin Portraits.' It celebrates in paintings and sculptures the life and work of Paul Gauguin (1848-1903). He is best known for the art he painted when he fled Europe to live in Tahiti in the South Seas. But from 1886 to 1891 he lived in rural Brittany at Pont-Even.

This month's painting is from those years when Gauguin was influenced by folk art and impressed by the simple faith of the Breton peasants. He has captured that faith in this painting of a Breton girl at prayer. His own catchphrase was 'I shut my eyes in order to see.' The girl has her eyes closed as she offers her prayers, but we sense that the inner eye of her heart is open in trust to God's will for her.

At this time of the year children step into the limelight of church and school life with nativity plays. They invite us to journey with them in that same simplicity and trust to Bethlehem, just as St Francis of Assisi invited the people of Greccio to a cave outside the town in 1223. As they looked into the cave, they saw the animals and the hay, and in the centre, a new-born babe. St Francis talked to them of the simple message of God's love revealed in all humility and openness in this birth of the Christ-Child. He invited the people to respond with those same gifts.

As we look at this painting, we see something of the simplicity and trust called of us, whether young or old. Too often as we get older, we find our lives weighed down by responsibilities and pressures. We find time is swallowed up in the busyness of this season, and somehow we lose that innocence and simplicity of life.



But, pondering the Christmas story and pondering this painting, we can put our hands together and pray for that openness and childlike trust. Fr Faber wrote a hymn with the lines:

*'If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our hearts would find assurance  
in the promise of the Lord.'*



## Ethical Christmas presents

How much damage to the earth will we manage to do this Christmas? Those hundreds of millions of presents we are going to buy come from somewhere - usually raw resources. Are the presents worth the strain on our already struggling planet?

Here are some alternative presents, that are eco-friendly, useful, and fairly traded.

- Christian Aid ([christianaid.org.uk/christmaspresents](http://christianaid.org.uk/christmaspresents)) invites supporters to send them a donation, and in return, they will send a 'lively' personalised card to your friend or relations, describing the gift you have chosen to give on their behalf.
- Send a Cow ([sendacow.org/gifts](http://sendacow.org/gifts)) also invites supporters to send a donation for a range of practical gifts, for use in helping people from Ethiopia to Zambia.
- Traidcraft ([traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk)) offers everything from bambo tights to clocks to food and cosmetics.
- WaterAid ([shop.wateraid.org](http://shop.wateraid.org)) provides sanitation equipment (such as taps to promote hand washing) to villages in Africa, Asia or Central America. The person you nominate will receive a card to let them know this has been done in their name.
- World Vision ([musthavegifts.org](http://musthavegifts.org)) offers you the choice of sending various specific items from mosquito nets to garden tools, all of which they say are specifically asked for and needed.
- With WWF ([wwf.org.uk](http://wwf.org.uk)) you can adopt a wild animal, from a dolphin to an orangutan. WWF will send your nominated person an adoption certificate and even cuddly toy.

## Baptismal Anniversaries

December

*Elijah Ellis Norman Hall-Gardiner*

January

*Joshua Bradley Richardson*



## Facing both ways

January gets its name from the Roman god Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions, of gates and doorways. Traditionally Janus had two faces, one looking to the past and one to the future. It reminds us that as we start a new year we can look back to the past with gratitude and to the future with expectation.

In his hymn, '*How good is the God we adore*', Joseph Hart (1712-1768) speaks about God as our faithful, unchangeable friend and finishes with this beautiful thought: 'We'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come.' This seems to be a good pasture to take as we enter 2020.

First, we can look back on the year that is gone and give thanks for all the blessings that we have experienced. Thankfulness is really a choice. None of us will have had a perfect year, and many of us will have had some dark days indeed, but if we look carefully enough, we will see that there were also many wonderful days and golden moments. Let's choose to focus on those and to acknowledge the work of God in our lives. *For what are you grateful as you look back to 2019?*

Second, we can put our faith in God for all that is to come. None of us know the future. We will have our hopes and our dreams, and have made our plans for the year ahead, but no-one can guarantee they will come to pass. There will be surprises for sure, both good (we never expected that!) and bad (I didn't see that coming!). How wonderful then to have a God who knows the future and in whose hands we are safe, no matter what comes to pass. Let's choose to place our trust in Him as 2020 unfolds. *What are you most looking forward to as you peer ahead of you this year?*

Tony Horsfall



## **Mary Webster Writes**

Here we are, rushing towards the end of another year and wondering where all that time has gone and what did we do with it? In October we welcomed Sale Handbell Ringers who provided an enjoyable evening of music as well as telling us about the history of the group. They invited our ladies to have a go and take part in one of the pieces which they enjoyed enormously.

By the time you read this we will have had our 'Advent Antics' meeting and I'm sure we will have had a wonderful time. We will have our annual Christmas meal on 6 December which I am sure will be excellent as always.

In January we will have our annual Beetle Drive Challenge which should be yet another evening full of fun and laughter. Bring it on, my shoulders are even stronger than last year so I can 'support' everyone just as I did last year.

Please remember ladies that we are a warm a welcoming bunch of people who would be happy to see you on a regular or semi regular basis. As a member our subscription is £17.50 per year alternatively, you can join us for the evening for a donation of £2.

Time to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that God keeps you warm and safe in His arms.

## **Winter Fair**

A big thank you to everybody who worked on the Winter Fair and, more importantly, to those who turned up and spent at it. We raised just short of £3000 which was a great effort. The weather was kind and rain held off until the final stages of the clearing up operation. A good time was had by one and all.

The winner of the prize hamper and the 'Name the Sloth' seems to have been the same person, Eva. Lucky her!

## The Magazine 2020

Readers will be aware from Richard's letters of the need for St John's to finance a range of existing and new activities. The magazine currently runs at a substantial and unsustainable loss that cannot continue. To 'balance the books' it has been decided that for 2020 we will not be including Crux in the magazine. It is understood that for some people that is a disappointment but the alternatives of a big increase in the cover price or even the discontinuation of the print edition seemed worse. Crux is available online and we will provide a link to it. The situation will be reviewed at the end of 2020.



"It's easy to tell when it's Nativity Play time – I can never find a tea-towel!"

## The Magazine: PS

Deadline for February  
Edition: Mon 13th Jan

And don't forget the  
online version. Colour  
and more features.  
Pass the link on.

[http://  
www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.  
uk/parish-magazine/](http://www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk/parish-magazine/)

And a subscription  
makes a great  
Christmas gift...

## From Around St John's



Hello everyone, I hope this missive finds you well and that your preparations for Christmas are going well. Our meeting in November saw us watching the Parish Pageant. Various members of the congregation acted out the history of the Church and Parish to celebrate its 125 years anniversary. Anthony Marlow kindly came along to set it up and introduce, so many thanks to him. This was instead of our talk by Sue and Isabel, who couldn't make it. They will be coming on the 8 January. On the 11 December, we will have our Advent meeting, so do come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon break from the Christmas preparations.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2020.

Sharon Marlow



### Saint Gildas c500- 570

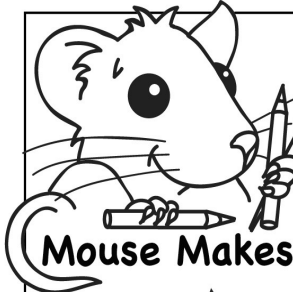
Gildas was a monk and an abbot at Llanitud in Wales. He was a prolific writer and had many disciples, notably amongst Irish monks. One of his many writings, was the De Excidio Britanniae, written around 540 AD. It is an account of the secular activities of rulers and clerics, around at the time. Gildas's remarkable rhetorical power and knowledge of the scriptures is apparent within the work.

Gildas spent some time as a hermit, on the island of Flatholm, in the Bristol Channel. However, he died in Brittany. His writings were widely known and used in England, Wales and Ireland. It is worth noting that Archbishop of York Wulfstan, used them in his famous sermon of the wolf. His image is on the page opposite.

Feast day 29 January







Where was Mary's baby born?  
Why were Joseph and Mary there?  
Read Luke 2 :1-6

Good news!

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?  
Read Luke 2:7

What did Mary dress her baby in?  
Read Luke 2:6

Glory to God

Why were the shepherds afraid?  
Read Luke 2:8

A Saviour is born

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?  
Read Matthew 1:21

What good news did the angel tell?  
Read Luke 2:10-11

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?  
Read Luke 2:16

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?  
Read Luke 2:13-14



Colour a star each day until Christmas

## From the Archive

### December 1919

The December parish magazine looked at two issues. The first related to the Vicarage and the need for urgent repairs. It was agreed that money would be raised for this purpose through what was called an American Tea. This was an afternoon and evening event which offered two sittings of hot pot as well as stalls and entertainment. Whether it was possible to have two portions is unclear. Of greater significance to us now is the fact that in December the designs for the two war memorials were approved. The cost of the memorials was estimated at £270 and at the time of writing £160 had already been raised. To give some context to that sum, the monthly offertory was around £20. As a final note it was agreed that the offertory the Carol service would be given to the Archbishop's Fund for the Destitute Children of Central Europe.

### December 1969

The December 1969 magazine began with the Vicar's letter making reference to a petition asking the British Government to play its part in helping the poor and nations of the world to get on their feet. Rev. Buckley commented: "we are doing it because it has become clear that only the governments of the industrial nations can really break the back of the problem of world poverty. At the present time rich nations are getting richer and the poor nations are getting poorer. This is neither right nor prudent. It is not right that one quarter of mankind should have 9/10 of the world's wealth. Not only is it not right; it is no way forward to a world of mutual peace and harmony between nations." He closed the letter by pointing to the fact that at Christmas we wished goodwill to all mankind and asking that we acted accordingly.

### Editor's Note

Interestingly the figures now are even worse. In 2013, Credit Suisse looked at global wealth. They calculated that 1% of the global population held half the world's net wealth (i.e. their assets minus any debt). The top 10% of adults held 85% of net wealth meaning the remaining 90% had between them only 15% of global wealth. The OECD in 2012 calculated that the top 5% of asset owners controlled 71.6% of the world's wealth with just 0.6% of the world's population having a 30.3% share of it.

## Christmas Quiz

Back by popular demand (Mrs Editor) we present for your pleasure the Annual Christmas Quiz. This is like last year's with some really awful Christmas Cracker puns with you, dear reader, simply having to provide the answers. Hours of fun for the family are guaranteed. The Editor's decision is final.

Entries by email ([brooklandsmag@gmail.com](mailto:brooklandsmag@gmail.com)) or left in the red folder in Church by 13 January with a wonderful chocolate prize for the winner. Answers and the winner announced in February.

1. Who hides in a bakery at Christmas?
2. What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
3. What illness do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
4. What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive?
5. Who is Santa's favourite singer?
6. How many letters are in the alphabet at Christmas?
7. Why did nobody bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
8. What did one snowman say to the other snowman?
9. How did Mary and Joseph figure out baby Jesus was exactly 7lb 9oz?
10. Which side of a turkey has the most feathers?
11. Why was the turkey in a band?
12. What carol do they sing in the desert?
13. What happened to Santa when he went speed dating?
14. What's the most popular Christmas wine?
15. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
16. What kind of do elves listen to?
17. What kind of motorcycle does Santa ride?
18. What happened when Santa got stuck in a chimney?
19. How does Darth Vader like his Christmas turkey?
20. How does Santa keep track of all the fireplaces he's visited?

## ***And in case you thought there were no funnies...***

### **To get you in the mood for the Christmas Quiz**

Did you hear about the bakery that was burgled at Christmas?

*Everything was stolen!*

What is a webmaster's favourite hymn?

*Oh, dot com all ye faithful!*

Why doesn't Father Christmas suffer from claustrophobia when he climbs down the chimney?

*Because he has had his flue jab.*

What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine?

'This will sleigh you.'

### **Exchange**

My friend reviewed her young son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One line was: "At Christmas, we exchange gifts with \_\_\_\_."

His quick response: "Receipts."

### **Lost**

Just as the Vicar began the Christmas Eve service, the electricity in the church failed. The wardens found some candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then the Vicar re-entered the pulpit, shuffled her notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?"

A hopeful voice called out, "Right near the end!"

### **Stronger**

Statistics show that we're getting stronger. 50 years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £100 worth of Christmas presents. 30 years ago, it took two people to carry £40 worth of groceries. Now a five-year-old can do it.

### **Wise?**

When I told my children the story of how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus, my six-year-old daughter was not impressed. "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

## "Have you a computer problem? If so, I am local and here to help..."

Here are just a few of the services I can offer

- Virus removal and health checks
- Internet & Email set up
- New computer installations
- Upgrades & repairs
- Help and advice on how to get the best out of your computer
- Back up & data recovery
- Training & support
- Laptop & computer repairs
- I can supply computers & laptops at very competitive prices and include data transfer, full set up & full guidance

Quite simply my aim is to provide an effective, quick, reliable and friendly service without unnecessary jargon.

**I CAN SUPPLY COMPUTERS & LAPTOPS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES & INCLUDE SET UP, DATA TRANSFER & GUIDANCE**

DO GIVE ME A CALL NOW OR AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE. I AM HERE TO HELP YOU WITH ANY TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM, HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL.

**STOP PRESS!!!** Microsoft have now removed support for all Windows XP systems, which could affect the security of your software. If you are using XP, do give me a call for FREE & independent advice.

*"Your service is very good, it is good to know someone is available to help & understands we are not all experts."*  
G Singer, Sale

*"It has been a pleasure dealing with you & the service I have received is second to none."*  
Vivian, Sale



### **Mel's Computer Care Ltd**

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Local (Sale) 0161 977 0107

Mobile 07901 553 848

info@melscomputercare.co.uk

www.melscomputercare.co.uk

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HANDMADE  
CRAFTS



## Crafty Chat Club

If you like to make things & enjoy  
getting to know others.  
this is the afternoon for you.

Bring along your own craft project,  
use materials provided  
or simply watch & chat.

No previous skills are needed.  
The chat is as important as the craft.



**Everyone is welcome.**

St John's Church Hall, Brooklands Road, Sale.

**EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.  
2.00 – 4.00PM.**

**£1.00 PER MEETING  
INCLUDES TEA / COFFEE & BISCUITS**



## Sanctuary Guild

*Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take  
turns to clean the brasses in church, such as  
the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory  
plates and lecterns.*



shutterstock - 304609643

### December

6<sup>th</sup> Mrs M. Hopkins

20<sup>th</sup> Mrs A. Pilling.

Mrs S. Grimley

Mrs A. Howard (For Christmas)



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# E&M DOORS

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### Parish Diary January 2020

- 1<sup>st</sup> No Crafty Chat
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Christmas 2**  
 9.00 Holy Communion  
 10.30 Family Communion  
 6.30 Festal Evensong for Epiphany
- 8<sup>th</sup> 2.30 Mothers' Union
- 11<sup>th</sup> 9.00-10.30 Breakfast Alpha
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Baptism of Christ (1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of Epiphany)**  
 9.00 Holy Communion  
 10.30 All Age Baptism
- 15<sup>th</sup> 2.00 Crafty Chat
- 18<sup>th</sup> 9.00-10.30 Breakfast Alpha
- 19<sup>th</sup> **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**  
 9.00 Holy Communion  
 10.30 Family Communion
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.30 Evening Prayer and Women's Fellowship
- 25<sup>th</sup> 9.00-10.30 Breakfast Alpha
- 26<sup>th</sup> **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**  
 9.00 Holy Communion  
 10.30 Family Communion

## Parish Diary December 2019

### 1<sup>st</sup> **1st Sunday of Advent**

9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Family Communion  
4.30 Messy Advent  
6.30 Festal Evensong for Advent

4<sup>th</sup> 2.00 Craft Chat

### 8<sup>th</sup> **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 All Ages Together

9<sup>th</sup> 9.30 Brooklands Primary School rehearsal YR3/5  
1.30 Brooklands Primary School rehearsal YR4/6

11<sup>th</sup> 10.00 Holy Communion  
2.30 Mothers' Union

13<sup>th</sup> 9.30 Brooklands Primary School Carol Service YR 3/5

### 15<sup>th</sup> **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Family Communion

16<sup>th</sup> 9.30 Brooklands Primary School Carol Service YR 4/6

18<sup>th</sup> 2.00 Craft Chat

19<sup>th</sup> 9.00 Sandilands Primary School Carol Service

20<sup>th</sup> 9.30 Heyes Lane School Nativity

### 22<sup>nd</sup> **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Nativity and Family Carol Service  
4.00 Messy Christmas and Christingle  
6.30 Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

*Seasonal refreshments will be served after the Carols by Candlelight Service*

### 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve**

3.30 Crib Service

*Seasonal refreshments will be served after the Crib Service*

11.00 Christmas Eve Communion

### 25<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Day**

9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Family Communion

### 29<sup>th</sup> **Christmas 1**

9.00 Holy Communion  
10.30 Family Communion

# The Parish Church of

*St. John the Divine, Brooklands*

*In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester,  
In the Province of York*

Website: [www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.00 am	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Family Communion (Second Sunday of the Month All-Age Worship)
6.30pm	Choral Evensong (First Sunday in the month only)

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as announced and at 10.00 on The second Wednesday of each month..

## POINTS OF CONTACT

		<u>Telephone</u>
VICAR	Revd Richard Sherratt vicarbrooklands@gmail.com	973 5220
READER	David Newton	973 8145
CHURCH WARDEN	Caroline Windle	610 3956
CHURCH WARDEN	Philip Dykes	905 2212
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Janet Hunter	
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Angela Mather	282 7656
ASSISTANT WARDEN (Health And Safety)	Simon Mather	282 7656
AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS (PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY)		
	Isabel Bryce	980 5762
	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Vacancy	
ORGANISTS	Katie Jones	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Carys Pugh	973 5111
MOTHERS' UNION	Sharon Marlow	973 0880
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mary Webster	973 9916
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MAGAZINE SECRETARY	Sharon Marlow	973 0880
PCC SECRETARY	Susan Wildman	973 6892
SOCIAL COORDINATOR	Carys Pugh	973 5111
HALL BOOKINGS	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
CARETAKER	Vacancy	
SCOUTS etc.	Clive Winby	973 6507
GUIDES etc.	Jackie Eastwood	976 4613
BROWNIES	Janet Shaw	973 8238
BEAVERS & CUBS	Greg Hart	07506 584579

# Advent 2019

Pray • Invite • Tell

Pray for five people  
Invite them to church  
Tell them your story



## INVITATIONAL SERVICES

<b>1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	4.30	Messy Advent
	6.30	Festal Evensong for Advent
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	10.30	Nativity and Family Carol Service
	4.00	Messy Christmas and Christingle
	6.30	Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	3.30	Crib Service
	11.00	Midnight Communion
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30	Christmas Day Communion