



**December
2020**

Betley



“For God did not send his Son into the world to
condemn the world, but to save the world through him”
John 3:17

**Annual £6 subscriptions are now due for 2021
Distributors will be calling soon**

All profits go towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

PARISH NEWS

60p

St Margaret's Church
Celebrating, sharing and growing in God's love



Officers of the Parish Church of St Margaret's, Betley

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Please email all items by the 15th of the
preceding month to **BetleyParishMag@gmail.com**



A MESSAGE FROM REVD. JOHN BESWICK PALLISTER

All I want for Christmas is...

What is Christmas all about for you?
The family gathering? The presents?
The turkey? A walk on Christmas Day
when you feel like you can't move after
eating so much?

For me, *family* and *Christmas pudding*
are two of the key ingredients. Having
grown up in Portugal, I had lots of
delicacies at Christmas, but I didn't
discover Christmas pudding until I was
an adult. There is no going back now!

I suspect we're ready to say goodbye to
2020, a crazy and difficult year – but it
would be great to have something of a
normal Christmas before we finish,
wouldn't it? But of course, we don't
know what things will be like. And
because of this, it's very tempting either
to feel glum, or to throw ourselves into
the busy-ness of making alternative
plans – online shopping, Zoom family
gatherings, etc.

However, I think there is a better way to
go about this. When we remember the
first Christmas, we have images of
blissful nativity scenes, with
well-behaved animals and a baby Jesus
that doesn't cry. If only nativity scenes
could replicate the smells of a stable,
then we'd get more of the picture of how
messy the whole thing was!

It started with an unplanned and
irregular pregnancy. Then, there was

that long journey on donkey back,
for a very pregnant Mary. Joseph is
totally frustrated that he can't even
find a room for the birth. They
weren't in lockdown, but they
couldn't be with family at this most
crucial time. The forced journey was
brought about by greedy politicians
who were making everyone go and
register, so they could charge taxes.

And then the first people to come
and meet the baby are smelly (and
probably dodgy) shepherds.

It doesn't get messier than this – but
this isn't an accident. This messy
birth is the beginning of a life that
comes to its climax at the cross,
where Jesus took all our mess (also
known as sin) on himself, dying on
our behalf, so that he could un-mess
our lives and the whole world.

As we celebrate Christmas in 2020,
I invite you to look away from all the
mess in and around us, and to look
with fresh eyes at the nativity scene,
the messy but beautiful start of a
new story – a story of God entering
the mess, to take it all away, to give
you a new life.

So – in church or online – come and
join us this Christmas for some
festive joy!

Blessings,

John
Curate

IN THIS MONTH'S BETLEY PARISH NEWS ...

Welcome to the final edition of 2020. It's time to look back, time to look forward, time for ... some extra puzzles over the holidays? See the special pullout section in the centre pages.

As we go to print Government restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19 are not known beyond 2nd December. So in terms of church services there are two schedules: one for services in church (hopefully) and one for online services (which will definitely continue through the month) see opposite and page 7. Whatever the decisions made by the politicians please follow the guidance.

The Reading Room - such a focal point in the village - has been closed for most of the year and the monthly Taster Talks postponed. But on 12th December there will be an online event with seasonal readings to which everyone's welcome. There's more information on page 13.



We are encouraged to take a moment's calm at 5:00pm on 22 December and put a lighted candle in our windows - a ray of hope as we pass the shortest day see page 25.

There's no Christmas Eve Crib Service at Betley Court Farm this year - but there will be a new activity from 1:00pm to 4:00pm on 24th December: a Christingle Trail followed by an online service. See page 17 for details.

You may have heard that a new vicar has been appointed for our villages. Revd. Tim Watson and his family hope to be moving to Madeley vicarage early next year. See page 8 for a few words of introduction.

The Editors



St. Margaret's continues to be **open for individual private prayer**
between 9.00am and 5.00pm daily
You are welcome to enter but please
follow the guidelines posted on the church door.
Please close the door when you leave!

**ST MARGARET'S BETLEY... SERVICES IN DECEMBER**

The following services are planned to take place in St. Margaret's church,
subject to Government announcements and restrictions

Face coverings are required.

Sunday 6th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Family Worship <i>Waiting for peace</i>
Tuesday 8 th December	9:15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 13th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Holy Communion <i>Waiting for justice</i>
	6:30pm	Evensong
Tuesday 15 th December	9:15am	Morning Prayers
Saturday 19th December	5:30pm	Carol Service <i>Advance booking required on</i> http://www.tiny.cc/bookyourplace
Sunday 20th December 4 th Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Family Worship <i>Waiting for new life</i>
Tuesday 22nd December	9:15am	Morning Prayers
Thursday 24^h December Christmas Eve	11:30pm	Midnight Communion
Friday 25th December Christmas Day	9:30am	Family Communion
Sunday 27th December John, Apostle and Evangelist	9:30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 3rd January Epiphany	9:30am	Family Worship

Joint Zoom Services continue every Sunday at 11.00am
See page 7



**Wow! 132kg in October
including a great contribution
from Roosters day nursery
Thank you Betley**

Current shortages are:

Potatoes tinned or mashed, tinned carrots or peas
long life juices, washing powder

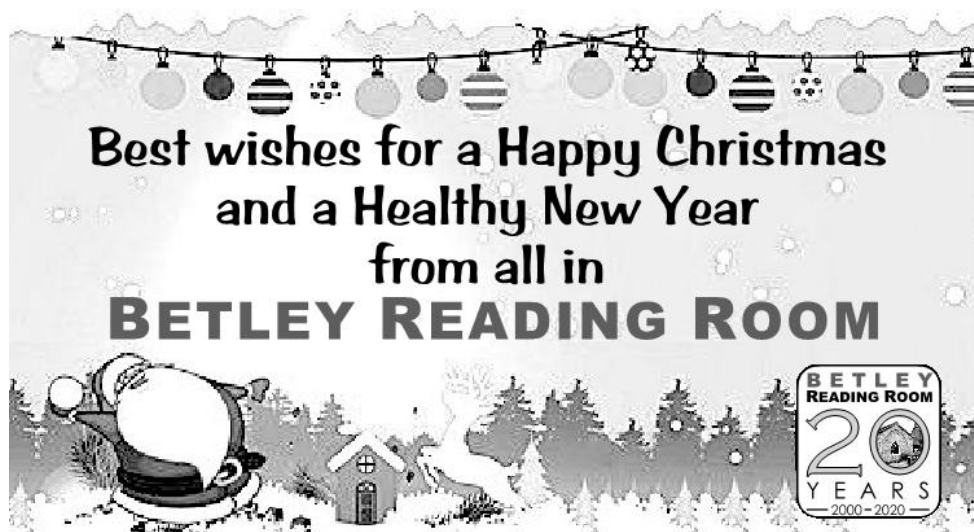
Collection boxes in the porches of the
Reading Room and the Church are frequently monitored.

Your contributions are being secured and
safely transferred to the warehouse.

More information is available from:

www.newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk

Kevin Hamer 820704



**Why not Zoom into the RR on Monday, Thursday
or Saturday between 11.00 and 11.40am.**

Email Kevin for the link: kevinhamer53@btinternet.com

Zooming as usual over Christmas & New Year, except Boxing Day



WORSHIP ONLINE DURING DECEMBER

The following services will be on Zoom, whether or not services take place in St. Margaret's. All are welcome. NB *Tuesday morning prayers will only continue online if we are unable to meet in church.*

You will need a password to join. Please sign up to our mailing list at www.tiny.cc/weeklymail to receive this, or contact John or one of the churchwardens.

Tuesday 1st December	9:15am	Morning prayers - on this link: www.tinycc/tuesdayprayers
Sunday 6th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	11:00am	Service of the Word <i>Waiting for peace</i>
	6:30pm	<i>Living Streams</i>
Sunday 13th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	11:00am	Holy Communion <i>Waiting for justice</i>
Sunday 20th December 4 th Sunday of Advent	11:00am	Service of the Word <i>Waiting for new life</i>
	6:30pm	Carol Service
Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve	4:30pm	Christingle <i>See page 17 for Christingle Trail</i>
	11:30pm	Midnight Communion
Friday 25th December Christmas Day	10:30am	Family Communion
Sunday 27th December John, Apostle and Evangelist	11:00am	Service of the Word <i>Please note there is no Kids' Church today</i>
Sunday 3rd January Epiphany	11:00am	Service of the Word

VICAR APPOINTED FOR BETLEY AND MADELEY

It's time to meet Revd. Tim Watson who has been appointed as the new vicar of St. Margaret's Betley and of All Saints' Madeley. Tim and his family should be joining us in January and will live at the vicarage in Madeley.

Since 2015 Revd. Tim has been vicar of Leesland Neighbourhood church in Gosport, Hampshire and he will be missed by the congregation there, but he and Clare have plenty of local links in South Cheshire and he was a curate at St Mary's Nantwich.

We look forward to getting to know all the Watsons early in 2021.

A message from our new Vicar



As we journey towards Christmas and the end of 2020 we may well be feeling many different things. Many of us will be glad to see the back of 2020. Many will be excited by the promise of 2021. Many will be worried that 2021 will just be 2020 version 2.0. Many will be holding to wonderful memories of 2020. Many will be longing to forget the hardships of the year.

This year I attended my nan's funeral via a video link, seven hours' drive away from the funeral chapel – I hope I never have to attend a funeral by video link again. This year our family welcomed baby Joshua into the world, back at the height of the first lockdown - his birth was a sign of hope and life in the midst of the most difficult of years.

From the end of January 2021 I will be the new vicar of All Saints' Madeley and St. Margaret's Betley, so I should really be doing the proper vicar thing of saying that just as baby Joshua was a sign of hope for our family in dark times, the birth of baby Jesus some 2000-odd years ago was a sign of hope in dark times you get where this is going. But I'm not going to go there for two reasons:

1. Because baby Joshua isn't the messiah, and he's not even a very naughty boy (thank you Monty Python).
2. And also because this isn't the time for twee and overly sentimental answers all wrapped up in swaddling cloth....



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Actually, scrap that, because this is exactly the time for answers wrapped up in swaddling cloth and laid in a manger. The birth of Jesus 2000 years ago was a sign of hope and light in the midst of a dark time. His birth was and is a reminder that while it might feel like all is falling to pieces, God is still present. God promises to be with us, his people. As the beginning of John's gospel reminds us, '*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*'

Now more than ever we need to be reminded that even in the midst of this darkness God is with us, God is present. Just as a small candle can light up the darkest night, so too can the knowledge of God's saving love for us be a sign of hope in these dark days.

My family and I are really excited to be moving to Madeley in January and can't wait to explore some of these ideas with you in the years to come. In the meantime, peace to you all, have a lovely Christmas and a hopeful beginning of 2021.

Cheers

Revd Tim, Clare, Evie, Lucie and Joshua Watson



BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Covid 19

Recent weeks have seen a significant increase in Covid-19 cases nationally and locally. Our area (Madeley & Betley) moved from the lowest category during the summer to the highest category (over 400 cases per 100,000 population) by early November. *It has never been more important to follow health and Government guidelines.*

If you have symptoms you should arrange a test as soon as possible either via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phone on 119. We know that the system has been working well locally with same-day testing and results within 24 hours. While you are awaiting your test appointment or the test results you must self-isolate, and clearly if you have a positive test result you and your household must self-isolate for the necessary period. Our community has always had a reputation for looking after each other and by taking these measures we can protect each other's health.

Acts of Remembrance

The Parish Council was involved in village Acts of Remembrance though they were very different this year. On Remembrance Sunday, the Chairman and Vice Chairman met on the Memorial Garden, with their families at a social distance. They observed the two minutes' silence and laid a wreath on behalf of the community. Then in church the Chairman laid a wreath at the Memorial Window. This year the otherwise empty church had added poignancy. The church bell marked the two minutes' silence.

On Wednesday 11th November the Chairman and Vice Chairman were joined on the Memorial Garden by pupils from school for an Act of Remembrance. The service was led by the Revd. John Beswick Pallister. As in the last three years, each pupil was given a reproduction copy of the New Testament as supplied to the troops 1914-1918. The Chairman introduced the Act of Remembrance by saying that although children at the present time could not live life as usual and enjoy parties, meet their friends in their homes, and play sports, earlier generations of children had also suffered hardships. However, earlier generations of children had also suffered great sadness in that their relatives had gone off to fight, and possibly die, in two World Wars. As an example, the Chairman's great uncle's eldest son, who flew as a rear gunner in Lancaster bombers, was shot down and killed in 1942.

Christmas Activities

In accordance with instructions received from Father Christmas, and also with the assistance of the Chief Elf who made the arrangements, there will be something different and very special on the Memorial Garden this year. Father Christmas thought the Chief Elf could manage something better than a Christmas tree, for this Covid-19 Christmas! *Children in the village are*



*Invited to enjoy them, but are asked **not** to look at them with their hands!* The special items will be removed from the garden soon after Twelfth Night although the lights in the trees at the back of the Memorial Garden will remain illuminated during January and February. We hope you will all enjoy the new display and that it will provide some cheer during these difficult times.

Although Father Christmas will not be around to turn on the lights this year, the Prime Minister has asked the Parish Council to advise all children that **Father Christmas is regarded as a key worker under the Coronavirus Regulations and will deliver presents to children overnight on 24th/25th December as usual.**

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council would like to thank the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, in particular the Chairman, Richard Head, whose initiative to revise the Parish Plan resulted in the development of our Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you to everyone who responded to the Consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. We will take account of all the feedback received as we produce the Final Plan to go to referendum, hopefully in May 2021.

Finally, the Parish Council normally sends seasonal greetings to the Parish at this time. However, such bonhomie is difficult to muster as, at the time of writing we are in the midst of Lockdown2. But there is now more than a ray of hope that, going into 2021, life will return to normal at some stage in the next year. We also know that there is better treatment for those unfortunate enough to have caught the virus, so we can travel in hope with more confidence. May you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas, remembering and valuing those things that matter, and praying and thinking of others who are even less fortunate. I am sure we all hope for a better year in 2021.

Next Meeting

The Council does not meet in December unless a special meeting is needed. The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday 28th January (probably on Zoom). For details please contact the Clerk, see the village noticeboards or go to www.hugofox.com/community and search for Betley, Balterley or Wrinehill.

Gwyn Griffiths

griffiths725@btinternet.com 01270 663832

Clerk

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Simon White
Simon.white@newcastle-
staffs.gov.uk
Tel 07561 340 899

Cllr Gary White
Gary.white@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk
Tel 07834 090 747

CHURCH FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Praise and Play

The toddler group is online-only which is certainly better than *not* meeting! Please see our Facebook page for news.

Early Birds/Kid's Church

On Sunday mornings, there's *Kid's Church* which you can join online and do at home but please note **there is no Kids Church on 27th December**

School assemblies

School assemblies will be recorded videos until it is safe to meet again.

Youth Group

Our youth group will continue on Zoom for the time being. Please let John know of anyone who might like to join. **The Youth Group will be meeting on 13th December.**

For information about any of these activities, contact John, as below.

Revd John Beswick Pallister

johnbpallister@gmail.com (07428 342808)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS ...

Baptisms

Sunday 1st November 2020

AMELIE MAIRI SHAW born on 21st Feb 2017 the daughter of Jonathan and Lucy Shaw

ANGUS WILLIAM SHAW born 5th Dec 2019 the son of Jonathan and Lucy Shaw

Welcome to our church family

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH - HOW TO ARRANGE...

Baptisms - Please contact the Parish Office 01782 750205.

Confirmations - Adults and young people who would like to prepare to begin receiving communion are encouraged to speak to one of the clergy about being confirmed.

Weddings - Please contact the Parish Office 01782 750205.

Funerals - Arrangements are made through the funeral director

Visiting - Please let the clergy know of anyone who is ill and who would appreciate a call.



BETLEY READING ZOOM TASTER



Saturday 12th December at 11.00am

SEASONAL VERSE

**with Sian Rhodes, Rhoda Farrington
& Mike Reeves
reading poems for Christmas**

Join the Zoom meeting with: www.tiny.cc/Betleypoetry
or Meeting ID **870 6896 8327** (no password required)

**Zoom in and enjoy our
first Taster since lockdown**

*and bring your own coffee & cake,
or even a bacon bap*

BETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heroic Hedgehogs (Year 3 and 4)

What an amazing start to the academic year it has been from the children in Heroic Hedgehogs (Year 3 and Year 4). After a seemingly never-ending time away from the classroom, the children have well and truly hit the ground running - returning to school with an infectious enthusiasm and hunger for learning!

We began the year by exploring the exciting topic of *Groovy Greeks*. The children learnt all about the exploits of Alexander the Great and the mighty empire he built, stretching from the shores of the Adriatic all the way to the Indus Valley. They compared the various Greek city states - particularly focusing on Athens and Sparta - and listed the similarities and differences between them. The children explored how the concept of democracy began in ancient Athens - but identified that this early form of democracy was quite different from what we would recognise today.



The children produced a wide variety of fantastic pieces of creative writing based on this wonderful topic - such as newspaper reports, letters and non-chronological reports. The children particularly enjoyed writing an entry into the diary of Pheidippides - the legendary messenger who ran from the Battle of Marathon to the city of Athens, a distance of twenty-six-and-a-half miles. We've got plenty more exciting lessons and investigations planned for this year. Last week we began our next topic - USA Road Trip! The children have already fallen in love with this topic and are very excited about what they're going to be learning. We're all particularly looking forward our upcoming Design and Technology project - creating a model Saturn V rocket, the rocket used to blast the lunar module into space during the Apollo 11 missions. We can't wait to get started!

French Day in the Infants

On Monday 8th November the children took part in a day to celebrate the country of France. They learnt how to count to twenty in French, how to greet their friends and the vocabulary for some popular colours and foods. After finding out about the Eiffel Tower, they set themselves a challenge to



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build their own version using newspaper and Sellotape. The Flamingos finished the day watching a French cartoon whilst eating croissants!

A fun day was had by all.



Remembrance

Our children had an amazing experience on

Wednesday 11th November. We all stopped our lessons and watched a historian dressed as a soldier tell us all about his life. We took part in a webinar and listened to lots of different facts about why Remembrance Day is important time of reflection. The children in Year 5 and 6 represented our school at the



Remembrance Service in the Memorial Garden too. They laid a wreath that they had created in class.

Nursery admissions

We have a few spaces left in our fabulous Nursery Class. For information please see the link below. Please note that all applications for Nursery go through school not the Local Authority. <http://www.betley.staffs.sch.uk/admissions/>. At the moment we are unable to let parents visit the school but in the meantime, if you would like to book a place for your child to start now or in Nursery in September 2021 please email me on headteacher@st-lukes-silverdale.staffs.sch.uk

Reception admissions

We will soon be releasing a short video about our school and sharing it on our social media platforms. More information about applying for a place in our reception class can be found on: <http://www.betley.staffs.sch.uk/admissions/>

Sam Ray

Executive Headteacher

www.betley.staffs.sch.uk



BetleyPS



@BetleyCEPrimary

BETLEY METHODIST CHURCH

As we move into the Advent and Christmas season, we pray again for people in care homes with few or no visitors. We pray for all hospitalised Covid-19 patients and for medical staff who nurse them day by day under great stress. We pray especially for the staff of our hospitals ... and prisons ... who will be working on Christmas Day. Amen.

Rhoda Farrington

THE STORY by Patience Strong

Let us tell and tell again the story of that night
 Of how the shepherds saw the angels robed in radiant light,
 and, dazed with awe and wonder, left their flocks and made their way
 To the little stable where the infant Saviour lay.
 Let us never lose the spirit of this holy time.
 In our hearts let us recall when bells of Christmas chime
 the truth that lies behind it all
 the story of the birth
 that marked a great new era for the people of the earth.

BETLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.blhs.co.uk

Sorry, folks! There will be no Cheese and Wine Evening this December. We are grateful for the hospitality of Anne and David Becket, Sheila Berrisford and Margaret Gleave over recent years.

Remember there are always ways in which members can contribute by writing memories, lending old photographs, looking out for information to add to our archives and serving on committee.

In the meantime, don't forget our Facebook page where, from time to time, we receive enquiries. Currently, the page includes some fine articles written by Su Hurrell on the development of Betley Court Gardens.

Why not browse on our website? At present, we are producing a set of newsletters entitled *Pandemic issues* which are freely available to members and non-members. *Pandemic Issue 2* has recently been produced by Mavis and Clodagh.

Do you ever drive out of the top of Back Lane and see All Saints' Church Balterley (or see it when on your walks) and wonder about its history and its interior? Sadly, it is closed for worship and likely to be sold. Our group visit in March 2020 had to be cancelled, but, almost in his last week of life, David prevailed on Anne to join him on a private visit. As a result Mavis has written a lovely newsletter about it, illustrated with Clodagh's professional photographs. Mavis describes it as "a gem of Victorian architecture" which it is a shame for us to lose.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a better 2021.

Rhoda Farrington



@BetleyHistory



24th December, 1-4pm

Christingle trail around the village

Collect the different parts to make your own Christingle in your family bubble.

Look out for further information on Facebook and Notice Sheets



**Followed at 4.30 pm by
Christingle service on zoom**

Wear a nativity costume if you can!

www.tiny.cc/Christingle

A collection will be made for the Children's Society's work with vulnerable children.

BETLEY AND WRINEHILL W.I.



Wishing all our members a very Merry Christmas and hoping we will be able to meet again soon in the New Year.

Pam Clarke



MADELEY AND DISTRICT U3A

U3A have unfortunately had to suspend all face to face activities. We hope to resume some outdoor meetings as soon as Government guidelines allow. Some groups are meeting virtually.

See the website for latest information: madeleydistrictu3a.wordpress.com

Chris Hawksley

07771 755307

A MESSAGE FROM BETLEY VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE

Thanks to all our customers for your patience and support during this challenging year and for wearing masks in the shop.

Order forms for Christmas items are now available in the shop, and as seasonal and everyday groceries are likely to be in demand early ordering is recommended. We want to be sure we can meet the needs of our regular local customers.

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas,

Paul and Caroline Beardsmore





BETLEY AND DISTRICT VILLAGE BOWLING CLUB

End of season report

Well what a year, we had so many plans and then had to change them all!

Owing to restrictions imposed to limit the spread of Covid-19, the opening of the bowling season was delayed until 20th May. The club opened with 27 members and by following Government and British Crown Green Bowling Association guidance, and with the tremendous work of the committee and support of the membership, we remained in operation until 25th October having increased the membership to 37. All activities were risk assessed and rules to keep people safe were communicated to all.

Our programme of publicity and social events could not take place, and league and friendly matches had to be cancelled. We did however hold social bowling sessions and competitions, including some with trophies for the winners between our club players. The atmosphere at the club was really positive and vibrant and we were all glad to be able to have fun playing on the green together. To reflect the reduction in available activities, including the closure of the pavilion, subscriptions were reduced to £20 for members and £15 for new members.

Funds were generated through donations from Betley Bonfire committee, club members, and other donors. The introduction of a new lottery proved popular and greatly boosted the revenue.

Two essential pieces of equipment were purchased: a mower and a spiker, both second hand but refurbished and reliable. The impact has been a much improved playing surface on the green. Treatment of the green and various maintenance activities will continue through the closed season.

Finally, we have had a good year under challenging times and been able to keep bowling whilst members have stayed safe and well. We look forward to seeing members in 2021 on the green and welcoming new members to the club. If you would like to find out more about joining the club then please contact Rachel on 01270 820136 or email at paulrach121@gmail.com or Tony on 01782 751653 or email at arturner.uk@gmail.com

Rachel Alcock

Sanctus, St Mark's Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees



Sanitary products and toiletries can be deemed a luxury that is unaffordable for many. Sanctus relies on the generosity of supporters to collect these items for them, through collection boxes in local churches. St Margaret's is one such church. If you would like to donate, please leave your contribution in the church porch.

www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk

SIMPLE CONVERSATIONS ON FOOD

If I said ginger and truffles, your answer would be ... ? Well if you come and join us in the SCoF Zoom – it would most definitely be: CHRISTMAS!! I'm writing this in lockdown and who knows what will happen between now and then but one thing is for sure – us SCoFfers will be cooking up treats galore. Whether family and friends will be able to join us is irrelevant - we shall cook scrumptious treats and share them with our nearest and dearest.

Come and see me on Zoom – **Thursday 10th December at 2.00pm**, when I shall be demonstrating some simple and delicious uses for ginger and some absolutely lovely truffles, as well as looking at ways they can be packed up and posted to those that most deserve them. Please email me if you would like to join us but aren't on the SCoF emailing list.

Jo Thomas

thomas.johanne@gmail.com

Meanwhile, here's a little taster for you. Why not make your own and join us with a cup of tea and piece of tiffin?

Cranberry and Ginger Tiffin

Time: 30 minutes plus setting time

Makes: 12 - Really easy

You can send this off in a lovely jar or box as it's a super indulgent tiffin treat for someone as a festive gift. White Chocolate looks great and but you can swap the white chocolate for dark or milk, whichever is their favourite.



Ingredients

Ginger biscuits 200g

Dried cranberries 60g

Crystallised ginger 60g, plus more for the top

Pecan nuts 50g, roughly chopped

Butter 125g

Golden syrup 2 tbsp

White (or your favourite) chocolate 700g, chopped

Line a 20cm brownie tin with baking paper. Crush the biscuits by putting them in a bag and smashing them with a rolling pin, then tip them into a bowl and add the cranberries, ginger and pecans.

Put the butter, golden syrup and 500g white chocolate in a heatproof bowl, and melt them in a microwave – or by setting the bowl over a pan of simmering water – until you have a smooth mixture. Pour this over the biscuit mix and stir until everything is coated. Spoon the mixture into the tin and press down. Melt the rest of the chocolate and spread it on top, then shake the tin to settle the surface. Top with more chopped ginger if you like. Leave to cool and set completely (put it in the fridge if you need to). Lift the tiffin out of the tin, cut into squares and gift wrap.



Christmas Entertainment (Answers on page 24)

Christmas Songs Quiz

1. Who had a hit with "Wonderful Christmas time"?
2. What song can you use to demand figgy pudding?
3. What song warns you about Santa?
4. How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh in "Rudolph the red nose reindeer"?
5. What Christmas song has the words *fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la*?
6. Which song brings you tidings of comfort and joy?
7. What song is best sung when "the weather outside is frightful"?
8. How many gifts are received by the singer in "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
9. Who first recorded the Frank Sinatra hit song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"?
10. What was the first Christmas song broadcast from space?
11. Who recorded *Blue Christmas*?
12. Which Christmas song based on a poem by English poet Christina Rossetti has been set to music many times, most famously by Gustav Holst?

Christmas Carols Word Scramble

1. **hwge eekn srti** (2,5,5) *Hint: More than enough for a chess game*
2. **fitb loet ehle twtn lhoo eh** (2,6,4,2,9) *Hint: More than a village in Palestine*
3. **swts iera ehpi sh** (1,3,5,5,) *Hint: A naval lookout may say this*
4. **tlhi gnes int** (6,5) *Hint: Good evening*
5. **lovi heln htet ayhy d** (3,5,3,3,3) *Hint: A gardeners carol?*
6. **stoh teif erln** (3,5,4) *Hint: A very early holiday*
7. **ayda ccoi irie ntld oyns v** (4,2,5,6,4) *Hint: Previously in a king's home town*
8. **tkne odei ltyl** (5,5) *Hint: Small beast of burden*
9. **ttwl droh oyoj e** (3,2,3,5) *Hint: Happiness all around*
10. **neok aseog lwgc gdsi n** (4,4,9) *Hint: Royal benefactor*
11. **hoyg iloi eihs rggrr nmnd d** (4,4,7,2,4) *Hint: Bellringers have fun*
12. **wisk saae rhtc ani** (10,5) *Hint: Churchgoers first thing in the morning*

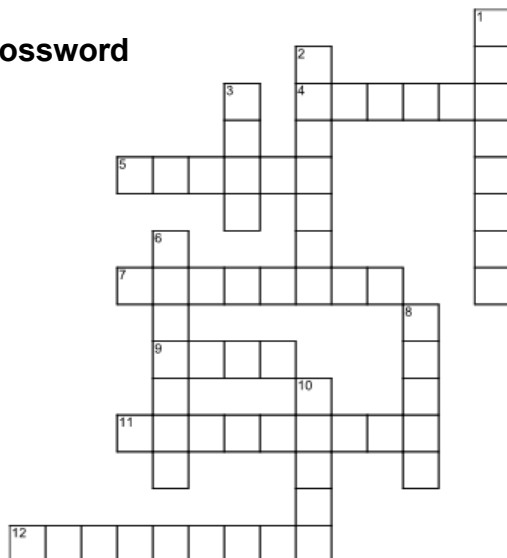
Spot the difference (there are 5)**Santa Claus Word Search**

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

Presents Jolly Beard Bells Blitzen Christmas Comet Cupid
 Dancer Dasher Donner Elf Cristingle North Pole Prancer Reindeer
 Rudolf Santa Claus Sleigh Snowflake Snowman Stocking Toys
 Vixen Winter

**Dingbats** (Guess the phrase)

1. YYY MEN	2. DIAL	3. SAILING CCCCCCC	4. VA DERS
5. SYMPHON	6. DNA 4TH	7. LE VEL	8. GNIRB LIFE LIFE
9. M CE M CE M CE	10. EGSG	11. Ping WILLOW	12. YOUNG YOUNG DRINK DRINK
13. B AE DUMR	14. POLMUMICE	15. TEKCIT	16. THE WEATHER FEELING
17. THAT	18. BEND DRAW DRAW	19. LEM ADE	20. MUTMY

Christmas Crossword**Across**

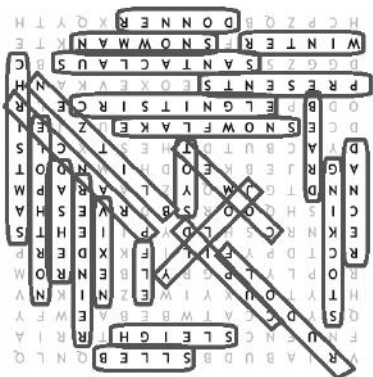
4. The 4 weeks before Christmas is called what?
5. A rack for fodder usually seen in 1D
7. What is Santa's full first name?
9. This log is only found around Christmas
11. What parasitic plant is used at Christmas time?
12. A favourite food at Christmas (5,4)

Down

1. What sort of a scene at would you see at Christmas?
2. The name of the angel that appeared to Mary?
3. What are the three Kings sometimes known as?
6. Bob Cratchit's son in "A Christmas Carol" (4,3)
8. Which reindeer's name can be seen in the sky
10. Campanologists play them

Christmas Cracker Joke

Why did they let the turkey join the band?



Christmas Crossword

Down 1. Nativity, 2. Gabriel, 3. Magi, 6. Tiny Tim, 8. Comet, 10. Bells
Across 4. Advent, 5. Manger, 7. Nicholas, 9. Yule, 11. Mistletoe, 12. Mince Pies
Christmas Cracker Joke: Because he had the drum sticks

tummy.

the weather, 17. Fancy that, 18. Bend over backwards 19. Lemonade, 20. Upset
 drink, 13. Bermuda Triangle, 14. Mother-in-law, 15. Return ticket, 16. Feeling under
 9. Three blind mice, 10. Scrambled eggs, 11. Weeping willow, 12. Too young to
 5. Unfinished Symphony, 6. Back and forth, 7. Split level, 8. Bring back to life,
 1. Three Wise Men, 2. Laid Back, 3. Sailing over the seven seas 4. Space invaders

Dingbats

on high, 12. Christians awake.
 8. Little donkey, 9. Joy to the world, 10. Good King Wenceslas, 11. Ding Dong Merrily
 night, 5. The Holly and the Ivy, 6. The First Noel, 7. Once in Royal David's city,
 1. We Three Kings, 2. Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, 3. I saw three ships, 4. Silent

Carols Word Scramble

1. Paul McCartney 2. We wish you a Merry Christmas, 3. Santa Claus is coming to
 town, 4. Nine, 5. Deck the halls, 6. God rest ye merry gentlemen, 7. Let it snow, 8. 364,
 9. Judy Garland, 10. Jingle bells, 11. Elvis Presley, 12. In the Bleak Midwinter.

Christmas Songs

Quiz answers



22nd December, 5pm Light a candle



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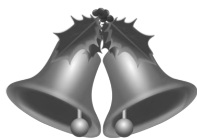
If possible, put it by the window or in
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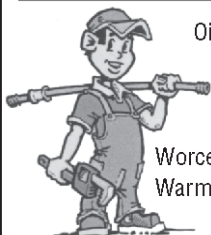
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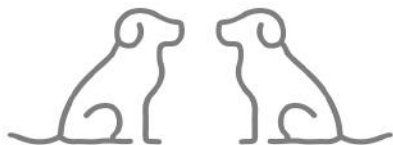
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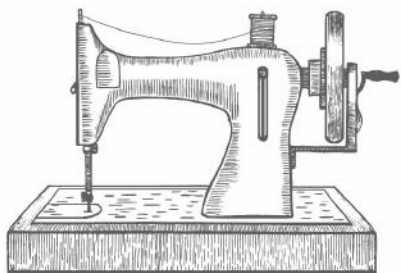
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