

Stranton and Burbank Community Church

SIGNPOST



**Rooted in God's love
Growing together with Jesus
Branching out in the
Power of the Holy Spirit**

40p

Dec/Jan 2018/19

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STRANTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday

8.30am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am. Service (with children's groups for 3-14s)

1st Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion

2nd Sunday of the month will be Morning Worship

3rd Sunday of the month will be Holy Communion

4th Sunday of the month will be Lighthouse Service

11.00am. Morning Worship at Burbank Community Church,
at Ward Jackson School.

7.30pm Youth Fellowship (14 years +)

On the Third Sunday of each month, **Messy Church** takes place at St Matthew's Community Centre at 4.00pm. This is a time for parents/carers and children to have fun together, doing crafts and various activities, based on a bible theme.

Occasionally, (2 or 3 times a year) the congregations at Stranton and Burbank all come together for the 10.30am service, and this is followed by a bring and share meal.

Wednesday Morning

10.00am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
at St Matthew's Community Centre.

Please note that the next **Messy Church** will be on **20th January 2019** and will continue to take place on the **Third Sunday of each Month**

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”

This is a two-month magazine, which is why you are having both greetings in one breath. It will soon be the full-on Christmas season. Which reminds me of a quote my son has on his wall.

“What’s coming will come and we’ll meet it when it does” Hagrid

He is a Harry Potter fan and Hagrid has a heart as big as he is tall!

This is also a statement about life itself. About whatever circumstances you may find yourself in right now? Christmas is coming and will be quickly followed by the New Year. You will not be able to stop either of these events from happening. Time stands still for no one.

So if we can’t stop it, then we need to prepare ourselves to meet it. For me that means getting ready for the churches services and Carol Services, which I will be leading or at which I will be speaking. For others it will be about ordering the turkey and deciding what the other joint will be! (This is a Hartlepool tradition which I have not picked up on so far)! What presents to buy or more carol sheets needed? Being prepared will make all these things go smoother.

But what if life makes something come to you which you were not ready for? I am reminded of the fact that I spent a week in bed and two weeks without leaving the house last Christmas because of illness. This year I am taking my vitamin pills to try to avoid that happening again. I did have to meet the illness when it got to me though. Things were rearranged and plans were changed. We met it and worked through it!

What will life be like once we are out of the E.U.? When we have a pound coin which in reality is only worth 70 pence. It will not buy what it did last year! It will come, but we will need to meet it when it does. So far the politician’s answer to that question gives a negative picture for our future!

But we do not have a God who has turned his back on us. He says,

‘Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ Hebrews 13:5

We have a hope that gives light in the darkness. He is the anchor which holds us fast in a storm. Life may bring things to us that we would never expect, but we don’t face it alone. I am hoping and praying that as our world gets darker the Christians will become lighter, brighter and fuller of the power and the Love of God, so that we can be His witnesses in the world that He loves.

My final reflection on this theme was a talk I heard at a Christian event in Huddersfield. There was a speaker who used to be in the Argentinian army. He did fight in the Falklands War.

He said that after the war, which they had lost, a deep depression came over the country. People in their sadness cried out, “What is life all about” and at that point God came into his country. Many people have been saved and many miracles had been seen, as God has blessed their country.

What’s coming will come and you will meet it with God at your side.

May God bless you and yours at this Christmas-time.

Rev. Clive Hall

MOTHER`S UNION

Christmas already! May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2019. Going back to mentioning the word “Xmas” instead of “Christmas” in a previous column - I now stand corrected. I’ve been reading a Catherine Fox book – “Scenes from Vicarage Life”, which goes weekly through the Church of England’s year. Catherine mentions in the run up to Christmas how Christians get irritated by the abbreviation “XMAS”. Apparently this irritation is misplaced as “X” is the Greek letter “chi” which is the beginning of “Christos” – Greek for Christ. “XMAS” is therefore a deeply Christian word or name of Jesus. We don’t need to “put Christ back into Christmas” he’s always there! So instead of getting upset at “Xmas” we can now smile at the signs in the shops at this special time of the year.

At our November meeting we took home a kit to plant spring bulbs which hopefully will flower in the dark months of winter. Remembering The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – “if he is coming spring can’t be far behind”.

Our MU Advent Service will be celebrated in St Matthew’s Community Centre – in the Small Hall – on Monday 26th November at 2pm and Michelle our Curate will be joining with us.

On December 17th at 12 noon at the Marine Hotel, Seaton Carew we will meet together for our Christmas Meal. Please confirm with me your menu choice if you haven’t already. There are still places available so let me know if you would like to join us.

Our Spring session starts on Monday 14th January at **1.30pm** in The Asda Room at St Matthew’s Community Centre. We will start with a “Wave of Prayer Service”, followed by a “Beetle Drive”, (I really enjoy the thin beetles, fat beetles, sad and happy insects all!) and then a faith tea.

I hope you have noted that we have changed the time of our meeting in the New Year to a **1.30pm** start. We are still meeting monthly on the 2nd Monday and, unless told previously, in The Asda Room. The change to an earlier time will help those who wish to get home before dark and anyone who has to collect children from school.

Thank you for your support during 2018. In 2019 we will once again join our branch with St Luke’s and the many, many branches around the world, in supporting each other and the branches overseas. During times of turmoil, famine, natural disasters, Brexit or not, may we continue in prayer so Mary Sumner’s vision of Godly Women helping others to know God’s redeeming love and the blessings of His son Jesus’ sacrifice for us. May we show in our lives the riches of His peace.

With love and God Bless

Ann Courtenay

From the Home Front

Last month I wrote about the need for us to listen - to others, to God, to our own bodies. This month I am looking from the other direction – being heard! This last week I have succumbed to laryngitis - at one point completely losing my voice for a couple of days. This is not a good thing when you are a teacher like me! It has slowly returned as a croak and squeak, when I was in school I quickly found that if I whispered to each child that I worked with, that my voice had gone quiet, their focus increased and they listened very carefully to every word I was trying to say.

However my family were a very different kettle of fish! They all talked as usual and when I tried to interject or put forward my point of view – no one heard and they all kept on talking. I had to bang the table to be noticed and to quieten their cacophony in order to have my say... As for communicating with my unwell brother who has a hearing loss, my frustration has been obvious to all; as I have tried to explain Doctor's comments and plans – repeated several times with a diminishing voice!

I was unable to go to church as I couldn't sing and the accompanying cough through responses would be too distracting for members of the congregation. Answering the phone has been virtually impossible and nuisance phone calls exasperating. Trying to talk to my grandsons on facetime was reduced to face and hand gestures. Plus making my wishes known in noisy shops has been very difficult!

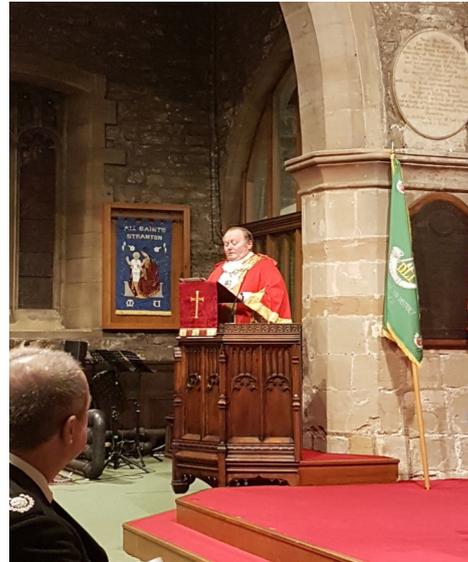
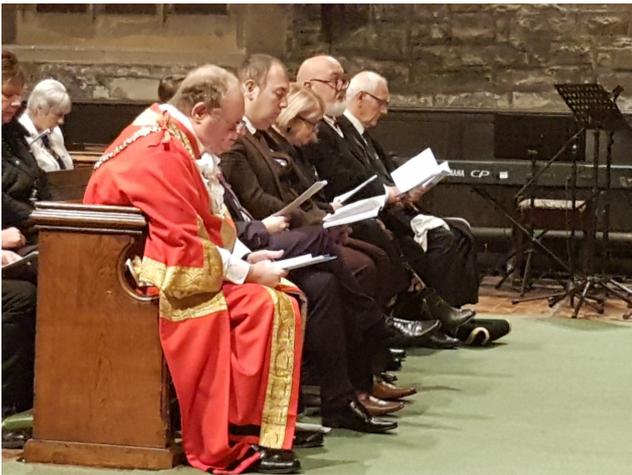
The need to express my joy at a piece of wonderful news was only possible through tears and silent clapping....

A colleague had recently told me of her frustration over the last year since a throat operation went wrong and her voice was reduced to a whisper – she said she felt invisible and unheard at work, in meetings and in everyday situations. I now understand how she felt!

Sometimes we need to stop our own busyness and noise and give others the time and space to find the words they want to say, the fears they need to express or the love they are struggling to put into word. We need to hear exactly what they are saying and how they are expressing their words, in order to pick up on their true or underlying meaning. It is important not just to listen, but also to hear, if those God brings into our lives are to be understood and we are to serve them as Jesus directed us. Too many people in our society today go unheard, as well as unseen. This Christmas and everyday open your ears, your eyes and your hearts to those around you.

J.A.R.

Mayor's Civic Service at Stranton All Saints Sunday 4th November



Service of Remembrance for the Recently Bereaved - 11th November



Candles were lit to remember these and others during an emotional service.

Ray Waller
Ron Gledden
Mick Gledden
John Mitchell
Bob Armitage
Mary Carter
Ida Wilson
Mary Allen
Marie Kerr
Ruby Rigg
Peggie Cruikshanks
Vera Longmire
Phyllis Gretton
Beatrice Wenn
Marion Watson
Nancy Brough
Val Cairns
Tracy Cairns
Baby Archer Barker
Anne Robinson
John Firbank
Beryl Hope
Norman Elliott
Frederick Boreland
Hazel Roberts
Kenny Richardson
Thomas Stockton
Melvin Hackwell
Andrew Hackwell

Helen Warr
Maud Skinner
Kath Webster
Shaun Smith
Stephen Fothergill
Alan Lloyd
Angela Teasdale
Jessie Bateman
Arnold Bage
June Tozer
Allen Tozer
Jean Kidson
Mary Skirving
Edith Totty
Jean Erskine-Jennings
Norma Cuthbertson
Brian Hampshire
Gillian Wilson
Elsie Ellis
Maurice Burdon
Arthur Scott
Dorothy Brackstone
Vera Bunnis
Carla Apte
Paul James
John Newcombe
Frederick Walker
Margaret Dixon

100 Years since the end of World War 1 11 am on 11th day of 11th month 1918



Remembrance Ringing 2018

An earlier article in Signpost advised that there would be bell ringing at Stranton and around Hartlepool on Remembrance Sunday this year.

As 11th November was the 100th anniversary of The Armistice which brought the First World War to an end, the Nation both remembered those who had died in wars and other conflicts, but also set about celebrating the centenary of The Armistice.

Hartlepool has a Guild of Bellringers, many of whom are also members of the Durham and Newcastle Association of Bellringers. The whole association got behind the worldwide event where bells were to be rung around the world at 12.30pm local time in celebration. The event was called "Ringing Remembers". On 11th November 1918 bells that had lain silent for 5 years rang out around the country to announce The Armistice and "Ringing Remembers" commemorated that event.

Then, at 7pm on 11th November Hartlepool Council held two services, one on the seafront at Seaton Carew and the other on The Headland. Each culminated in the lighting of beacons which had been initiated at Westminster Abbey by The Queen.

For the record, Hartlepool's church bells were rung on Remembrance Sunday as follows:

St Oswald's Church between 8.45am and 9.30am. Eight of the bells were rung half muffled in a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor with two covers. It was the first in the method by Elspeth Craig.

Between 9.45am and 10.30am the bells were rung at Stranton and St Aidan's. Bells were half muffled for remembrance and a total of 27 of the town's bellringers took part.

Then the bells were rung at both Stranton and St Aidan's between 12.30pm and 1pm with muffles removed and in celebration as part of the Worldwide "Ringing Remembers" event.

Finally, the bells at all three churches rang out between 7pm and 7.45pm in support of the town's celebration of The Armistice. Twenty two ringers took part.

Andrew Frost
Secretary Hartlepool Guild of Bellringers



Some of the Hartlepool bellringers

Stranton and The Great War

Although the war hostilities ceased in 1918, sadly three Strantonians were to die early in the New Year.

One Strantonian, carpenter Frederick Charles McCarthy, who was a bell ringer at Stranton, was sadly involved in Britain's worst sea disaster since the loss of the Titanic.

On the 1st January 1919 HMS Yacht Lolaire was packed with returning troops from Mesopotamia, when it ran on to rocks known as the Beast of Holm.



205 men died even though they were just a short distance from the shore, sadly Frederick was a casualty.

It is interesting to note that the official Naval Inquiry did not find any evidence that drink was a factor in the disaster.

HMS Yacht Lolaire



Lance Corporal Wilfred English

He lived at 191 Burbank Street and before joining up he was a postman.

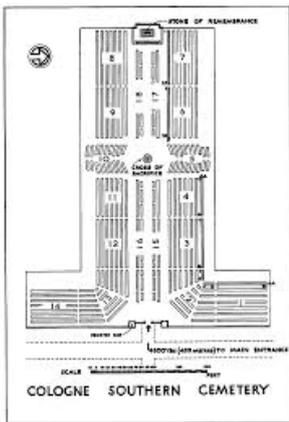
He served in the Kings Regiment (Liverpool) and was captured by the Germans and died in Hamburg on January 1st, possibly a flu victim, but I have no absolute proof at this moment in time.

Hamburg Commonwealth Cemetery



The last Strantonian casualty of the war was Private John Richard Thompson who died on January 14th 1919. He lived at 10 Stranton Green and served in the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He was 19 years old when he died as a prisoner of war. He is buried at Cologne Southern Cemetery in Germany

The Plan of Cologne Southern Cemetery and Sword of Sacrifice



Festive Lunch
Age UK is hosting a Festive Lunch in
St Matthew's Community Centre on Thursday 20th December.
If you are aged 50 or over and would like to attend this lunch
please contact Laura Wedgewood tel: 01642 803326 for more
information.

A Harvest 'Thank You'

Thanks to your generosity, we received an amazing thank you letter from Hartlepool Harbour...

'We are in receipt of your generous donation for Harvest, it has really made our day. We can't tell you how much we appreciate your support to relieve the needs of families and individuals affected by domestic abuse. Here at Harbour, our mission is to live in a world free from domestic abuse. This year we have supported over 4,700 people throughout the North East. Your generous donation will go a long way to helping us provide welcome packs to families in refuge. In fact, with your donation, we will be able to provide many families with enough food to last long enough until they receive financial assistance. You have been a shining light in a dark time of our clients' lives. Thanks to you and the Church, many families will be well-nourished. Thank you once again for your donation. It means the world to us!'

Food parcels were also sent to nominated residents in the local area. Thank you once again to everyone who contributed.



**Ward Jackson CE Primary
Christmas Fayre
on
Wednesday 5th December at
3.15pm
in the school hall.
Everyone welcome!**

Do you have spare Children's PE Kit?

Ward Jackson CE Primary is in real need of spare PE kit. Do you have children or grandchildren aged 3 to 11 years who have outgrown:

White tee-shirts, Black shorts, Plimsolls, Trainers, Football boots?

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Festo and Grace Kanungha link letter no.4 November 2018

Dear friends,

This time of year, as we get ready for the celebrations on 25th December, many of us are getting Christmas presents ready. There is something here regarding us and Christmas (well, Grace rather than Festo!) that is different to most other people in Tanzania. There is practically no culture around giving gifts at Christmas time here in Tanzania and definitely not to the extent that exists in the UK. It can be quite a challenge for Grace to source presents for our children as we don't live near anywhere that might sell the specific Paw Patrol or Spiderman toy required (thankfully Grace's parents will visit us this Christmas and bring such things in their luggage.) We struggle to buy gifts for folks back home too. There is a sense of relief and rescue from the commercialism of Christmas back home, but it is not without a tinge for those we love whom we would like to buy for.



As we think about Christmas presents, we are also reflecting on the gift of education. We still all too often take education for granted. Mama Naomi has been working for us in our home since 2012 and she is such a part of our family that our children affectionately call her Grandmother (Bibi). She finished her primary school with good grades and was accepted into the Roman Catholic secondary school in Manyoni, but her father would not permit her to attend; he couldn't afford it although at the time the price was very low.

Of those in her primary school class that went onto the secondary school, many became nurses, which would have been Mama Naomi's career choice as well. Now in her 50th year, she is reflecting on her missed opportunity and the tears cried over it. Her alternative career has been as a house worker for various *wazungu* (white people) over the years. She said that her mother was also very bright academically but her father (Mama Naomi's grandfather) believed that girls should not be educated. She said with a heavy heart: "If I had been able to study at secondary school, I doubt I would be still living in Solya (the village next to Kilimatinde) and in the situation I am in."

Mama Naomi on a tea break

Attitudes have changed today but people often don't have the financial ability to educate their children in schools that provide a good quality of education. Mama Fatuma now works in our volunteer's house, but we got to know her when the fourth of her five children (Ashura) was attending our nursery school. She has one son and four daughters. Her eldest son is at university, supported by his father who is a different father to that of her daughters. The next two, Fatuma and Halima, study at St John's in form 3 and 1. Ashura attends the government primary school as St John's Primary hadn't started when she moved on. Then



there is Shadiya who will join the nursery school in January. Mama Fatuma's husband (the father of her daughters) hasn't officially left her, but has set up home with another woman in a town nearby and has become less and less involved with the education of his girls (not even paying for it, despite having a reasonable salary).

I (Grace) sat with Mama Fatuma in September as she cried for her girls (St John's had sent out letters reminding parents of unpaid school fees). Her situation was clear – she cannot afford the school fees at St John's for one child let alone both. Mama Fatuma was sitting on the veranda at the back of the house as we chatted looking out at a path where we regularly see girls from the government school pass on the way to our beauty spot “the Rock”. They stop in the bushes to change out of their uniform and we know that they meet various boys/men there. Mama Fatuma commented that she did not want her girls to be in an educational set up whereby they are left freely to do such things.

One of the challenges we face as people in mission is that we want our work to be centred on the gospel, but all too often it is centred on money, raising our own personal support, fundraising for infrastructure or St John's projects. It feels sometimes that all we do is ask for and look for money. So it was wonderful therefore at the graduation for our form four students (when we had decided that we wouldn't hold an impromptu fundraiser as is the norm at these occasions) that the education officer for Manyoni District started one on our behalf! She had just announced that our school is one of two that have been chosen in the district to provide A-level education. This is conditional to us putting into place the needed infrastructure; however, it should make the registration process simpler. We already have much of the infrastructure in place and now just need to build two dormitories. We say “just” but it is still a huge task with a big budget to go with it. So our education officer told the parents present that they should contribute and start a little fundraiser. We still have some way to go but what we have learnt is that God will provide in his perfect timing, and so we continue to praise his name and seek to share the gospel!

We are expanding again – no not our waistlines, but at the primary school! We started a building project in 2014 (finished in 2016!) with four classrooms; this was perfect for the nursery school, however we have since added two primary school classes and next year we will have three. This has meant reducing the nursery school down to two classrooms and with over 80 students this has not been the best option. However, right now we are building five more classrooms and two school offices. The nursery school will then go back to having three classrooms, the primary will have three classrooms and we will have spare classrooms for the following years. Eventually the primary school will use six classrooms in total.

It is amazing to see the builders at work and there is a short video (two minutes long) available to see: <https://vimeo.com/294520237>

It is a hive of activity and the students are really excited by what is happening around them. Building at St John's is a community affair with secondary students given the task of watering the bricks every morning and evening, so that they set well. We visited two primary schools in Mara Diocese last week along with three of our nursery/ primary teachers, where we learnt much that we are looking forward to implementing at St John's.

Brick making

I now want to introduce Patrick to you. We first met him in 2015 at a government primary school; we discovered that he was playing truant and the teachers were concerned as he was well liked and achieved a lot. Within a short time we realised that, despite both his parents living in Kilimatinde (separated), he had nowhere to call home. He would spend his nights bunking in with various friends around the village, hoping that a bit of floor space might include an offer of dinner as well – he was 11 years old. We took the decision to invite him into our home and become a part of our family, after seeking the permission of both his parents. We have agreed to educate and care for him.



Three years on, Patrick has finished his primary school education and in September joined our pre-form one course as a boarder, making quite a change in our family home! Zeph and Will

shout “*kaka Patrick*” (meaning brother Patrick) whenever he stops by the house to help feed the pigs or one of the many tasks the students help out with at the head teacher’s house. We have just had his primary school exam results and we are very proud of him, having obtained a B average. So we are just about getting used to him being no longer in our home (although he will return in December for the holidays!) and wondering what God will do next with that empty bed...

Patrick graduating from primary school in September



As we share this Christmas with Grace’s parents, we will be praying that you too will be equally blessed this Christmas by time with friends and family.

With love and prayers

Festo, Grace, William and Zephani



Boys Brigade News



All sections have been taken part in learning about WW1 and gained their special Boys Brigade badge.

Activities included devotions, colouring, poppy making, a visit from the Territorial Army and a very hard word search.

Camp - This session we are going to camp at Melton Scout Centre near Hull in July. This is for Year 6 and Company Lads.

St Matthew's - The upgrade plans for St Matthew's Community Centre are starting to shape up, so in preparation we have started the process of emptying our store hut. This has involved moving filing cabinets and cupboards into the ASDA Room, plus storing a lot of equipment in Leaders' garages and garden sheds.

Christmas Activities - This year these will include visits to Wacky Warehouse, tea@hart and a Christmas party or two!

Fund raising - if you are reading this before the 1st December please pop along to our Christmas Fayre at St Matthew's Community Centre as there will be bargains galore there!!

If you have any youngsters who would like to join the Boys Brigade please bring them along to St Matthew's or contact myself on 07816445829

George Bainbridge

Christmas Recipes from Mary Baines

Chocolate Cookie Log

A fudgy no-cook pudding:

2 oz chopped almonds

4 oz softened butter

4 oz caster sugar

cream

1 egg

2 level tablespoons cocoa

8oz digestive biscuits

1 tablespoon brandy or sherry

6 fluid oz carton of double

Grated chocolate or a Flake

Beat butter & sugar together. Add egg & sieved cocoa, beat again. Crush the biscuits in plastic bag & mix into creamed ingredients with chopped nuts & brandy. Roll the mixture in foil to form a long roll. Chill well. To serve mask with whipped cream & decorate with grated chocolate or crushed Flake.

Mincemeat Cake

5 oz butter

3 large eggs

6 oz sweet mincemeat

4 oz caster sugar

6 oz SR flour

Prepare a cool oven – Gas 3, 150C

Brush an 8” round cake tin with melted butter & line base & sides with greaseproof paper

Place butter & sugar in bowl & cream together till light & fluffy

Beat eggs & add a little at a time to mixture – beating well after each addition

Sift the flour, add to the mixture with mincemeat & stir well. Place the mixture in the tin & smooth the top with the back of a metal spoon. Place the tin on a baking sheet & cook for about 75 to 90 minutes.

CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to

December

Siobahn Connell
Anne Courtenay
Lauren Davison
Eloise Dobbin
Chloe Thornhill
Diane Greenwood
Benjamin Hall
Joseph Hall
Pam Hutchinson
Heather Jennett
Catherine Padgett
Julie Shave
Robbie Spoons
Ella Spoons
Lilly Spoons
Mary Tones
Mark Tones
Josie Watson

January

Tyler Anderson
Frances Boyd
James Boyd
Michelle Butler
David Craig
Daniela Demas
Nancy Fearnie
Clive Hall
Daniel Hart
Doreen Lathan
Carol Moore
Trish Playfor
Isabel Spoons
Luke Tones
Alice Gilhespy- Swann

**Congratulations
on your Wedding Anniversary**

Jack Rogers & Gina Guo
Rob & Michelle Butler

**Congratulations to
Nirmalee & Steve
On the birth of Alexander Rohan
On 6th November**

**If you have something to celebrate we would love to share it - email
admin@stranton-church.org.uk
or phone 864006.**

All entries to be in by the 16th of the month.

Dates for the Diary

Dates for December and January (including all the Christmas Services)

December

Sun 9 th	4.00pm Christingle Service
Mon 10 th	7.30pm Family Service - Planning
Tues 11 th	7.30pm PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel
Wed 19 th	1.30pm St Matthew's Committee

Services for Christmas - All Welcome

Wed 12 th	6.00pm Civic Carol Service
Sun 16 th	6.00pm Carols by Candlelight
Mon 24 th	4.30pm Christmas Family Service
	11.00pm 'Midnight' Communion Service
Tues 25 th	10.00am Holy Communion for Christmas Day

January

Sun 6 th	8.30am & 10.30am Services for Epiphany
Tues 8 th	7.30pm Standing Committee, The Vicarage
Mon 14 th	7.30pm Lighthouse Planning, 40 Browning Ave
Wed 16 th	7.30pm Buildings & Finance, tbc
Sun 20 th	4.00pm Messy Church, St Matthew's CC
Mon 21 st	5.30pm Pastoral Group, Asda Room
	7.30pm PCC, Fulthorpe Chapel

What is the belief behind the Twelve Days of Christmas song?

One of the holiday's best-loved songs, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," marks the longest holiday in the Christian calendar - the time between Christmas Day and Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th.

The song's origin is unknown, but some believe the song was written to help Catholic children remember various articles of faith. These are:

True love

God

A partridge in a pear tree

Jesus

Two turtle doves

Old and New Testaments

Three French hens

Faith, Hope, and Charity

Four calling birds

Four Gospels

Five golden rings

The first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, which records the history and laws of ancient Israel

Six geese a-laying

Six days of Creation

Seven swans a-swimming

Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, or the Seven Sacraments

Eight maids a-milking

Eight beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing

Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

Ten lords a-leaping

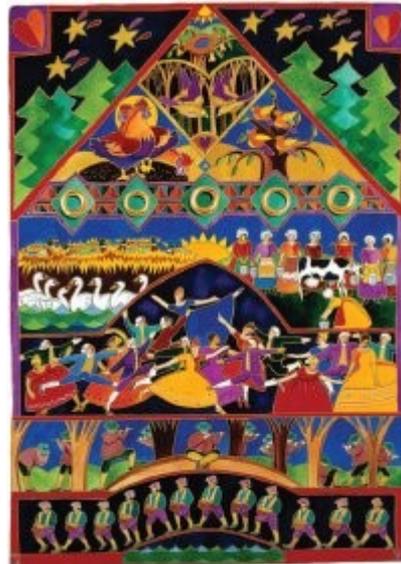
Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping

Eleven faithful disciples

Twelve drummers drumming

Twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed



The Twelve Days of Christmas Song represents the various articles of faith in Catholicism.

What is the Origin of Holiday Carols?

In 1847, the music for "O Holy Night" was written by French composer Adolphe-Charles Adam, who also wrote the ballet Giselle. Now a mainstay for church celebrations and carolers, the song was first denounced by church authorities for its "lack of musical taste and total absence of the spirit of religion." The English words to the song were translated from French by American clergyman John Sullivan Dwight.

In 1857, James Pierpont, musical director at his brother's Unitarian church, was inspired to write a song about the rollicking sleigh races he watched as a young man. "Jingle Bells" was first published as "One Horse Open Sleigh," and though it was well liked from the beginning, it really took off when the Hayden Quartet recorded it in 1902.

Pastor Phillips Brooks wrote the words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" in 1867, recalling the view of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine at night. His church organist, Lewis Redner, added the music so that the children's choir could sing the song.



Smiling is Infectious

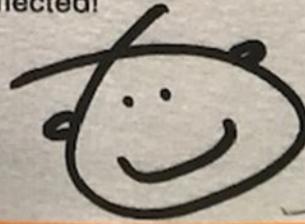
Author Unknown

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

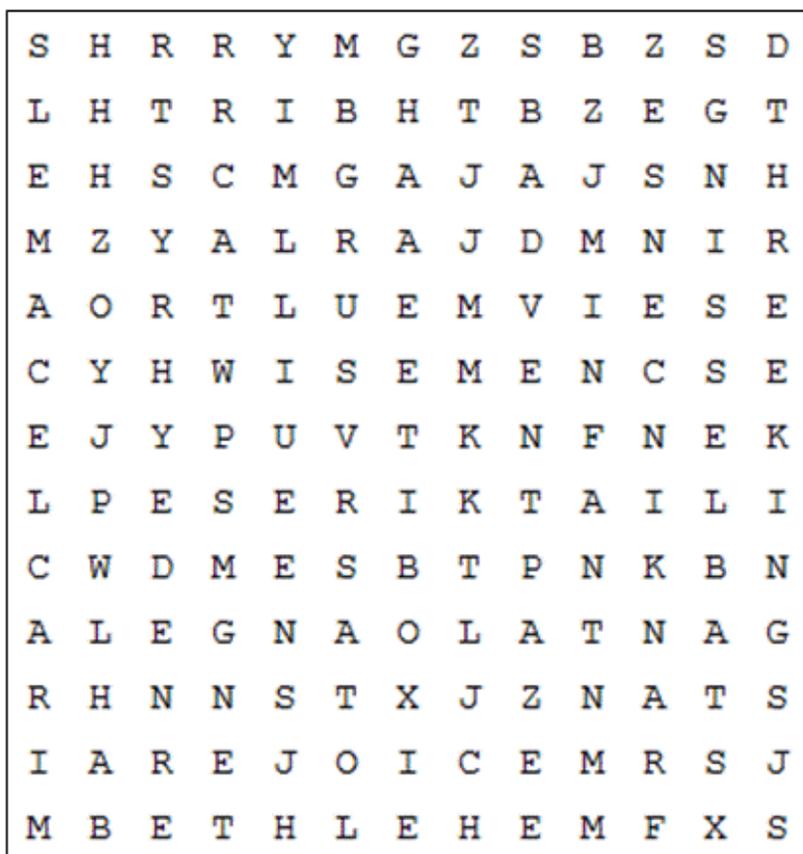
I thought about that smile,
then I realised its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!





Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Sidespersons

	8.30am	10.30am
2 Dec	I Walker	N Proffit A Craig
9 Dec	B Butcher	S Shepherd K Shepherd
16 Dec	P Thompson	D Greenwood B Greenwood
23 Dec	M Hutchinson	J Lawson K Lawson
30 Dec	I Walker	D Greenwood B Greenwood



Funerals

13 Nov Ruby Irene Smailes



Who's Who

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