

ABBHEY HILL U.R.C. MAGAZINE



December 2022
& January 2023



Are We Going to the Dogs for Christmas?

For many years, it has been easy to find evidence that half the world has gone mad, and the other half are living in difficult circumstances. Admittedly, there may be some crossover.

Yesterday, on the radio, in the news bulletin, two stories which seem at total contradiction with each other, were aired. Main item, quite rightly, was the Chancellor's Autumn statement, giving us the worrying news that we expected: tighten your belts, prices are going up, taxes are going up for all, and this is going to hurt for years to come. We are already worrying that the number of people living in poverty is increasing dramatically, even in so-called middle class areas like Kenilworth. A number of strikes are taking place by workers in the Public Sector and others are threatened, unless wages are increased at least in line with inflation; currently in excess of 10%. Food Banks are being overwhelmed by demand and are desperate for donations, goods and money.

Later in the same bulletin came this announcement: Dog owners plan to spend around £100 on presents for their pet. To pay for it, if they have to, they will not buy presents for close relatives. I kid you not!

You must have noticed the number of charities appealing for our help this Christmas, some using celebrities who apparently have given their time and name for free. Money and goods are needed, not just in this country of course, but in several parts of the globe. This really worries me because I cannot support every worthy charity I would like to, and you will be in the same position of course.

Personally, I don't own a dog and don't buy many presents anyway. Not for nothing is my nickname at Christmas, 'Grinch!' By my children obviously! I have never been comfortable with the build-up that seems to start in mid-August, now includes 'black' Friday (today, as I write) where we are told great bargains are to be had and will increase in fervour right up to Christmas Eve. All because a baby was

born into poverty in a land thousands of miles away, two thousand years ago.

What to do? Well, I will follow my usual habit of not sending Christmas cards to all the people I know (sorry!); instead buy something like chickens, a cow, or a donkey, available through one of several charities, for a family in the Third World. Maybe other things too, I don't know.

As a church, a small group are looking at how we can provide help to people who need a listening ear, need somewhere to keep warm, maybe need debt advice or are grieving – possibly even some or all of those needs. Look out for more information in the New Year. Although you can join the group if you want – let me know.

And yes, I do know, many of you are already working in the community, or supporting worthy causes in other ways. As Christians, that's what we are called to do.

Christmas is a time for families and I hope you are able to spend good times with yours. If you have dogs, I hope they have a good time too – I just don't think they understand the meaning of Christmas!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the peace of the Christ-child and the love He brought into the world, be your and those you love.

With all good wishes

George Jones

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2022



- 4th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by George Jones.**
- 11th Sunday** **10.00 Christingle/Parade led by Jo Stratton.**
- 18th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service with Communion led by George Jones.**
19.00 Carols by Candlelight service
- 25th Sunday** **10.30 Christmas Day Service led by George Jones.**

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2023

- 1st Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by George Jones.**
- 8th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by Chris Flood.**
- 15th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service with Communion led by George Jones.**
- 22nd Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by Anne Holloway.**
- 29th Sunday** **11.00 “Songs of Praise” Service led by Jo Stratton.**

FREE WILL ENVELOPES

Please collect your set of offertory envelopes for 2023 from the front of Church.

If you don't currently have a set of envelopes but would like one, please contact Susan Derwent on 07515 890598.

Dates for your Diary

Here's a peek at the events that are coming up and being planned. Lists will be up on the noticeboard for willing helpers and how to obtain tickets as necessary.

Event	Date	Venue	Time	Coordinator s
'Keep it Simple' - Christmas fayre <i>Moneysaving Ideas for Christmas!</i>	Sat Nov 26th	Abbey Hill	10-3pm	Vivien Nichols Susan Derwent and everyone!
Memories Service (with lunch)	Wed Dec 14th	Abbey Hill	12pm	George Jones
Coffee Pot Christmas Lunch	Thursday 15th December	Tiltyard	Lunch 1.00pm	Betty Connelly
Talisman Panto – Goldilocks and the Three Bears	Thursday 15 th December	Talisman Theatre Barrow Rd Kenilworth	7.30pm	John Nichols
Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 18th Dec	Abbey Hill	6.30pm	Healing Group
Christmas Morning service	Sunday 25th Dec	Abbey Hill	10.30am	George Jones
NEW! Community Listening Exchange hosted by Coffee Pot	Thursday 19 th January 2023	Abbey Hill	10.30am	Ivan Pointon
Pintgether	Friday 27 th January	The Green Man	7pm	Anne Holloway
Repair cafe	Every 3rd Saturday	Abbey Hill	2 til 5pm	Kenilworth Repair Cafe

The Funeral of Bob Watson

Bob's funeral will take place on Tuesday 29 November, with a committal at Cannon Hill Chapel, Canley Crematorium at 10.30am, followed by a thanksgiving service for his life at 11.30am at Baginton Road URC, Coventry (formerly Wet Orchard) where Bob had been a member most of his life.

This will be followed by a buffet lunch and all are welcome to both services and the lunch.

Pam Dawson is arranging to serve teas and coffees with lunch and would welcome offers of help from anyone at Abbey Hill.

Christmas Dinner

Each year Coffee Pot organises a Christmas dinner. This has been booked for Thursday 15th December at 12.30 at the Tiltyard. The dinner is open to everyone, not just coffee pot. Please contact Betty Connelly for further details.

Pintgether

You're welcome to join us on Friday 27th January for a casual, relaxed evening with friends. We'll be in The Green Man from 7pm and it would be great to see you there too!

Anne and Fred Holloway

Treasurer's report

The music and poetry evening raise £110 for the church.

The Art exhibition raise £279, £140 of which was sent to DEC Ukraine charity.

The Harvest gifts for Commitment for Life Totalled £1500.

Coffee Pot donated £130.

The URC synod donation of £11,000 towards the cost of the windows was received.

Communion collections - £30 was sent to Emmaus. The December collection is for Friends of the Holy Land

Bob Watson – a few recollections

Bob started playing the organ at Abbey Hill about the time we came to Kenilworth over 50 years ago. We found that he was just one day younger than Betty which gave rise to much banter between them. He also played Sunday evenings at West Orchard Church which was near his home and where he was a member. He carried out his duties faithfully rarely missing a Sunday, just taking 3 weeks holiday mainly spent cycling round France

Bob enjoyed hiking but his love was cycling. He seemed to know every village in Warwickshire and the Cotswolds. If I mentioned a village I was going to hike near he would tell me all about it mentioning things I ought to look out for. He would also recommend suitable benches to visit to stop and have coffee or lunch. I found that he had recorded and marked all the benches he had used giving them marks out of ten (a hint as to his profession – teaching). Marks were awarded for condition, attractiveness of the surroundings and the type of armrest – most points being awarded for those with a flat-topped armrest suitable for putting a flask or coffee cup on. Betty and I often think about this as we sit on a bench to have coffee and award it marks following Bob's example.

Bob was a compulsive record keeper, recording every cycle ride he had made and the distance covered. He reckoned that he had cycled over 26,000 miles during his lifetime. No wonder his knees gave him trouble recently.

Bob was an ex-scout and helped at the local scout group during their meetings and on any outdoor activities they did. He also cut the extensive lawns at West Orchard Church.

He was quite a handy man carrying out minor repairs to the organ, and keeping the ancient motor mower at West Orchard and his own van running.

Bob was a great chap and is sorely missed.

David Connelly

Eco Matters

Copt 27.... One of the big discussion points at this gathering was that there needs to be a 'Loss and Damage Funding' Pot of money to help those most affected by the results of Climate Change. This needs those who have produced most of the CO2 and Methane to pay large amounts into this pot A.S.A.P.

John Kerry the USA Climate Envoy said that America recently passed legislation that commits the Country to spending £318 billion on clean energy [wind solar, hydrogen and electric cars. That expects to deliver a 40% cut in emissions by 2030. President Biden had promised at Cop 26 to cut emissions by 50% by 2030. Looks promising.

In the UK, some ideas that once seemed pipe dreams are nearing commercial reality.....

- There is a plan to build the world's first prototype nuclear fusion plant by 2040
- A new generation of new nuclear power stations that would be much smaller and hopefully easier to build [backed by Rolls Royce] are currently going through the regulatory approval process.
- Giant electrolyzers are being built next to a wind farm in the North East to split water and produce a clean supply of hydrogen.
- Our government is seriously considering the possibility of sun based solar power where solar panels in earth's orbit beam a stream of electricity to the planet's surface.

Sometimes dreams can come true!!!

According to an article in the Times In much of the world and the UK we now get as much electricity from renewables as from gas. 5 new offshore wind farms due in 2026 won a government auction to deliver power to consumers at £35.75 per megawatt hour, a fraction of the cost of gas.

MP's have called for a total ban on the export of plastic waste by 2027 saying that what we currently do just out sources the problem and causes environmental harm elsewhere!!! Hear, hear I say but why not sooner?

****Abbey Hill now collects Blister Packs for recycling. These go to the Lions from where they are sent to a company that strips the off the foil to recycle and the plastic gets is also recycled. Blister packs can be placed in the pale green container in the porch.**

Tips for keeping warm

These come from an article by Melanie Reid, a tetraplegic who feels the cold greatly....

Ankle warmers, such as dancers use and wrist warmers or fingerless gloves.

Put feet on a hot water bottle and / or put feet up on a stool above drafts.

Thick fleecy rug folded over the knees.

Scarves and a woollen capelet over the shoulders work wonders.

An electrically heated fleece for all contingencies.

Anne Gilmore

BLACK FRIDAY/ MONDAY

If you are taking advantage of these days to shop for bargains please think about signing up to easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbeyhillurc/ then access the sites you want to use through the easyfundraising site. There are over 7000 sites that will pay a donation to Abbey Hill for anything you buy. This costs you nothing. Make it easier by getting a donation reminder. So, you can help the church at the same time as getting bargains for yourself.

Thank you to ALL those who are signed up and getting donations for ABBEY HILL.

Any questions contact anne.gilmore@abbeyhillurc.com

Coventry Cyrenians Christmas Day Dinner Event 2022

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER

ACTIVITIES START
AT 11AM UNTIL 3PM

DINNER SERVED
FROM 12.30PM
TO 2.30PM

FREE DINNER &
FESTIVITIES FOR
ANYONE WHO IS
HOMELESS OR
WOULD LIKE TO
SPEND CHRISTMAS
WITH OTHERS

- 2 COURSE MEAL
- REFRESHMENTS
& EXTRA TREATS
- GIFTS
- MUSIC &
ENTERTAINMENT



Coventry
Central Hall

VENUE: METHODIST CENTRAL HALL,
WARWICK LANE, COVENTRY, CV1 2HA.

KENILWORTH WINTER WARM HUB

Free pop up community event for everyone!
Tuesdays from 9.00 am - 1.00 pm
St Francis of Assisi RC Church, Warwick Rd, CV8 1HL



Board games, books & crafts



Free refreshments!

Bring a friend or make a new friend, have a cuppa and a chat, join in activities or just relax. And get useful energy saving tips!

FREE bacon rolls for launch on 15th NOVEMBER



Energy saving tips & advice

Please note: this event will be held at **Kenilworth Methodist Church**, Priory Road CV8 1LQ on the following Tuesdays:
29th November, 13th December and 14th February 2023



www.wrccrural.org.uk/wrcc-warm-hubs

This event is run in partnership by



Kenilworth SVP



community project supported by



invite you to join our


**ADVENT
CELEBRATION**

at St Francis of Assisi Church
Warwick Road

Sunday 27 November 2022

6.30pm

Flower Sponsors Needed

Sadly, due to the death of Bob, our organist there are now 3 spaces available for people to pay for Sunday flowers, to be arranged by one of our wonderful team of arrangers.

Dates available are 30th April, 13th August, 20th August.

If you would like to take one of these please phone me, 01926 855586 or email anne.gilmore@abbeyhillurc.com.

Prayer group

A small group are currently meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9.30 to pray for issues of the day be they church, local, regional, national, international. It lasts approximately 30 - 40 mins. Please come along and join the group when you can, regularly or occasionally, you will be most welcome.

Anne Gilmore

The man who gave us safe milk and saved the silk industry

Two hundred years ago, on 27th December 1822, the French biologist, microbiologist and chemist Louis Pasteur was born. One of the fathers of germ theory, he was best known for the pasteurisation process, which is named in his honour.

At school he was not an outstanding student, his favourite subject being art. But he eventually became a professor of chemistry first at the University of Strasbourg, where he met his wife Marie, and then, in 1854, at the University of Lille, where he was also dean of the science faculty.

A Roman Catholic by birth, he was said to have retained strong beliefs in God and eternity, –saying that studying nature led to his amazement at the works of the Creator. But he rarely attended church, saying that he prayed while working in the laboratory.

His achievements were many and varied, though after his death some doubt was cast on his methods and his failure sometimes to attribute the work of other scientists. He is best known for the now familiar process of pasteurising milk, removing harmful bacteria, but he also developed vaccinations for anthrax, TB and rabies. He also created, in 1865, a method of eliminating microbes that attacked silkworm eggs and was said to have helped save the silk industry as a result.

In 1868 he suffered a stroke and became partially paralysed, but he was able to continue his work. In 1885 he vaccinated a boy who had been bitten by a rabid dog: the success of this brought him fame and led to fundraising and the building of the Pasteur Institute in Paris in 1888. He died in 1895.

ROTAS – DECEMBER 2022

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
4	John Nichols	Jane Woods-Scawen	Christmas Arrangements
11	Di Wilson	Jane Woods-Scawen	Christmas Arrangements
18	Colin Ritchie	Jane Woods-Scawen	Christmas Arrangements
25	John Nichols	Jane Woods-Scawen	Christmas Arrangements
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
4	John McKenzie	Hilary Scott/ Anne Banning	Lorna Spencer
11	Bronwen Todd	Betty Connelly / Kath Shortley	Jo Stratton
18	David Connelly	Anne and Fred Holloway	John Thomas
25	Alison Crichton	Rosemary Lawrence / Donna Bloy	John Williams
	Coffee	Car Park	Vestry
4	Rosemary Lawrence / Barbara Sidebottom		Kath Shortley
11	John Nichols/ Joanne Warren		Vivien Nichols
18	Jane Woods-Scawen/ John Thomas		John Nichols
25			Jane Woods-Scawen
	Communion Prep.	Comm. Servers	
18	Pat Cowan / Kath Shortley		

ROTAS – JANUARY 2023

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
1	Di Wilson	Alison Crichton	Anne Gilmore
8	Colin Ritchie	Betty Connelly	Betty Connelly
15	John Nichols	Pat Cowan	Ayse McKenzie
22	Di Wilson	Vivien Nichols	Vivien Nichols
29	Colin Ritchie	Anne Holloway	Anne Holloway0
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
1	Ivan Pointon	Donna Curran / Anne Gilmore	Betty Connelly
8	John McKenzie	Eileen John / Phil Inshaw	Pat Cowan
15	Bronwen Todd	Jo and John Williams	Jane Woods-Scawen
22	David Connelly	Pat Cowan / Judy Clarkson	David Connelly
29	Alison Crichton	John Nichols / Di Wilson	Donna Curran
	Coffee	Car Park	Vestry
1	Betty Connelly/ Eileen John		Anne Holloway
8	Susan Derwent / Di Wilson		Jo Warren
15	Pat Cowan / Glenis Hobbins		Kath Shortley
22	Anne and Fred Holloway		Vivien Nichols
29	Kath Shortley / Cheryl Ritchie		John Nichols
	Communion Prep.	Comm. Servers	
15	Jane Woods-Scawen / Donna Curran		

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY.

I have been advised that for data protection reasons I must only print Christian names now. I hope you recognise yourselves by the dates or the information!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

A Happy Birthday to all of the following:-

December 19th Sarah

December 28th Phil

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Those celebrating a birthday in the New Year are :-

January 11th Glenys & Jo S

January 12th Pam & Elinor

January 13th Jennifer

January 14th Tony

January 22nd Winnie

DEATH

Bob, our organist. See article elsewhere in magazine

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

We continue to pray for Pete, Joy V, Edna, Mavis , Bert , Janet, Mary, Esme and Lesley.

All of the above mentioned and any who do not wish to be mentioned by name, are in our thoughts and prayers.

MOVING

We send our very best wishes to Barbara and Helen who early in December are moving to pastures new. Although they have not been with us for very long, in that short time they have become valued members of our church family.

TO BETHLEHEM

*The moon on high wears a silver halo round its head,
And stars in the sky are dancing ere they go to bed.
There's a happy tune held close in the midnight air,
And wise men wend their way to Bethlehem And the King who's cradled
there.*

*Meantime, in the hills above the sleeping town,
Angels singing heaven's own song wing God's message down.
They speak of the child who brings God's judgement and care,
And call us to turn our hearts to Bethlehem and join in the shepherd's
prayer.*

*So come with us quick this Christmastide to greet our Lord,
As He, by shepherds and wise men, is now adored.
Come near and meet our Saviour who hates human strife,
And learn of Him who calls us in love, how to remould our life.*

By Sam Doubtfire

Please let Pat know either in person or on 01926 313904 of any Pastoral Care matters.

The mysterious ways of mistletoe

Mistletoe has long been used as part of our Christmas decorations. It is not your usual kind of plant.

Instead, it is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients.

Mistletoe loves living in apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak trees. You may spot it high up, as a large globe, on the bare trees in winter. There is one spectacular example in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the Thames.

Mistletoe's berries are almost translucent, fleshy and sticky. They form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds, who wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch, which of course helps the plant to spread.

For some reason, Romans thought mistletoe represented Peace, Love and Understanding. Perhaps that is how it got into our Christmas celebrations? The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century, but we don't know who got kissed first.

Protect our birds

This Christmas why not give the birds in your garden a Christmas present by joining the RSPB? More and more of our wild birds are disappearing, making the RSPB's work vital, to make sure that the birds we have grown up with and love remain a familiar sight for our children and future generations. More than 200 different kinds of wild bird live within our shores – why not help the RSPB to help them? Visit: www.rspb.org.uk



REPAIR CAFE
KENILWORTH



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REPAIR CAFE



Repair Café Kenilworth

Repair Café Kenilworth (ReCK) is a free meeting space that's all about repairing things together, be that clothes, toys, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles ... there's very little that can't be repaired by our team of expert volunteers.

We meet at the United Reformed Church every third Saturday in the month, between 2PM and 5PM. There is free parking outside the Church, but it can get quite busy. If your item is particularly heavy or large, we'll always try to assist you as best as possible.



Sustainable. Social. Economic. Fun.

A local Repair Café is a not-for-profit community event, created by neighbours, for their neighbours. The aim of the Repair Café Kenilworth (and those worldwide) is to reduce waste, increase sustainability, save money, and have fun in an informal social gathering.

Oh ... with lots of tea and cake on tap also. It is a Repair CAFE after all.

Bin it? No Way!

Some things have to be thrown away ... the old toothbrush with curly bristles, that blown light bulb that's been sitting inside the cupboard since 1983, the fish 'n' chip wrappers from last night's tea ... but what about that broken bedside lamp, or the rickety wooden stool that belonged to your grandparents?



The Repair Café movement has one simple question, and an even simpler answer; Bin it? No Way!

Along with actually repairing your broken items, we'll help you to develop the skills to start repairing them yourself, to promote the culture of repair over replace, and to give you the satisfaction of bringing your treasured memories back to life.

Further details

[Repair Cafe | Repair Cafe Kenilworth | Kenilworth \(repaircafe-kenilworth.org\)](#)

The third Saturday afternoon of the at Abbey Hill Church Schoolroom.



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?
What did Mary dress her baby in?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angels tell?

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What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?



ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

Lord Reith – running the BBC 100 years ago

One hundred years ago, on 14th December 1922, John Reith (later Lord Reith) was appointed general manager of the newly formed BBC. He was its first director general when it became a public corporation in 1927.

Born in Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, Reith was educated in Glasgow and Norfolk. An engineer by profession, he had fought in the first world war, where he was wounded by a sniper. He was 6ft 6in tall and a Scottish Presbyterian whose Christian faith was both real and strict.

When taking control of the BBC he was, in his own words, "confronted with problems of which I had no experience". These included copyright and performing rights, as well as dealing with – among others – music publishers, playwrights, associations of concert artists and wireless manufacturers.

He was at the BBC for only 16 years, but he created long-lasting templates for public service broadcasting in Britain and elsewhere. He largely fought off politicians' attempts to influence the BBC – although he had to comply with Government strictures during the General Strike of 1926 – while offering programmes to “educate, inform and entertain”.

During his time at the BBC it had a firm Christian perspective, broadcasting to what was a Christian country. It did not start programmes on a Sunday until 12.30pm, to give people time to go to church first. Critics nowadays see the BBC as fostering the new fundamentalist religion of secular humanism.

Reith left the BBC in 1938 to become chairman of Imperial Airways. During the war he was appointed Minister of Information and became an MP for Southampton. He was later transferred to the House of Lords. The annual BBC Reith Lectures were inaugurated in 1948 in his honour.

Preparing the Way

This month's drawing is 'The Virgin and Child' by Raphael (1483-1520). Raphael was a talented artist from a very early age, but this drawing belongs to a time when he was in Rome from 1510-12. The finished painting is known as the Mackintosh Madonna, after its last owner. This drawing, or cartoon, was the first stage in creating that work: it is in black chalk with heightening marks of white. When an artist made an initial drawing like this, he would then prick the cartoon with holes and then sprinkle charcoal powder over the drawing to reproduce the design on the canvas below. The pinholes on this drawing are still clearly visible. Sadly the final painting has been damaged through time, but here in the cartoon we see that first stage: a sensitive and balanced picture of mother and child: Mary warm and caring, Jesus laughing and alive.



During Advent we think of the preparations God made for the birth of the Saviour. We celebrate God's work of creation and how He chose a people for His own. Within that people He looked for a holy remnant and then finally a loving heart in the assent of Mary to be the mother of our Lord. These preparatory steps were as vital for our salvation as the artist moving from idea to sketch to the finished work.

Each stage is important; each stage a revelation of life and love. Vasari wrote of Raphael that in his paintings 'the flesh palpitates, the breath comes and goes, every organ lives, and life pulsates everywhere.' Even this preliminary drawing displays that life and vitality. It is a life we celebrate at Christmas in the birth of a child who turns to us, as he does in this work, as a sign of joy and love.

**COULD ANY ARTICLES/NOTICES FOR THE
FEBRUARY 2023
MAGAZINE PLEASE BE SENT TO ME BY
SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY 2023
PLEASE 😊? (e-mail to
m.todd1@hotmail.com)**

Brave Mary

As Jesus' mother, Mary plays a crucial part in the Christmas story. It begins with Gabriel's visit to her: *'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus.'* (Luke 1:30,31). This conversation takes us straight to the heart of what Christmas is all about. God was doing something unique, that had never happened before! *'God was beginning, at this divine and human point, the New Creation of all things. The whole soiled and weary universe quivered at this direct injection of essential life.'* (CS Lewis).

This child unites heaven and earth: the eternal God entered time and space and became a baby, both a real human being and fully divine. It reminds me of the sci-fi film *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) in which a team of surgeons are shrunk to the size of blood cells and injected into the veins of a patient to perform lifesaving surgery. The Christmas message affirms that God has entered the bloodstream of humanity to put things right with Him on the inside. We can know Him personally and make sense of His world.

God chose an unknown, frightened teenage girl to bring about this new beginning for the world. Her response is the pattern for us, as we welcome God's special gift into our lives this Christmas: *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:38).

Mary gave an unqualified *Yes* to all that God wanted to do in her life. It was a costly decision, which risked both shame and scandal. Yet she was ready to obey God and trust His plans for her life, despite her many questions. Is the same true for us this Christmas?

90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.



Santa

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

Christmas card

Richard, my husband, and I had a hectic Christmas holiday schedule involving work, care of parents, driving of teenagers, shopping, and all the required doings of the season. Running out of time, I asked a local printer to simply print our name on our Christmas cards, to save me signing each one. Soon we started getting cards from friends signed 'The Modest Morrisons', 'The Clever Clarks', and 'The Successful Smiths'. This baffled me until I looked again at our card. I had posted out a hundred cards neatly imprinted with 'Happy Holidays from the Rich Armstrongs'.

The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Vergen' Mary."

Good home

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

Lord's Prayer, updated

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."

Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Presents

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks. But the argument always ends in a tie.

Seasonal smiles

Children's version of the Christmas story

– When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.

– When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta

– Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

What do you call Santa's helpers? – Subordinate Clauses.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? – Frostbite.

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"

"What part?" asked his mother.

"I'm one of the three wise guys!"

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be when the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter. – Anon.

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. – E K Kruger
The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. – Alfred Hitchcock.

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. – Jonathan Swift.

PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER 2022

1 st	Judy Clarkson and Sam
2 nd	Betty and David Connelly
3 rd	Vera and Andy Cooper
4 th	Gloria Cordery
5 th	Pat and Ian Cowan
6 th	Alison and Robert Crichton
7 th	Donna and Michael Curran, Henry and Martha
8 th	Elinor Davies and Alexander Nunn
9 th	Susan Derwent and Henry Bentley
10 th	Edna Dixon
11 th	Mavis Duckworth
12 th	Paul Duffy
13 th	Judith and Terry Eaton
14 th	Glo Ford
15 th	Barbara and Richard Gillard
16 th	Anne and Tony Gilmore
17 th	Julia Graham
18 th	Bert Greenway
19 th	Donna and Darren Hall and Emelia
20 th	Laraine Hall
21 st	Madeline Hamper
22 nd	Glenys Hobbins
23 rd	Anne and Fred Holloway
24 th	Jane and Phil Inshaw
25 th	Jennifer Jackson and Robert Banks
26 th	Eileen John and Leon
27 th	Emilie Jones
28 th	George Jones
29 th	Robert Kerr
30 th	Rosemary and Gerald Lawrence
31 st	Gill and David Littleford

PRAYER DIARY JANUARY 2023

1 st	Alice McAdam
2 nd	John & Ayse McKenzie, Iain, Layla and Scott
3 rd	Mhari McLintock and Hugh Maccallum
4 th	Roz Morris
5 th	Pam Muckersie
6 th	Vivien and John Nichols
7 th	Alison and Ivan Pointon
8 th	Cheryl and Colin Ritchie
9 th	Hilary Scott
10 th	Pat Scott
11 th	Kath Shortley
12 th	Jayne Shores
13 th	Barbara and Helen Sidebottom
14 th	Mary Skidmore
15 th	Lorna and John Spenser
16 th	Jo Stratton, Sophie and Elspeth
17 th	Ruth and Graham Sutton
18 th	Winnie Tawil
19 th	Helen and Dave Thomas
20 th	Esmé Thorpe
21 st	Joy Thorpe
22 nd	Bronwen and Martyn Todd, Sarah and Lottie
23 rd	Janet Turner
24 th	Joy Verral
25 th	Jo and Pete Warren
26 th	Gaynor Watkins
27 th	Jo and John Williams
28 th	Lesley Williams
29 th	Di Wilson
30 th	Emma and Gary Watt
31 st	Jane Woods-Scawen and John Thomas

WHO's WHO at ABBEY HILL

Church Leader. George Jones

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John Nichols	512764
Kath Shortley	07722 263393
Jane Woods-Scawen	07971 758777

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Pulpit Supply	Anne Holloway	01926	335951
Treasurer	David Connelly		855218
Appeals Treasurer	John McKenzie		779810
Secretary Managers	Ivan Pointon		855399
Junior Church Secretary	Donna Curran		857437
Organist	Bob Watson	02476	501681
Gift Aid Secretary	John McKenzie		779810
Lettings Officer	Rosemary Lawrence		850264
Free Will Envelopes	Susan Derwent	07515	890598
Magazine Editor	Martyn Todd		864332
Guide Leader	Tracey McNamara		856922
Brownie Leader	Sarah Pointer	02477	042291
Crèche	Ayse McKenzie		779810
Catering & Social Committee	Rosemary Lawrence		850264
Healing Group	Jo Williams	02477	112156
Weekly Notices	Paul Duffy		851650
Child Protection Link	Alison Crichton	07970	557726
Transport			
Kenilworth Foodbank	Susan Derwent	07515	890598

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