

Crosstalk

The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad

www.thurstaston.org.uk

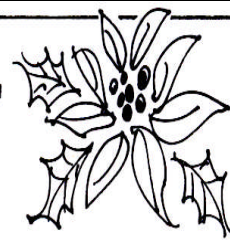


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December



2011



Diary Dates

Thursday 1st December

M.U. Christmas Service and
Afternoon Tea

St. Chad's 2.15pm

Sunday 4th December

Christingle Family Service
4.00pm at St Chad's

Thursday 5th January

M.U. Rev. Jane Turner
'Epiphany Communion and Tea'
St Chad's 2.15pm

Saturday 14th January

EMU 'Tea & Toast, Bring & Buy'
St Chad's 9.30-11.30am

Notices

Thank You

The Children's Society 'Thank You' coffee morning raised £56.25.

Thanks to all who attended

From the Registers

Baptisms

*We welcome into the Lord's
family*

27th November

*Francesca &
Gabriella Perlaki*

Weddings

We ask for God's blessing upon the marriage of

29th October

*Alex Locke &
Joanne Marie Potter*

From your rector

Dear Friends,

Christmas Unwrapped!



A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. She requested 'something that will make me look sexy and beautiful.' To her surprise the husband gave her an exercise bike as a gift!

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy provided grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream reminding Joseph that the child to be born would fulfil Isaiah's promise: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel - which means, God with us.' (1:23). Joseph's world, like our own, is scary and uncertain and it's not always clear as to what God is doing. So what is the message of the name Immanuel for Joseph, as well as for ourselves as we approach Christmas 2011?

God is present with us

God assured Joseph through his dream that he was working in all that Joseph was experiencing. The conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit is not unexplained; however the wonder of the incarnation is that the eternal and creator God has entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human.

The birth of Jesus means that we can know God personally, not just know about him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, as well as bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as he worked in the conception of Immanuel.

God is on our side

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. By coming in Jesus he enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. Therefore, he can understand what we are going through, as he is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection he gave his life that we might know his life, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of Immanuel (God with us) as we entrust ourselves to him for the coming year.

Rev'd Jane



Mothers' Union



On a cold, wet November afternoon Colin, Joyce's husband, cheered us all up by taking us to the Tatton Park Flower Show and Ness Gardens. His slides of the competition gardens and the large marquees full of fruit, plants, flowers and flower ar-

rangements were so bright and colourful we soon forgot about the weather! And our trip around Ness brought back summer memories of walks in the gardens. All helped by his cheerful commentary.

Colin finished with his super slides of flowers, plants and trees to a musical accompaniment. We all went home with happy memories of bright flowers - and sunshine!

Prayer

Think of a world without any flowers, think of a world without any trees,
Think of a sky without any sunshine, think of the air without any breeze,
We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees and sunshine,
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Amen

Diary Dates:

29th Nov. 2pm St. Mary and St. Helen, Neston MU Advent Service

1st Dec. 2.15pm St. Chads Christmas Service and Afternoon Tea

5th Jan. 2.15pm St. Chads Rev. Jane Turner 'Epiphany Communion and Tea'

Saturday 14th January EMU 'Tea & Toast', Bring & Buy, 9.30-11.30am at St Chad's.

God Bless

Sue Burns

The 1 Corinthians 13 of Christmas

If I decorate my house with beautiful bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, roasting a perfect turkey, and lay a magnificent table, but have no love for my guests, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion in my heart for those in need, I am just another social service; it profits me nothing.

If I decorate the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes and attend a myriad of holiday parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with boring housework. Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents, or even coordinated Christmas china and table linen. Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way; love is glad that they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives. It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future. It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about their job prospects. Love never fails other people. Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost. But the gift of love will endure forever. Happy Christmas!

More Than A Book

A new way of raising funds for our church



We have registered our Church with this scheme set up by the Bible Society. Our registration number is 10171.

When you make a purchase from their website www.bibleresources.org.uk please enter our registration number (or search for our church details) and then our church will receive 10% of the value of your purchase (excluding p&p)

It's money in the bank for our church plus great quality products for you, your friends and family



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think the Angel of the Lord texting the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

A message from a member of your PCC

This was received as an e-mail by Revd Jane from a PCC member on the morning following the last PCC meeting and it is printed here with permission of that PCC member

Hi Jane, It hit home when you said the only fund raising done was Bears Day, Harvest Supper and the Christmas Fair, maybe I should compose an article about doing it, the ups and the downs and the support given and try to encourage people to think up something and have a go.... A Christmas party, quiz night, sponsored walk or bike ride, fish n chips supper, curry night, tea dance with high tea, anything that makes money out of having fun.

This could be accompanied by the blurb about the financial situation and how we need to make more money to supplement weekly giving. When talking about giving it's tricky. I always think: what would I treat myself to once a week without a second thought - a Costa coffee and cake, a takeaway - and church means more to me than them. To keep my Church as it is, is more important, it's not just a place to worship on a Sunday, it's God's place with God's spirit in it, where there's fellowship and support and a feeling of being in the care of His family. I always leave feeling better than when I arrived (admittedly sometimes temporarily a bit wobbly when the Spirit moves me).

I have to watch the pennies like anyone, but all of this and what God does for me is worth what equates to a small treat. Everyone is different and their circumstances too, so giving is very personal and it doesn't matter how much when it comes from the heart.

The agenda item which sparked this e-mail was "Parish Finances". We are currently unable to make ends meet and we have had to take the difficult decision to reduce our Parish Share Payments to the Diocese - which long term could result in not being entitled to a full time Rector.

Anyone who would like to organise a fund raising event for Church should initially speak to Patsy Brady - who acts as a co-ordinator for social events within the parish and can be contacted via the Parish Office (she is not a member of the PCC).

Anyone who would like to make their giving more regular, by using a standing order or weekly envelopes, should speak to the PCC Treasurer.

The Parochial Church Council

The PCC meets approximately six or seven times a year. It works with the Rector in the management and business of the parish. 17 members of the PCC attended the meeting on 7th November 2011. Two members sent apologies for absence. This is an unofficial account of the meeting to keep the congregations up to date.

As usual, the Rector opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of our previous meeting mentioned new hymn books for St Chad's and we heard that they had been delivered.

We then heard reports on the churches. At St Bartholomew's, Mr Oliver had finished work on the lighting, but we had not had a response to an application for a grant to repair the guttering – essential work that had been identified at the last five-year inspection. Because of recent thefts of metal from churches, some metal plates on gravestones had been security-marked. The annual maintenance work at St Chad's had been completed and a lot of work had been done on the grounds, especially the grass. A new manager and a play-worker had been appointed for the Pre-School.

Our Pastoral Committee was continually developing its role and was doing a considerable amount of team visiting and other work. They wanted to be able to identify people who had stopped attending church and then find the reasons. Alan Jones and the Rector are considering how this could be done and would welcome any suggestions.

We were renewing the Open Door Project planning application and the Local Authority had asked for any new objections by 10th November. One grant provider had said we should contact them again within two years once we had raised 50% of the money required. We were £20,000 short of that amount. We expected responses soon from two other providers. We also discussed the possibility of asking for pledges as a fund-raising option. We will return to this in January.

During 2010/11 we had committed ourselves to improve three areas: welcome, the arrangements for pastoral care and communications. We had not yet decided what to do about improving welcome. We had planned to:

- ◇ identify a team leader
- ◇ recruit or create a team
- ◇ produce a welcome pack
- ◇ seek the views of new church members to appraise the pack
- ◇ implement the arrangements
- ◇ develop outreach to new people.

We needed welcoming teams for each church and after lengthy discussion, we agreed to set up an action team to look at this in more depth – subject to the agreement of people who were not present. We also accepted an offer by two others to carry out some general housekeeping tasks at St Bartholomew's which were previously done by Mrs F Abbott. A welcome pack would also be required, but we did not discuss that in any more detail.

Financially, September had been a poor month for income but October had been slightly better. The Treasurer, Mr C Eden, proposed increasing the hire charge for St Chad's to £30. To reduce water charges, we agreed to replace the valve for the automatic flush system with an infra-red detecting valve.

We went on to discuss our financial state. We agreed to explore the possibility of a "Friends" scheme for St Bartholomew's, to increase slightly the costs of advertisements in the magazine and to think about the issues of giving in the light of our financial predicament.

A choral group from St Petersburg will be touring the UK next year. They expect to be in this area in April or May. They have offered to perform in the parish, but would require accommodation. We would have to make all the arrangements including tickets, advertising and seating arrangements. We will look into the possibilities. As usual, the meeting ended with the words of the Grace.

By the well known writer and broadcaster David Winter He is a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.

The Way I See It – Bath Salts for the Baby

I suppose in a way you've got to blame those 'Wise Men'. Their gifts to the infant Jesus - gold, frankincense and myrrh - have probably got something to do with the fact that we give gifts at Christmas.

We can't give them to Jesus on his birthday, because even Amazon can't deliver to heaven, so we give them to . . . well, Auntie Jo, grandson Reuben and the nice woman next door who takes in our parcels when we're not there. And then there's the nephews and nieces, the brothers and sisters, friends at church and of course the beloved, who always poses the biggest dilemma. 'In as much as you do it for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do it for me', said Jesus, but as I look at my presents list it doesn't honestly look like 'the least'. My nephew works for a merchant bank and his annual bonus would probably pay off my mortgage. What do you give to the young man who's got everything?

Which brings me back to those Wise Men, who weren't all that wise, in fact - pedlars of spells and high class fortune tellers, really. But their gifts *were* clever. What do you give to the child who is 'born king', as they described him (rather unwisely) to Herod? Their answer was gold (because he was royal), frankincense (because he would be our great high priest) and myrrh (because he had been born in order to die). Their gifts may seem strange at first sight - and must have completely baffled poor Mary and Joseph - but they were absolutely right for the recipient: king and priest and sacrifice, as the carol says. When it comes to getting the presents exactly right, they're top drawer.

Which probably won't help much as we try to fathom out our presents list this Christmas. Do you remember John Betjeman's list of goofy gifts - 'bath salts and inexpensive scent, and hideous tie so kindly meant'? His lines make me wince every time I read them because it sounds exactly like my last minute Christmas shopping. But his wry list of inappropriate gifts is to be found in a poem about the Nativity. And in it the pathetic presents we buy and wrap up and hand over at Christmas are contrasted with God's greatest gift - 'the Maker of the sky and sea, become a child on earth for me'.

'It isn't the gift - it's the spirit in which it's given', we say. True. True, too, of that greatest gift of all, 'the baby in the manger stall'. And true, too, for the Wise Men, who got their gifts so exactly right. I reckon they'd thought hard and long about them, which suggests a truly wise approach to choosing presents. But on the whole I'd still avoid the myrrh for great-aunt Beryl (or the inexpensive scent).



Missing the guest of honour

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2)

There's a story that runs like this: there was a mayor of a small town who had brought in so many improvements to local life that over several years he had transformed the town. And so the community decided it was high time to pay him tribute.

The party was held at the local town hall, and all agreed it was a great celebration. The decorations were superb, the music was loud, the room crowded and noisy. The food was delicious, and the wine flowed. It was the best party the town had ever had.

Over coffee the next morning in the local cafe, someone wondered aloud if the mayor had enjoyed it. No one knew. In fact, as the day wore on, people began to realise that actually, no one had even seen the mayor there that night. Later they discovered that the mayor had been waiting at home all evening, waiting for the lift that he had been promised into town. But people were so busy preparing for the party, that no one had remembered him. And so he had missed the party in his honour. Apparently no one had even noticed his absence.

It sounds a lot like Christmas. People get together to celebrate, the food is great, the music warms the heart - but has anyone seen the guest of honour? We sing about him, we act out nativity plays about him, but in reality, the season has become about US. Our menus, our travel plans, our presents, our decorations. At what point in the proceedings do we give ourselves time to notice whether he is among us, or not?



...don't cry darling! The man with the white beard
and pointed hat who might be resigning is the
Archbishop of Canterbury - NOT Father Christmas!

December Recipe - Gammon & Apple Pie

Gammon is delicious when served hot and is an ideal choice for a family tea.
This recipe is a good way to use leftovers.

INGREDIENTS

2 potatoes chopped

1 onion chopped

300-350g (10oz-12oz) leftover

cooked gammon, diced

2 tart apples, peeled, cored and
chopped

150ml/5floz water or cider

250g (8oz) shortcrust

pastry

milk for brushing

salt and freshly ground black

pepper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas Mark 6.
2. Grease a pie dish with butter or margarine.
3. Put the potatoes into the base of the dish and cover with the onion, seasoning each layer with salt & pepper to taste. Mix together the gammon and apples, season and spoon the mixture on top of the onion. Pour in the liquid.
4. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured board about 2 inches bigger than the dish. Cut a strip from around the edge and place it on the rim of the dish. Brush with water and carefully lift the remaining pastry on top of the pie, pressing all around with your finger. Knock up the edge of the pie and cut two small slits in the top of the pie.
5. Brush the top of the pie with milk, put onto a baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes until the pastry is golden brown.

If you want to freeze the pie, remove from the oven and leave to cool. Otherwise reduce the temperature to 160C/325F/Gas Mark 3. Cover the pastry with a piece of foil to prevent it from burning and bake for a further 30-35 minutes.

Serve hot.

Hope you enjoy your Christmas cooking!

Betty Rimmer



Visit the 'Make Runaways Safe' campaign website



Did you know that in the UK, more than one child in ten runs away before they are even 16 years old? Without help, these children are highly vulnerable and at risk of substance abuse, sexual exploitation and homelessness. They need to know that there are people who can help them and services that they can turn to.

The Children's Society has recently launched a website to accompany its Make Runaways Safe campaign. The site, www.makerunawayssafe.org.uk, lays out the charity's ambition to protect the 100,000 children in the UK who run away each year. The report revealed that children as young as eight are running away from home or care, and in most cases are not being reported to the authorities.

The website helps people to get involved with the campaign by signing a petition, joining in with social media and reading information about the campaign. It also allows The Children's Society to broadcast campaign messages through its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

The Make Runaways Safe campaign is The Children's Society's first campaign to build a national safety net for runaways after more than 20 years of research and advocacy work for children who run away from home or care. If you would like to consider helping in any way, please visit the website.

Trek for Treatment with The Leprosy Mission

Do you enjoy walking in the great outdoors – especially if it does someone real good? Then why not consider going on a sponsored Trek next Spring, in order to raise money for the Leprosy Mission's vital work in Nepal?

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, where almost 30% of the population live below the poverty line. The Leprosy Mission's hospital in Nepal is in the hills at Anandaban, 12km outside Kathmandu.

The hospital is a lifeline to people affected by leprosy living in the scattered rural mountain areas all over Nepal. (It also provides accident & emergency, maternity, surgical and outpatient facilities.) Many patients come to the hospital after having travelled for days. Anandaban provides essential treatment to these patients.

Leprosy is curable, and patients are given multidrug therapy treatment. However, many patients still require reconstructive or eye surgery, ulcer care, physiotherapy and counselling before they can rebuild their lives.



By taking part in the March 2012 Nepal Trek and raising much-needed funds for Anandaban, you will enhance the lives of all the patients there, including those affected by leprosy. Says one trekker: *"I saw many stunning sights in Nepal, but seeing the work at the hospital and the dedication of those involved, will command my long lasting respect and admiration."*

Once in ... Kings College Chapel Cambridge

Christmas Eve, and somewhere in Cambridge there will be a boy aged between nine and 13 who is about to sing before an audience of 10 million people worldwide.

Shortly before 3pm, the 16 boy choristers of King's College Chapel will line up in front of the adult section of the choir. They will all watch as a red light near them starts flashing, warning that the BBC announcer is telling listeners that the programme is moving to the chapel in Cambridge. When the flashing red light stops for about 10 seconds and then come on again solid, the director of music will beckon his chosen soloist forward.

The boy will then step forward to perform the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', the traditional start to Christmas Eve Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast each year by the BBC. The boy will have ten seconds warning to give the performance of his life. The lack of warning is to prevent the boys having to worry about it ahead of time....



Advent, Christmas and New Year Special Services:-

Sun Nov 27th 6.30pm Advent Service at Irby Methodist

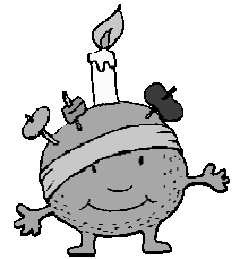
8.00am, 9.30am 11.15am as normal.

Sun Dec 4th 9.30am Holy Communion

4.00pm Christingle Family Service at St Chads

(Please bring items for 'Helplink' Christmas appeal to this service or drop at the office beforehand).

8.00am, 11.15am as normal. NO 6.30pm service.



Sun Dec 11th All Services as Normal

Sun Dec 18th 9.30am Nativity Service led by Junior Church

6.30pm Joint Carol Service at St Bartholomew's

8.00am, 11.15am as normal

Dec 24th 4.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's

5.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's

As in previous years, we will run two services exactly the same one after the other. We suggest that the 4pm service is for younger (up to and including Reception) children and that the 5pm service is for older children. If you have children in both age brackets - you choose!

If coming to the 5pm service, please don't arrive until 4.45pm in order for the 4pm service to have cleared church and car parking spaces!



11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

Sunday December 25th - Christmas Day

8.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

- weather permitting retired Clergyman to get to Church!

9.30am Family Communion at St Chad's

You are invited to bring one of your presents to show to everybody else.

11.15am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

NO OTHER SERVICES TODAY

Sunday January 1st 10.30am Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's

12noon "Drinks and Nibbles" at St Chad's

NO OTHER SERVICES TODAY

Sunday January 8th 10.30am Covenant Service at Irby Methodist

8.00am and 6.30pm as normal. NO 9.30am or 11.15am service.



7a, Thingwall Road
Irby
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CH61 3UA

Tel: 0151 648 3322

Fax: 0151 648 4598

Email: info@helplink.org.uk

Web: www.helplink.org.uk

CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Helplink offers support & practical assistance to the elderly,
Housebound & disabled on the Wirral.

At Christmas time we like to bring a little festive cheer by providing Christmas
Parcels to disadvantaged families in the local area.

We're aiming to help as many families as possible, which includes hundreds of
children. Lots of families can't provide treats for their children, never mind
presents.

THE ITEMS WE NEED ARE (for example):

- Selection Boxes
- Chocolate, Sweets, Biscuits
- Mince Pies, Christmas Cake

Basically anything which would make Christmas special for the children.

(PLEASE NOTE: this does not affect our appeal for the Christmas Parcels for the
elderly, housebound & disabled - that is a separate appeal)

The games people play!

This Christmas, will you buy a computer game for someone? Or do you hope to receive a game of some sort?

Gaming in the UK has become big business, involving millions of people. And across Europe, almost a fifth of the population, 100 million people, now plays games. Two-thirds (65%) of people under 35 play games on a regular basis. An astonishing 99% of children under the age of 12 play games. Part of the appeal of games is that they are generational; families can play with each other, and against other families. But of course, people of any age (and anywhere) can team up to play a game. Games are bought most by men aged 15 to 35.

Some games have simple educational purposes, like teaching maths to children. Some include social media (conferring points and status on regular users), or marketing (with online vouchers), or customer engagement initiatives (Nike+ inspires runners to reach new personal bests by teaming up with other online runners).

Other games are 'entertainment' like *World of Warcraft* (WoW), set in a mythological world akin to Tolkein's Middle Earth. This game has a staggering 11 million players worldwide, many spending several hours a day fighting orcs and discovering treasure – a total of 50 billion playing hours, yielding £3m a day in subscription fees for its owners.

WoW players communicate with each other online by messaging, both text- and voice-mail, and have intense 'virtual' relationships with fellow gamers from all over the world, according to a recent article in *Church Times*. WoW has an age-rating of 12 plus, which means that many teenagers play it.

Game designer Jane McGonigal says WoW helps people to use the collaborative skills they honed in fantasy environments back in the real world. Critics, however, say that real life is messier than the world in many games and thus translating the skills results in disappointment.



The highlight of Christmas at the vicarage was always 'name the hymn tune' played on comb and paper.

Much of the content of games is violent, involving relentless killing. Some Christian groups of gamers exist, especially in America, and when asked why they play such violent games, Mike Marquardt of Gamers 4 Jesus replied, "I don't get a kick out of killing people, but out of the strategic aspects and the fellowship in playing the game."

McGonigal says that "the rise in gaming is a deeply spiritual issue," and suggests that "the single best way to attach meaning to our lives is to connect our daily actions to something bigger than ourselves." Enter the Gospel?

A Follow-up to my letter in June!
The general response was that meeting together is difficult so what about a Newsletter for the Men Members of the Mothers' Union to exchange views.

Men have a lot to offer to the success of the Mothers' Union - so tell me what a difference you are making and I'll print it and circulate it.

Who are we?

Men members make up less than 5% of the MU members in the Diocese

We all have a story to tell as to how and why we joined – and who we are - Tell your story -

What skills do you have that your Branches can use?

What do you want to see?

Can you send e-mails?
Can you chat on-line?
Have you looked at the website lately?



SPECIAL EVENTS

Did you go to AFRICA Day?



4 Men on the Pilgrimage



What's Happening in your area that will interest Men Members?

CONTACT

derekandpauline@talktalk.net
Tel; 01925 752810

Derek Buckthorpe
131 Whitbarrow Road Lymm
WA139AY

<http://www.mothersunionchester.co.uk/>



Christmas cards

A friend of ours waited until the last minute to send Christmas cards. She knew she had 49 people on her list. So she rushed into a store and bought a package of 50 cards without really looking at them. Still in a big hurry, she addressed the 49 and signed them without reading the message inside.



"I DON'T CARE IF IT IS CHEAPER THAN SENDING CHRISTMAS CARDS...!"

On Christmas Day when things had quieted down somewhat, she happened to come across the one leftover card and finally read the message she had sent to 49 of her friends. Much to her dismay, it read like this: *This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.* Suddenly she realized that 49 of her friends were expecting a gift from her.

**



Turkey

It was Christmas Eve in a supermarket and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said "Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?" He replied: "No, sorry, they're all dead."

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Prompting

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas Sunday School drama presentation. His mother, sitting in the front row tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the angel Gabriel!" The child beamed with acknowledgment and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the congregation could hear said, "My Mommy is the angel Gabriel!"

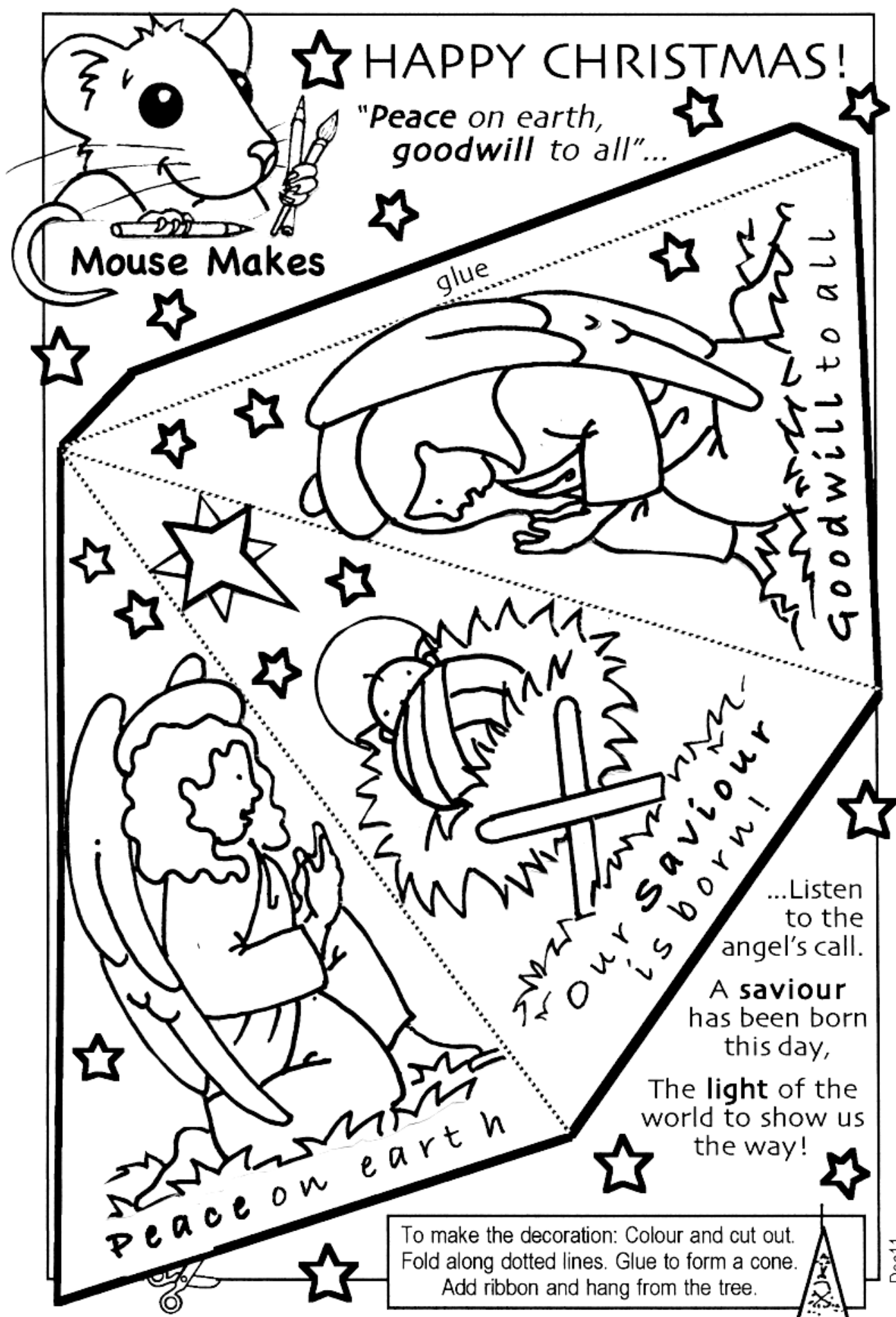
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Christmas play

My three children were in the Christmas play. I was so proud. My daughter was playing Mary. One son was a shepherd. And my other son was a Wise Man. My shepherd son had practised his lines over and over, but when the time came, he was nervous and said, "We found the babe wrapped in wrinkled clothes."

To which Mary replied, "That's not wrinkled clothes, that's dirty rotten clothes!" Giggles from the audience followed, but the play went on. My Wise Man son, wearing his father's bath robe and paper crown knelt by the manger and said, "We are the three Wise Men and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur."







CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25th December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?

**What goes red, white, red,
white, red, white?**

Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and
his wife hang over their baby's
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.

Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest
7 evergreen

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Contacts

Churchwardens

Mr J Roberts **342 2149**
23 Riverbank Road Lower Heswall CH60 4SQ

Mr R Jackson **648 0365**
13 Norton Drive Irby CH61 4XP

Reader

Mr Alan Jones **648 1400**
8 Edgemore Drive Irby CH61 4XT

Retired Clergy

Rev'd J Edwardson **648 2661**
38 Hazel Grove Irby CH61 4UZ

Rev'd S Beckley **648 7767**
162 Heathbank Irby CH61 4YG

Rev'd I Morris **625 8474**
43 Abbots Way West Kirby CH48 6EH

PCC Secretary

Mr G Barley **648 1867**
5 Sherwood Avenue Irby CH61 4XB

PCC Treasurer

Mr C Eden **648 9517**
8a Woodlands Road, Irby, CH61 2XD

Verger

Mrs J Ratcliffe **648 6171**
135 Thingwall Road Irby CH61 3UD

Organist

Mr C Vickers **648 7405**
34 Townsend Avenue Irby CH61 2XW

Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office **648 8169**

St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary

Mrs J Heath **648 6015**

Mothers' Union, Branch Leader

Mrs S Burns **648 1022**

Evening Mothers' Union (EMU)

Mrs C Rostock (Secretary) **6481112**

Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs E Jones **648 1400**

Flower Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs J Ratcliffe **648 6171**

Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs J Bibby **678 8124**

Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs L Worrall **648 5590**

Bellringers Tower Captain

Mr R Turner **648 1742**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Junior Church

Mrs J Deboorder **648 6331**

St Chad's Seniors (11-14) & Youth Group

Mrs K Robson **648 6691**

St Chad's Playgroup

Church Office **648 8169**
(during playgroup hours) **0783 5096171**

Rainbows

Karen Fearn **648 9833**

Brownies (Brown Owl)

Mrs Linda Churchill **07860239422**

Guides

Revd J Turner **648 1816**

CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Aid Representative

Mrs W Wolstencroft **929 5778**

Children's Society Representative

Mrs J Heath **648 6015**

Leprosy Mission Representative

Mrs P Hulme **648 1827**

Adoption Society Representative

Mrs C Rostock **648 1112**

Church Services

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm **NO SERVICE**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Joint Carol Service

4.00pm Crib Service
5.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm **NO SERVICE**

10.30am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
**10.30am Covenant Service
at Irby Methodist**
6.30pm Evening Worship

5th December
Advent 2

11th December
Advent 3

18th December
Advent 4

24th December
Christmas Eve

25th December
Christmas Day

1st January
Christmas 1

8th January
Baptism of Christ

**Holy Communion celebrated at St Chad's
each Wed 10.15am
ALL WELCOME**

St Chad's

9.30am Holy Communion
**4.00pm Christingle Family
Service**

9.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Nativity

9.30am Family Communion

12noon Drinks and Nibbles

Baptisms and Weddings

To arrange a baptism or wedding,
please telephone the Rector, Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816
or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - **Tuesday**

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB
Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs C Rostock St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH

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