



St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

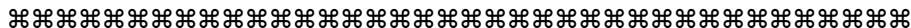
Issue No 146 ~ December 2020



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Peaceful New Year!*

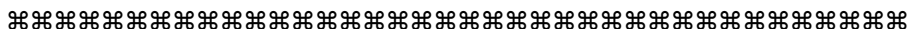
CHURCH OFFICERS

Vicar	The Rev Paul Bye
Curate	The Rev Kyle Mulholland
Licensed Lay Minister	Miss Janet Kimber
Church Wardens	Mrs Pamela Rowell Mr Alan Curtis
Parish Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Mrs Loraine Lee



Useful Information

Vicarage	01253 734562
Parish Office:	01253 732939
Fundraising Shop:	01253 732253
Website:	www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com
E-mail:	stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com



Help St Paul's Church, Ansdell & Fairhaven to raise money every time you shop online.

Every time you shop online using the Easy Fundraising website or the Easy Fundraising app, St. Paul's will receive a donation from the online store that you visit. There are more than 3,000 to choose from and it doesn't cost you any more than the price of your purchases!
Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpaulsansdell>

Letter from the vicarage...

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*



As I write, the words of this wonderful Christmas carol by Isaac Watts come to mind. One of the great sadnesses of this pandemic has been the impact on congregational singing. It is yet to become clear what that will mean for Christmas. But stopping to pause on the words we sing is a fruitful experience nonetheless.

The carol is based on the Bible - taking inspiration from Psalm 98 and Genesis 3. It encapsulates a wonderful truth wrapped in the Christmas story. One of history, not make believe. That the young infant born to Mary, proclaimed by angels, visited by shepherds, worshipped by wise men, is not simply a sweet little child to warm our hearts. He is the Lord drawing near to this world.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. The baby in the manger is the Lord of heaven and earth. Your creator and mine. The astounding truth is he does not sit distant from a world that is broken and sorrowing. A world impacted by the curse, caused by humanity turning away from God to try to rule itself. He didn't then. He doesn't now. We feel at this time the impact of that curse in the pains and turmoil of a pandemic, with suffering and death around us. To that world Jesus came. God got involved. To our world today he is still involved, active and concerned. That is news of real joy.

But when I am ill, while I want a doctor who can sit by my bed and be with me, what I ultimately want is a doctor who can heal me.

That is what this hymn wonderfully declares. Jesus came into the world to turn curse into blessing. To turn a broken world into one which will be made new. To turn a world where there is death into one where one day death will be defeated. Where a new kind of life can be offered – life as we were made for knowing God now – and which lasts through and beyond death. A world where our turning from God and the separation from him which follows is turned into being able to know our maker intimately. That is news of real joy.

We need Jesus to turn away the curse from this world. A vaccine or other medical treatments, while a source of hope, will not fix our world. Being brought through a pandemic, whilst something we long and pray for, will not sort this greater problem. To pin our hope on those things alone, and not see the greater problem, and the most wonderful solution offered in Jesus is to miss out on the greatest source of joy God is offering us.

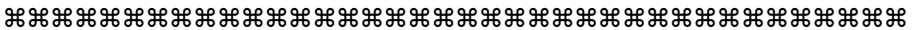
So how should we respond? *Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room.*

This joy and hope comes through receiving Jesus. Not simply remembering him a few times a year. Not simply knowing about him from Sunday school lessons or church services. But receiving him. Opening our life up to Jesus that the earth's king might become our king. That means other things which currently take the top spot in our life will need to move, maybe even go, that there is room on the throne of our heart for Jesus.

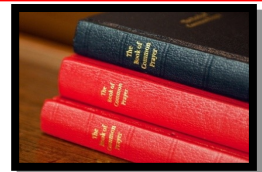
Christmas may be quieter for many of us this year. Can I encourage you to make the most of that time and space to reflect on Jesus, and to receive him into our hearts at king? We will find when we do a joy stronger and brighter than any other.

With our best wishes and love,

Paul



Mid-Week Book of Common Prayer Service of Hbly Communion



From CofE website

**Wednesdays 2nd and 16th December at 10am
No need to book**

Explore The Light In The Darkness with us this Christmas



Everybody Welcome

Christingle	Thursday 3 rd	6.30pm
	Sunday 6 th	4pm
<i>Candlelight Service</i>	<i>Sunday 13th</i>	<i>6pm</i>
	<i>Sunday 20th</i>	<i>6pm</i>
Crib Service	Thursday 24 th	10am (outdoor) 2pm & 4pm (indoor)
<i>Midnight Service</i>	<i>Thursday 24th</i>	<i>11.30pm</i>
Christmas Day Service	Friday 25 th	10am

To join us physically at any of these services, please book a seat beforehand via our **website**, or by calling **01253 732939**.

To join us online, please do so via our **YouTube** page or **website**. Please note and check, any changes to our schedule will be posted on our website.

stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/Christmas



PCC Update

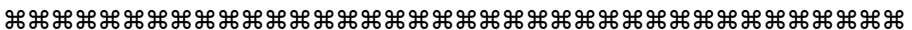
Since last month's update from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting we have had two PCC meetings. Headlines from the meeting are:

The PCC refreshed itself on its role as a PCC, and its responsibilities as trustees of the charity. It appointed key positions, and determined which positions still need to be filled.

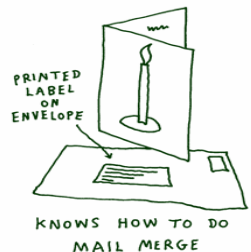
The PCC spend time in both sessions looking at where we had come as a church with regards to our vision and mission, as well as beginning to consider what future we feel the Lord might be leading us too. Key thoughts were collected and discussed. Time was also spent considering the quality of life as a church we are being called to have. The PCC went on to discuss our Christmas ministry and opportunities.

The church's financial position was reviewed, and principles for the 2021 budget were discussed, as well as involvement or not in the Diocesan 'Call to Give'.

The PCC were updated on the Fundraising Shop, including its closure during lockdown, and the furloughing of our two staff.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



Our Special Christmas 2019 at Torch Holiday and Retreat Centre



Torch Trust is a Christian charity which seeks to offer support to blind and visually impaired people, with a particular focus on sharing the gospel of Christ. Blind people who know Christ are helped to grow in their faith; those who have yet to come to know him are invited to come to know him through their resources and ministry. Until the end of last year, Torch ran the *Holiday and Retreat Centre*, in Hurstpierport, West Sussex. The centre ran holidays for blind and visually impaired people, and encouraged volunteers to come on the holidays, and help with the work.

Because many of the blind people who benefited from this ministry were lonely, Torch ran one of its holidays over the Christmas week, including Christmas day. The Christmas 2019 holiday was the last holiday that Torch ran at the Centre, and Amy and I came as volunteers - my eyesight, though poor, is better than most users of the service! - Hannah being with us as an honorary volunteer.

It was a very special time for us as a family. It was Hannah's first Christmas with us, and I had the opportunity to preach each day at the chapel worship that was an integral part of the holiday. The Christian staff, who worked at the centre, were excellent, and showed great warmth and love the guests, who visited the Centre. We all bonded over the week together; and the change in the guests from when they arrived to when they left was remarkable. Many were very obviously lifted in their mood and confidence through their experience at the Centre. (A worker at a small local railway station had said on another occasion, that he could tell the difference between the guests when they arrived, and when they left. What a testimony!)





Christmas Day Lunch

We are delighted to be partnering with Laugh Live Love in offering Christmas Dinner this year. Laugh Live Love is a local community organisation which has been preparing, cooking and delivering hot three course meals to older people across Lytham, Ansdell and St Annes since the beginning of the pandemic from St Paul's Church Hall.

Meals go out twice a week and include a hot lunch plus a sandwich meal for later in the day.

They are already organised to increase their capacity on Christmas Day and have designed a three course Christmas Menu with turkey and all the trimmings.

If you would like to book a Christmas Dinner to be delivered to you on Christmas day please contact Bev Wells on 07742 709 994 or Julie Webb on 07517 086 530. The cost of the three course lunch, plus supper is £15, payable in advance.

So please do not spend Christmas Day warming a ready meal if you are not able to be with family and friends but take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to eat a Christmas Feast delivered to your doorstep. You could be one of the lucky ones who has it delivered in a Rolls Royce. If not, you will definitely receive it with a happy heart, a beaming smile and a friendly wave.

Laugh Live Love CIC

Promoting the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual health and wellbeing of older people on the Fylde

We are grateful to Laugh Live Love and all those volunteering to help provide these meals to help make the day so special for so many.



A Festive Christmas Carol Quiz

*(Courtesy of Challenge the Brain,
Free Printable Quizzes)*

1. What is the opening line to 'Let it Snow'?
2. Which Christmas carol was originally written in Latin as 'Adeste Fideles'?
3. What type of pudding do the carolers sing about in 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'?
4. Which carol includes the lyrics, 'Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis'?
5. How many types of birds are mentioned in the Twelve Day of Christmas song?
6. In the words of the famous carol 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', to whom is glory proclaimed?
7. Which famous Xmas song sends 'tidings of comfort and joy'?
8. Which Christmas carol was composed by Rector Phillip Brooks following a pilgrimage to the Holy Land where he had felt mesmerized by the town in which Jesus was born?
9. Which song repeats the catchy lyrics, 'pa rum pum pum pum'?
10. Which famous Christmas carol was written as a poem by C. F. Alexander, the same inspirational poet credited with having composed the hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'?
11. The famous song 'White Christmas' originally featured in which 1942 musical film starring Bing Crosby, Fred Astair and Virginia Dale?
12. Christina Rossetti wrote a poem that was to become the basis of which famous Christmas Carol?
13. What is the final line of the famous 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' song?

14. In the words of 'Away in a Manger', what was the Lord Jesus asleep on?
15. Which Christmas carol begins with the lyrics, 'Sleigh bells ring are you listening'?
16. What type of tree is mentioned in the Twelve Days of Christmas song?

The answers for this quiz are on page 14.



Anagrams of Christmas Songs and Carols

- 1 SONIC GAS KNOWLEDGE (3 words)
- 2 THY LION HOG (3 words)
- 3 HID HEALTHY NOVELTY (5 words)
- 4 THE CHALK SLED (3 words)
- 5 MANAGE RAIN WAY (4 words)
- 6 GREEN MOTEL DYSENTERY GERM (5 words)
- 7 KNEEL DOTTILY (2 words)
- 8 EARTH SHAKING DANGER SHELL (5 words)
- 9 SWEET GHERKIN (3 words)
- 10 HANDWRITTEN BIKE MILE (4 words)
- 11 HARDY SYMBOLIC (3 words)
- 12 JILL BEGS LEN (2 words)
- 13 DUG MAINTAIN PETROCHEMICAL (6 words)
- 14 WORTHY JOLT ODE (4 words)
- 15 BOOM, TWENTIETH HOTEL FELL (5 words)
- 16 TO WISHY WASHY, RARE CRUMMIES (6 words)

The answers for this quiz are on page 15.

Christmas Can't Come Too Early

The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts

Every year it happens. I hear Christians lamenting how 'Christmas comes earlier every year.' Since September shops, supermarkets and garden centres have been selling Christmas jumpers, socks and pyjamas and all kinds of other seasonal merchandise. Should we be annoyed or exasperated? Should we have gone around reminding people that it's much too early for tinsel and mistletoe?

This year, of all years, the answer from churches and Christians of all denominations must surely be a resounding 'NO.' As people began looking to Christmas for some light in the gloom of the pandemic – and hard-hit businesses desperately need to increase their income and chances of survival – it sounds a woefully wrong note if the Church is saying 'hold back, it's not time yet...' Because Christmas is that time of year when increasing numbers of people want to come to church services and share in the story of the new-born King. It is when carols are played in shopping centres, and there are openings to speak of the meaning of the season.

Churches might not be able to host big indoor carol services this year, but the challenge is how we take the Christmas message out into the streets and neighbourhoods around our buildings. This year has been one like no other for millions of people, with little prospect of better news into the New Year. So we need to be declaring the Christmas message of hope and light and joy in the

darkness. And to be doing so at every opportunity.

But also, we need to be doing so with sensitivity and care, for the many who will find it hard to be celebrating this pandemic year, and with the prospect of large family gatherings in doubt because of Covid-19 regulations.

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell wrote in his 2009 book 'Do Nothing Christmas is Coming', "Christmas is one of the most joyful times of the year. It is also one of the most stressful. It is laden with expectations. It is often overtaken with grief. It might be the season of good will, but it can feel like the last straw on an already overburdened camel." He added ruefully, "Wise men would not ride this one."

Archbishop Cottrell is right that Christmas has to be approached sensitively, that we need to take care in how we celebrate, that for many people who have lost loved ones and livelihoods during this traumatic year, Christmas will not be easy. We come alongside people with the news that the baby born in the manger grew up to be the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, who experienced suffering and bereavement. God, born as Man, who shared our pain as well as our celebrations, ultimately died on a cross to rise again.

Our mission is to bring a message of hope, and to do so with love, humility and sensitivity to a hurting disorientated world – one that's eager for light in the gloom.



Everyday Christmas

(Mal 4:2, Mt 1:23)

Light a candle,
Look into the light,
Pray.

*Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings*

As the flame rises,
Smooth, bright,
Know the comfort of Christ
In the carol speaking
Afresh.

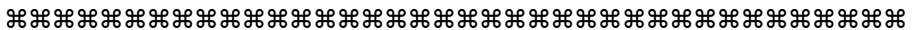
Bringing Jesus
Into heart and prayer.

Emmanuel, God with us.
Light of the world,
Out of the stable
Into our situations.

Because of Jesus
Christmas is everyday.

The Lord is here.
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching



St. Paul's Fundraising Shop *(Woodlands Road)*



COVID-19 Opening Times

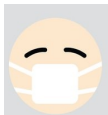
Monday	10am – 1pm
Tuesday	10am – 1pm
Wednesday	10am – 1pm
Thursday	1pm – 4pm
Saturday	10am – 1pm

New volunteers are always welcome.

***If you can help in any way please contact
The Parish Office on 01253 732939.***

***Please note that donations are being accepted Monday to Saturday,
between 10am – 12noon and 1pm - 4pm.***

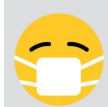
THE TIME OF COVID



*In twenty twenty things went badly wrong,
In the time of Covid.*



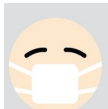
*Hands, face and space became our code,
In the time of Covid.*



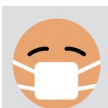
*With distancing, lockdown and three tiers,
In the time of Covid.*



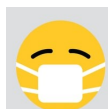
*Our families face birth and death alone,
In the time of Covid.*



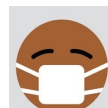
*Contact with friends is by internet or phone,
In the time of Covid.*



*There's frustration, anger, grief and woe,
In the time of Covid.*



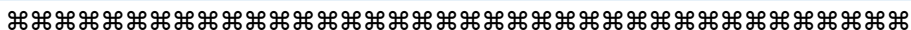
*Our religious worship behind masks, not sung,
In the time of Covid.*



*Yet there's effort, love, support and faith,
In the time of Covid.*

*When all people will work together
We'll get past the time of Covid.*

Written by a Parishioner



Christmas Carol Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Oh the weather outside is frightful | 8. O Little Town of Bethlehem |
| 2. O Come, All Ye Faithful | 9. Little Drummer Boy |
| 3. Figgy pudding | 10. Once in Royal David's City |
| 4. Ding Dong Merrily on High | 11. Holiday Inn |
| 5. Six types of birds: Partridge, Turtle
Doves, French Hens, Calling Birds,
Geese, and Swans | 12. In the Bleak Midwinter |
| 6. Newborn King | 13. You'll go down in history |
| 7. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen | 14. Hay |
| | 15. Winter Wonderland |
| | 16. Have Yourself a Merry Little
Christmas |

A Prayer During the COVID19 Pandemic

Heavenly Father, Almighty God, amid all the fear and uncertainty of this present pandemic help us never to forget the countless number of blessings that you have showered upon us:

The beautiful spring days to lift our spirits as our situation began to sink in.

The time to rest and re-fuel and to re-think our priorities.

Even amid the fear of illness and death, babies continue to be born, and healing takes place.

Our church family continues to grow and strengthen as your word reaches folk in new ways.

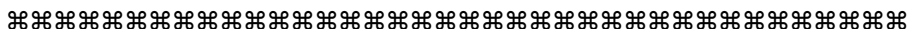
New friendships have been forged and old ones re-kindled as we try to keep in touch with one another through telephone calls, letters and cards, zoom meetings and so much more.

You give us hope Almighty Father, for in you we find our peace through Jesus our Saviour, who promises us everlasting life.

Turn our hearts away from self-pity and away from the sin that threatens to overwhelm us.

Fill our hearts with such love for you that through every breath, every thought, every action, your love may shine out through us and touch the hearts and minds of all those with whom we interact.

Thank you Almighty Father, for sending your Son Jesus to shed light on our way. Amen.

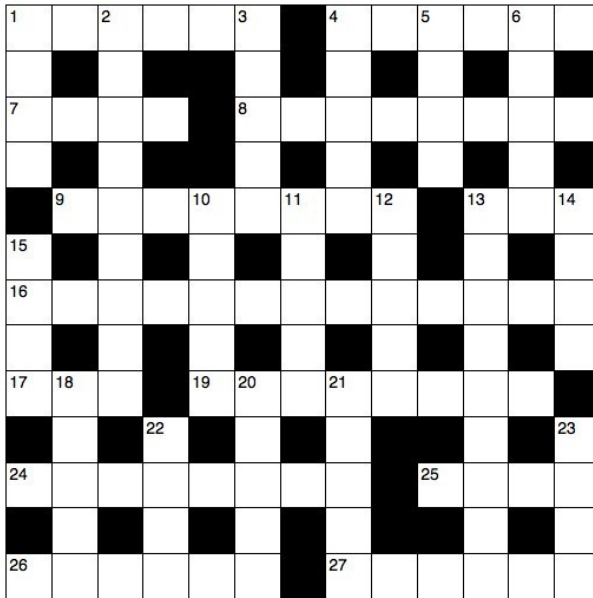


Christmas Anagram Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Good King Wenceslas | 9 We Three Kings |
| 2. O Holy Night | 10 In the Bleak Midwinter |
| 3. The Holly and the Ivy | 11 Mary's Boy Child |
| 4. Deck the Halls | 12 Jingle Bells |
| 5. Away in a Manger | 13 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear |
| 6. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen | 14 Joy to the World |
| 7. Little Donkey | 15 O Little Town of Bethlehem |
| 8. Hark the Herald Angels Sing | 16 We Wish You a Merry Christmas |

DECEMBER 2020 CROSSWORD

(The Bible version used in these crosswords is the NIV.)

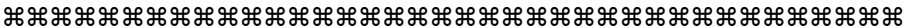


Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down


- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)




**Crossword Solution
November 2020**

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





Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump Website and the Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum". We have recently added a subscription with 'Cartoon Church'.





Time for a Smile

Nativity Play

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get 'no room' answers a little voice called from the back 'You should have booked!'

Picture

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw a picture of a Bible story with a Christmas theme. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. 'The Flight to Egypt,' was the reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: 'That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?'

'Oh,' explained Kate happily, 'that's Pontius – the pilot!'



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

Christmas cake

Every Christmas, composer Giacomo Puccini would have a cake baked for each of his friends. One year, having quarrelled with Arturo Toscanini just before Christmas, he tried to cancel the order for the conductor's cake. But it was too late, as the cake had already been dispatched.

The following day, Toscanini received a telegram from Puccini: "Cake sent by mistake."

He replied by return: "Cake eaten by mistake."

Next Christmas

The grandson had just taken a photograph of his grandmother who'd come to stay for Christmas and her 89th birthday. 'Grannie, I sure hope I'm around next year to photograph you on your 90th birthday,' he said tactfully.

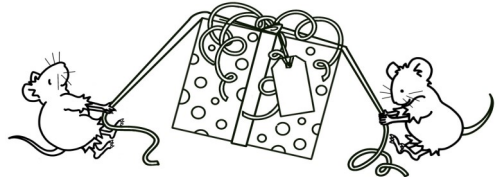
'Why not?' his grandmother shrugged. 'You look healthy enough.'



Martin received the latest Christmas coronavirus regulations from the diocesan office.

Drive

He was a careful driver during the Christmas period. At the railway crossing he stopped, looked and listened. All he heard was the car behind him, smashing into his boot.



Christmas Carols as Misheard by Children

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
We three kings of porridge and tar
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
With the jelly toast proclaim
Sleep in heavenly peas.
O come, froggy faithful.



Miscellaneous observations during the Christmas season...

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.

Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.

Father to three-year old: "No, a reindeer is not a horse with TV antenna."

Christmas is the season when your neighbour keeps you awake playing 'Silent Night'.

And finally

*O Come let us
adore Him*

