



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

PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 158 ~ December 2021



God With Us

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...

'...All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.'

(Luke 2:18-19)



Christmas is nearly upon us. Although, if the shops are anything to go by, it has been upon us since the summer. But how ought we to respond to this opportunity to celebrate in another year?

Christmas can be a time of great activity, joy and out-of-the-ordinary experiences. It is part of what many love about this time. If you are able to join St Paul's Christmas services (and we would love to welcome you – please see page 5 for more information), we will hear the Christmas story from the Bible recalled.

It is easy to be amazed by the celebrations. Caught in the moment in wonder either about the activities or more hopefully about the news of Jesus. We really hope you are!

But of course there is a danger too. When Christmas passes and when the normal patterns resume, that wonder can pass as well. We are moved by Jesus in the moment but he fades further into the background as time goes on.

It is also possible for some of us who have heard the Christmas message retold many times to become a bit numb or jaded to it.

When the shepherds brought news to the town of Bethlehem of their encounter with Jesus, they told everyone about this momentous news. There was amazement by all who heard. This was out-of-the-ordinary, exciting; and joyful news.

Yet after that amazement is described, we find a 'but' – Mary's response is in contrast to theirs. I wonder if we are meant to see that for all the excitement in the moment, it soon passed. Life carried on, and the news about 'a Saviour born to you' faded further into the background too.

In contrast, we see Mary's example. I want to encourage us to follow it this Christmas. *'But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.'* Mary too, experienced the amazing news. She was closer to the action than anyone, for she bore Jesus in her own womb.

But she didn't let the moment pass. She didn't allow it to fade away. Her heart became like a treasure chest. All the things she heard about Jesus and what God is doing from him were treated as precious by her. They were tucked into her heart. But this was not a treasure chest with a locked lid. Mary thought about them, meditated on, chewed through them in her mind, and prayed over what she had heard. It's as if she took out the precious news of Jesus to explore and enjoy its wonder in her mind and heart.

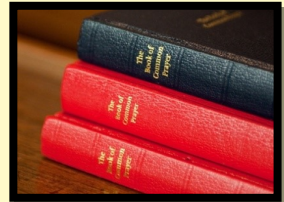
Let that be us this Christmas. Whoever we are let us not come to this season, hear its news, even be amazed by Jesus, but then fail to think about what it means or allow its message to fade. Let us ponder all we hear. Let us look for the treasure found within. Let us treasure Jesus through Christmas and beyond.

With every blessing

Paul



**Mid-Week
Book of Common Prayer
Service of Hbly Communion**



From CofE website

**Wednesdays weekly – 10am,
*followed by refreshments in the hall.***



Thank you

I would like to thank St. Paul's Church Family for all the cards, letters and support that we have received after the recent death of Donald. We have been overwhelmed by the love and support that we have been shown and pray that God's blessing will rest upon you all.

Jean Sealey

THIS CHRISTMAS YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US AT
ST.PAUL'S CHURCH, ANSDELL AND FAIRHAVEN
AS WE EXPLORE THE GOOD NEWS OF

God with us



Christingle:	Sunday 12th December 4.00pm
Carol Service:	Sunday 19th December 4.00pm
Crib Service:	Friday 24th December 10.00am (outdoor) and 4.00pm (indoor)
Midnight Service:	Friday 24th December 11.30pm
Christmas Day Service:	Saturday 25th December 10.00am

Any changes to our schedule will be updated on our website.
To join us online, please do so via our YouTube page or our website.
For more information please visit us at
stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/christmas or call 01253 732939

Update on Giving

Earlier in 2021 we embarked on a Giving Review Process as a church, including teaching from 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, and a Giving Review Sunday. I apologise for not sharing good news for thanksgiving and encouragement earlier.

Through that process, and in the build up to it, we have seen an increase in regular Planned Giving of **£6330.88 in 2021**. This equates to an increase of £527.57 per month. This is great news! Others were not in a place to increase their giving, but prayerfully reflected upon it, for which we also give thanks. There were several new givers, and we received one-off gifts, and a very kind legacy in 2021 as well. These are also things to give real thanks to God for. So please do join me in praising Him for his grace amongst us.

As we approach the end of 2021, we are not in the grave financial position we thought we may have been, coming into 2021. Support from the Diocese has been a significant factor in this. However, as we end 2021 and look to 2022, the PCC continues to monitor things closely and is budgeting for 2022 now. There are real challenges ahead. A group representing the PCC is meeting with the Diocese in early December as part of our planning. Whilst we are very grateful for the increase we have seen we still have a long way to go. The Fundraising Shop has not been in a position to support the church in its responsibilities at the levels it has previously been able to, which means we need to increase income from other sources to maintain the church and carry out its mission.

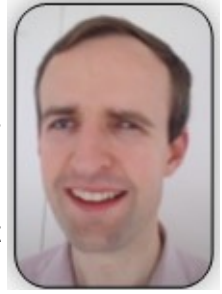
The reality is that, as we draw towards the end of the year and reflect back on 2021, just to maintain the basic needs of the ministry and fabric of the church to enable our witness and service, based on the current level of Planned Givers (including couples), we would need an average of £100/person/month. In 2022, there will be some higher costs and projects planned, which increases this number. We recognise that this is not possible for some, or many, especially in the current climate; but for others, it may well be.

We realise that seeing this in black and white is hard, and we do not share this to depress, guilt trip or constantly be asking for more. However, we hope honesty is helpful for you. It leads all of us to reflect on our situation, and as we prepare to enter into the New Year to call upon the Lord in prayer to provide, and reflect upon our own personal abilities to give in light of those needs.

If you would like to talk further please speak to Paul, Loraine our Treasurer or Pam our Stewardship Secretary.

The Lord has been faithful and so we step forward in that faithfulness into a New Year.

The Incarnation: The Truth at the Heart of Christmas



December marks the run-up to Christmas. This time of year we customarily do many things: we see family, we eat Christmas dinner, we exchange presents, we go to carol services. All of these things are good: but what is it that makes Christmas special? What truth has the church chosen to mark at this time of year, which is so worthy of celebration?

The truth that most Christians remember at this time of year is, That God became man. We mark the "incarnation." The word "incarnation" literally means "enfleshment." We mark the birth of the Son of God, who took human nature in the womb of the virgin Mary. Jesus was a remarkable miracle-worker and preacher: but there were miracle-workers before him, and extraordinary preachers after him. But the incarnation reminds us that Jesus is *unique, a one-of-a-kind. He is both God and man.*

Jesus is Divine, or God

The first verse of John's Gospel says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus is here called "the Word," who existed alongside God the Father "in the beginning" - that is, at the creation - and before! John the Baptist says about Jesus, "He was [that is, existed] before me" (John 1:15,30). But we know that Jesus was conceived *after John: the angel tells Mary that Elizabeth John's mother is "in her sixth month" before Jesus is conceived (Luke 1:36). Therefore the Son existed before he took human nature in Mary's womb. Jesus' Jewish opponents well-understood his claims to divinity: they say that they want to stone him for blasphemy, because, "You, being a man, make yourself God" (John 10:33). Thomas, when the risen Jesus has dissolved all his doubts, has this to say about Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).*

Jesus is Human, or Man

Jesus does a number of things that indicate that Jesus is truly and fully human. Jesus was conceived and born (Matt 1:18); he "grew in wisdom and stature" (Luke 2:40); he was tempted (Mark 1:12); he ate (Mark 1:15); he slept (Mark 4:38); he wept (John 11:35); and, of course, he died. Jesus possesses a true human body and soul: the only thing that makes him different from us as a human is that he is "without sin."

He was conceived in an extraordinary manner: and therefore he did not inherit fallen nature from Adam, as we all have. He did not give in to temptation at any time: therefore he is "without sin" (Heb 4:15).

Jesus: God who became Man

We read in John 1:14 that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." That is, that the Son or Word, who at one time did not possess human nature, took on human nature, at a specific time in history. This is what happened in the womb of the virgin Mary, when "the Holy Spirit came upon [her], and the power of the Most High overshadowed [her]" (Luke 1:35). Jesus "took the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil 2:7).

When God the Son took human nature, he did not cease to be God. If God ceased to be God at any moment, there would be no universe - there would be no you and I! "In him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28): no God, no us! The Trinity cannot be divided.

Therefore we conclude, that even when the baby Jesus lay in the manger, and depended for his life upon his mother's milk, *at the very same time, as God - or we might say, "according to his divine nature" - he was upholding and ruling the universe, and giving life to the whole creation. This truth is too overwhelming for our merely human minds to comprehend - but we accept it by faith.*

Why did God become man?

1. To reveal God to man.

John writes, "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known" (John 1:18). Jesus tells his disciples, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Human beings were made "in the image of God" (Gen 1:27). That is, they were supposed to reflect God's character and ways: but we fail. Jesus, the perfect Man, shows us what man and woman are supposed to be like; but in bearing God's image accurately and perfectly, he perfectly shows us what God is like, too.

2. To reconcile man to God.

One sin alone is enough to merit eternal separation from God - because God is infinitely holy, good, and just. All human beings since Adam and Eve have sinned: and each one of us has sinned more than once! Therefore none of us is good enough for God. Neither will our children break this mould; they will all inherit our fallen nature, and fall into the same sins. Therefore, in order to put this right, God must in a sense

"start again" with the human race. This is what happened at the Incarnation: Jesus did not inherit original sin from Adam. All his actions were perfectly good, holy, and just. He came not for himself, but for us: his holy life made up for our unholy life. But he also needed to bear the punishment due to us on account of our sins: he did this when he died on the cross. Jesus "balanced the books" for us: he offered the worship we failed to offer; and he incurred the penalty due to us. As he said when he took the bread at this last supper, "This is my body, which is given *for you*."

3. To establish intimate communion between man and God.

The Son, having taken on human nature, will possess this human nature for ever: there is an everlasting marriage between humanity and divinity in Jesus Christ's Person. "The Father," who "has life in himself ... has also given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 6:56). Jesus says that he has come to share this "life" - knowledge and friendship with God - with everyone who believes in him (John 10:10).



St Paul's Tots

St. Paul's Tots is a baby and toddler group for **0-3s**; their parents, carers and grandparents.

With toys, songs, crafts and Bible stories.

Tuesdays

10am - 11:30am (Term time)

St. Paul's Church Hall, Lake Road North,
Lytham St. Annes, FY8 1BZ

£1 per family, which includes a hot drink for adults.

Booking not required

stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/st-pauls-tots



Church Hall Hire

**We have vacancies on Monday/Thursday
Evenings and all day on Saturdays**

**Ideal for children's parties and other
activities requiring large space**

Enquiries and further information:

Email: stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com

**Telephone: 01253 732939
(and leave a message)**

or via our Facebook page



Would you like to be involved in the Community and help support St Paul's?

St Paul's Fundraising Shop would love to welcome new volunteers. There are a range of jobs to get involved in as best suits you, from working on the till, restocking the shop, sorting and more.

No experience needed. All training and support given.

To find out more email: stpaulscharityshop@gmail.com
or call 01253 732253.



What a Christmas

by the Ven John Barton



The Bethlehem manger, shepherds, wise men, Jesus, Mary and Joseph – it's all so familiar to older people, who are shocked to hear that younger generations may be hazy or ignorant of them. Aren't they part of everyone's education?

Yet the first Christmas was restricted to just a few. What 21st Century Christians proclaim as the most significant event in history began in a remote corner of the Roman Empire, without the pomp and publicity we associate with kingship and power. What modern media have called 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', escaped everyone's attention in first century Palestine.

This year, Christmas is going to be a busier celebration than last year, but probably not yet back to the normal fuss we usually make each December. The streets will be crowded, but shops may struggle with supplies. Parties will take place, but many people will feel reluctant join in. Family gatherings are allowed again, but the vulnerable may hesitate. Christmas services will be held, but as singing has the potential for droplet and aerosol transmission, music will be muted this year. A Christmas without many carols!

Many will struggle to hold their 'usual' Christmas. Yet God does not neglect us. This may be the very opportunity to rekindle or deepen our faith in what really matters about Christmas. Away from the hordes, perhaps completely alone this Christmas, we may sit quietly and allow our heavenly Father to draw near to us. We may picture Mary inviting us to gaze with her at her Son, born to save us from our sins. In the silence of our imagination, we may join the chorus of angels announcing His birth to the shepherds:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.”

It was that chorus which inspired an American Minister, Edmund Sears, to write the Christmas hymn, 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'. Sears, troubled by the world's turbulent history and failure to hear the Christmas message, was himself recovering from a breakdown. Written in 1849, his words have a timeless ring about them:

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.



Photo by Crystal Leigh Shearin from Free Images

The Man Who Married Mary

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance. After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise Men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, only to find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named, and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55) And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry, it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of His father's responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived! It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please Him in all that we do.

A Prayer for Christmas

Loving, Almighty God,



Photo by
David Monje
on Unsplash

Thank you that You came into the darkness of this broken world on that first Christmas night, pouring in your Light, in the person of your Son, Jesus.

Lord, so much of our world seems dark, still. So many dreadful things we can't make sense of: the on-going pandemic, acts of violence and injustice against good people - innocent people, child poverty, employment problems, broken relationships so many difficulties. It's easy to feel overwhelmed.

Lord, help us to focus on you this Christmas. Open our eyes to see your bigger, eternal picture. Help us to hear afresh the Good News that nothing and no-one can ever extinguish your Light.

Jesus overcame the troubles of the world by His death and resurrection. Father may we re-connect with you, through Jesus, this Christmas and know the Love, the Joy and the Peace, which are your Christmas gifts to us, as we trust Him.

We pray in Jesus' wonderful name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Photo by Rick Oldland on Unsplash
Baptist Minister at The Well Church, Ansdell

The Nativity in Your Window

This Christmas, why not think about putting a Nativity scene in your front window, to remind passers-by of the real reason for Christmas?

And next Easter, you could put up a Christian poster or a Christian cross in your front window.

Christmas Carol & Bible Quiz

Test your knowledge with this Christmas Bible Quiz that includes questions about our Christmas carols.

- 1) Name the baby born to a relative of Mary's, about six months before the birth of Jesus?
- 2) Which Old Testament prophet predicted the miraculous virgin birth of Christ?
- 3) Which two of the four Gospels make no mention of the birth of Christ?
- 4) Joseph and Mary lived in the town of Nazareth, far to the north of Bethlehem. Why did they travel to Bethlehem, just before Christ was born?
- 5) When hosts of angels appear to them, announcing Jesus' birth, a carol says the "shepherds quake at the sight." In what carol is the quoted line found?
- 6) Mary laid her newborn Son in a manger. Which carol says that Jesus had "no crib for a bed."
- 7) Which carol contains the line, "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing"?
- 8) Which carol quotes the angels saying to the shepherds, "All glory be to God on high, / And to the earth be peace"?
- 9) Which carol says of Jesus' birth, "While mortals sleep, the angels keep / Their watch of wondering love"?
- 10) Which carol says of Christ's coming to earth, "Mild He lays His glory by, / Born that man no more may die"?
- 11) Which carol says to the wise men, "Sages, leave your contemplations, / Brighter visions beam afar"?
- 12) When the wise men arrived in the Holy Land, where did they go first?
- 13) When Herod sent the wise men in search of the Baby, what was his real reason for wanting to know where Jesus was?
- 14) Which carol tells us, "Then entered in those wise men three, / Full reverently upon the knee"?
- 15) Where did Joseph take Mary and the Baby to protect them from Herod's murderous intentions?

(Adapted from a quiz by Robert Cottrill on wordwisebiblestudies.com)

(Answers on page 21)

O SILENT NIGHT AS A STAR SHONE BRIGHT

O silent night as a star shone bright
In the east sky up above
An infant child was born of God
To glorify us all
So meek and mild O Holy child
Giving life to all mankind
And trumpets sound and angels sing
And glory to the king
Wise men brought gifts from far and wide
Of gold frankincense and myrrh
To bow before the living King
To worship Him on earth
The son of God was born for us
Bringing light into this world
And peace on earth good will to men
To magnify His name
O Holy town of Bethlehem
In a manger laid a babe
Sing hallelujah to Jesus Christ
The sovereign King of men.

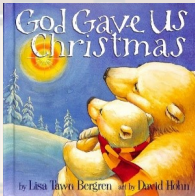
*Written by Kath Kay
By the grace of God*

Prayers and blessings to you all
Have a great Christmas and a blessed New Year 2022.

Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Book Reviews

Have you read a good Christian book recently that you would recommend to others? How about writing a review, which could be published in the Pews News Extra?



God Gave Us Christmas By Lisa Tawn Bergren and David Hohn, Authentic, £7.99

This story helps young children understand the true meaning of Christmas, and to discover how very much God loves them.

As Little Cub and her family prepare to celebrate the most special day of the year, the curious young polar bear begins to wonder... "Who invented Christmas?" So Mama and Little Cub head off on a polar expedition to find God and to see how He gave them Christmas. Along the way, they find signs that God is at work all around them. Through Mama's gentle guidance, Little Cub learns about the very first Christmas.

Brian Heasley

Be Still.

A Simple Guide
to Quiet Times

24-7 PRAYER

Be Still – a simple guide to Quiet Times By Brian Heasley, SPCK, £9.99

In this easy-to-read guide, Brian Heasley explores the multitude of rhythms of Christian prayer and devotion available to every believer. From memorising scripture and prayer, running to noticing beauty everywhere, he demonstrates how we don't need to be static for our hearts to be still, and how even in the midst of a full, busy life, we can spend quiet times with God.

Packed full of ideas for different ways to pray and tips and advice for how to build prayer practices into everyday life, Brian's book may change the way you think about prayer and devotion and help equip you with all the tools you need to deepen your relationship with God.



**twin your
fridge**

STOP A COVID HUNGER CRISIS



More than 40 million people are experiencing extreme hunger – due to the economic impact of Covid-19.

Local lockdowns and social distancing restrictions have left millions of casual labourers without any work or income. Food prices are soaring due to spiralling inflation. In many nations, Covid is an emergency within an emergency, amid conflict, the climate crisis and natural disasters such as drought.

Desperate families are resorting to desperate measures, even child labour, to put food on the table.



BEANS AND RICE

Your twinned fridge will provide emergency supplies of beans, rice and other basics. This vital food aid is a lifeline for vulnerable families who need your help now



FOOD VOUCHERS

Your twinned fridge will give families vouchers and cash grants to buy food. This means children won't go hungry and can concentrate in school.



SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Your twinned fridge will enable families to start a small business. This could be growing crops, fishing, rearing animals or another enterprise.

For £30, you can twin your fridge and help families put food on their table today: appeals.toilettwinning.org

Fridge Twinning is part of Toilet Twinning & Tearfund, Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and SC037624 (Scotland). Photo: Tom Price/tomalprice.com



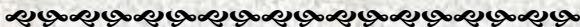
ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY PNE



If you have an article for inclusion in the January PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by **Friday 10th December**. My contact details are on page 2. Thank you.

Janet Kimber

Christmas is a time of year that affects people in so many different ways. For many it is a time of happiness and celebration; while others experience the pain of bereavement, especially if a loved one has died at this time of year. The poem below was written by Ann Taylor, a member of St Paul's following the death of her late husband. It may stir up emotions within you as you read it. If that is your experience and you would like to talk, please contact us. We would love to support you as a church; and pray that you might know the love of Christ at this time.



AFTER RAYMOND'S DEATH

I ask that God will keep me
In this my time of sorrow
Faith and truth surround me
And will guide me to tomorrow

Wounds are deep with sorrow
But Christ will share my plan
Remember life is moving on
Look forward, yes you can

Friends and family surround you
As deep sorrow sheds her tears
Friends listen and they understand
As I encounter open fears

My faith from early childhood
Helped me to hold my sorrow
And faithful friends came forward
And said look to tomorrow

I picked the threads of yesterday
Looked outward with much hope
And William had more duties
As he helped me now to cope

God has now fulfilled his plan
I have moved to downsize home
I have a Church, a bus route here
And old haunts with the dogs now roam

Ann Taylor ©

When Someone You Loved has Died

Tony Horsfall lost his wife last year to cancer. He is a former missionary in East Malaysia and former retreat leader based in West Yorkshire.

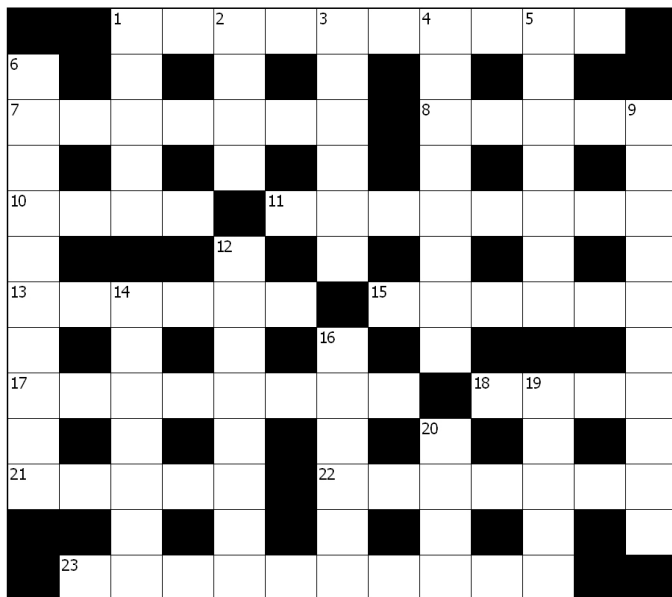
This is part two of a two-part series.

Following on from last month, the other lessons that I learned following my wife's death were:

11. That it helps to talk about your loss and the person you have lost. Sharing helps you to put things together in your mind, and is healing in itself.
12. Don't be afraid of pain, and don't anaesthetise it or avoid it – acknowledge it, face it, and you will heal more quickly.
13. That crying is normal, even for men, and it is a healing part of the grief process. Don't be afraid of this, even in public.
14. It may surprise you, to discover which people draw near to you in your grief, and who steps away. Appreciate those who come closer, without judging those who hold back.
15. Not everything people say to you about grief and your response will be helpful. Decide for yourself what is important for you, and let the rest go.
16. That grief may expose some of your inner fault-lines, but don't be afraid of this – learning more about yourself is a gift that comes with grieving.
17. No-one grieves perfectly. Following the death of your loved one, you will make mistakes, bad choices, and errors of judgment. This is normal, so forgive yourself.
18. That hope will rise again within you. The human spirit, in combination with God's grace, has its own remarkable resilience.
19. Don't be afraid to live again. God has a good purpose for you, and a plan for your life.
20. That your faith is an asset, not a liability. When you are tempted to be angry with God, remember that He is an ever-present help in time of need. Lean on Him.
21. That you have a part to play in your grief journey, so don't be passive and allow it to overwhelm you – begin to do what you can to rebuild your life.

DECEMBER 2021 CROSSWORD

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



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith _____ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 ' _____ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as _____ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living _____, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will _____ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)



**Crossword Solution
November 2021**

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



Answers to Bible Quiz on page 16

- 1) John the Baptist
- 2) Isaiah
- 3) Matthew and Luke
- 4) The Roman government decreed that everyone had to go to his or her ancestral hometown to be registered in a census
- 5) Silent Night
- 6) Away in a Manger
- 7) O Come, All Ye Faithful
- 8) While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night
- 9) O Little Town of Bethlehem.
- 10) Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
- 11) Angels from the Realms of Glory
- 12) The wise men went to Jerusalem, expecting a "King" to be born in a palace in the capital city.
- 13) Herod was hoping to destroy the baby Jesus.
- 14) The First Noel
- 15) Egypt



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 the "Ideas Forum".



Member editor 2021

Time for a Smile

STAR

At a rehearsal for a Sunday school Christmas tableau, the teacher carefully lined up four little 'cherubs'.

Each carried a huge cut-out letter. As they stood side by side, the letters would spell out "STAR".

A slight mix-up occurred, and those present in the church auditorium nearly fell out of their pews as the four little performers took their places – in reverse.



Camels

In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a large star.

The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it.

"Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked.

Jane replied: "Oh, he's looking for a place to park."

Angel tidings

The little boy was to be an angel in the Christmas play and his one line was:

"Behold, I bring you good tidings."

He asked what tidings were and his mother explained that the word meant news.

On the night of the play, the youngster had stage fright and, after a long silence, blurted out:

"Hey, have I got news for you!"



Barry was secretly proud of his part in the Nativity play.





December



Easy come, easy go

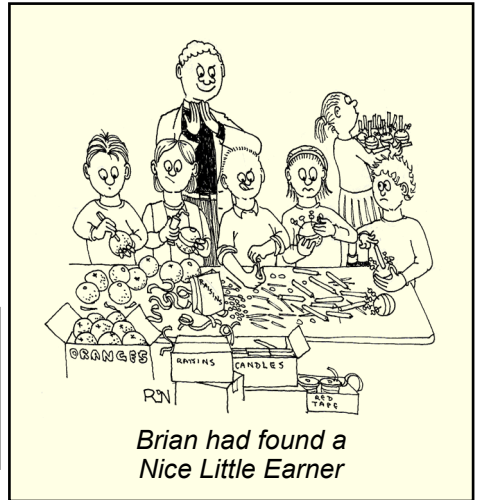
Father Christmas enters through a hole in the chimney and leaves through a hole in your pocket.

Silence?

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

Santa

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.



Brian had found a Nice Little Earner



New bank

Mother decided that ten-year old Cathy should get something 'practical' for Christmas.

"Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested. Cathy was delighted.

"It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application."

Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.' After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.

Your Cat's Favourite Christmas Songs

1. Up on the Mousetop
2. Have Yourself a Furry Little Christmas
3. Joy to the Curled
4. I Saw Mommy Hiss at Santa Claus
5. The First Meow
6. Oh, Come All Ye Fishful
7. Silent Mice
8. Fluffy, the Snowman
9. Jingle Balls
10. Wreck the Halls



Photo by Jasmin Schuler on Unsplash



Meeting Together at St. Paul's

Sunday

- 9:45am Short prayer meeting (Church Hall)
- 10:30am Our morning service with a common liturgy incorporating traditional and more contemporary elements and music across each month. Refreshments served after the service.
1st Sunday - Service of the Word;
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays - Holy Communion
Sunday Club meets on the 2nd & 4th weeks for 3-11s
- 4:00pm Our new complementary, multigenerational service seeking to reach and disciple all ages of the church together with a deliberate intention of incorporating children, young people and families. Followed by refreshments.
- 5:30pm Our sung service of Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer to mark selected Christian festivals six times a year.

Wednesday

- 10:00am Our mid-week Holy Communion service from the Book of Common Prayer; followed by refreshments.

Thursday

- 3:30pm Our weekly service of Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, alternating between said and sung forms.

Safeguarding

St Paul's Church takes safeguarding very seriously.
You can view all of our safeguarding information at:-

<https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/safeguarding.html>

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others please seek advice from the Parish or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary, report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.