



Newbold Parish Church 50p

# The Evangelist

December 2018

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# Newbold Parish Church

**SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER**

**8am & 9.30am Holy Communion**

**11am Nativity**

'The Well Good News Of Christmas' we would love children, and brave adults, to dress up as nativity characters: Shepherds, wise men, angels, Mary & Joseph. It promises to be great fun for all!!!



**6pm Carols by Candlelight**



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**11.30pm Midnight Mass**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9.30am**

**An all-age service, with a party atmosphere, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!**



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Dear all

Every year it feels as if Christmas takes me a bit by surprise. I know it shouldn't do really. Of course I know it's coming, I look forward to it, but in mid-November each year I suddenly realise that it is rapidly approaching, no longer a speck on the horizon... For me this means planning Christmas services, making sure posters, cards and various other Christmassy things are being sorted and sent. For most people the slightly panicky feeling which surrounds the preparations needed for family arrangements and present buying begins to take hold.

We know it is coming, we know we need to react, but sometimes we're not sure how...

Our reactions are often more about season than the reason for the season.

### *Saying Yes to God!*

As I write this we have just had a wonderful confirmation service where one of our church members was confirmed. Now there is nothing really new about that. However, this was a bit different. Mary was baptised in 1935, but she wanted to acknowledge publicly how much her faith means to her today. She felt that she wanted to say "YES" to God as an adult.

Another lady called Mary said "YES" to God some 2,000+ years ago...

*'Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'* Luke 1:38

Unfortunately, her "YES" is often a little lost in the Christmas story, seen as a wonderful yet quick decision. But this part of Mary's story is complicated, scary, and primarily about her call to respond to God.

When Gabriel gives Mary the details about God's plan, she asks "How can this be?". Gabriel's response is to tell her about the Holy

Spirit 'overshadowing' her, about a child that is holy, about the gravity of the situation in theological terms. But I suspect that Mary would have been wondering how exactly she is to deal with the social difficulty of this news. The Bible tells us that she was 'perplexed', or agitated, and I suspect that this emotion would have presented itself through Jesus' life. Although she reacts to the news with an initial "YES" to God, she must continue to walk with God throughout her life. This is not always easy, or quick. Mary is called to be part of God's plan, a plan that will take her to a foreign land, a plan that will see her son scorned by the leaders and authorities. Her "YES" must be said over and over again as she watches her son grow up, suffer, die, rise again, and leave this world for heaven.

Mary says "YES" because she knows that God is with her.

For me, and for most people, Christmas is not optional. We don't get the option of saying "not this year thank you". Christmas has become part of our culture. However, how we approach it is a choice. Do we say "yes" to commercialism, to tokenism, to the ever increasing focus on Christmas as little more than a gift giving holiday? Or do we say "YES" to God's revelation in Jesus Christ? Do we say "YES" to the good news that through Jesus we have a fresh start, "YES" to Christmas as part of God's plans for us? For me Christmas is the celebration of the beginning of a relationship with God which is tangible.

When we say "YES" to Jesus we say it knowing that life will not always be easy. Our "YES" needs to be said over and over again. Our "YES", like Mary's, is the beginning of a journey of amazing discovery.

We know that Christmas is coming, we know we need to react, but I pray that we will react to God's blessing with a big fat "YES", eager to see what he has in store for us this Christmas time and beyond.

Yours in the love of Christ

Ben



## The 11 o'clock service

Join us on Sunday 9th and 23rd December.  
All are welcome!

### Bible Sunday

The Word of God was our theme and children from school came along to help Ben lead the service. Heather did the prayers.

In craft the children made bookmarks with a bible verse on.

### Remembrance service:

On **11th November**, we remembered those who gave their lives during World War One.

Ben led the service, while Jamie and Heather gave some thoughts and reflections on the conflict.

We were joined by the uniformed organisations and their families, who went with Ben to the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Newbold following this service.

The crafts centred on poppy pictures.

**Next Services** December 9th will be '**ADVENTURES!**'

And December 23rd will be our **NATIVITY** with people dressing up in their own nativity costume or in one we have.

**ALL ARE WELCOME AND PLEASE INVITE OTHERS -  
YOUNG AT HEART - TO COME ALONG.**

## COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WW1



The focal point of our exhibition was the poppy cascade on the altar made by the craft group, featuring one hundred and fifty knitted poppies, one for each name on the war memorial in church. It was complemented by displays including flower arrangements, one hundred and fifty named poppies, historical information, opportunities for reflection, information about WW1 songs and music relating to the time played on the piano and organ.

Many people were able to find a name remembered on the church memorial, grave of a relative, and the research which was done on every name on the village War memorial was of great interest. Thanks to Zynda Maxfield for donating a copy of all her work to the church for reference.

Delicious cakes were also served in the parish room and donations for the Royal British Legion amounted to £265.



**P**oppies are to wear to remember the soldiers who have died.

**O**ur loved ones who have passed away will look on us from heaven.

**P**ain that they suffered and are disabled or have died.

**P**eace, hope and love will be in their soul and it will go into heaven.

**I**mpossible to forget the soldiers who saved us.

**E**very soldier was very valiant to fight and free us.

**S**o remember on the eleventh month on the eleventh hour have two minutes silence and think about what they did.

*Cavendish school pupil*

## SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

A Remembrance Service attended by the Mayor of Chesterfield, representatives of the three primary schools in the parish, and members of the public was held at the War Memorial in Newbold on Monday 5th November.



The School Management team represented Newbold Church School and laid memorial crosses with inscriptions chosen by each class in the school.

Dunston pupils laid a wreath created by the children and Cavendish children read some of their reflections on the war.

The service was led by the Reverend Ben Griffiths and afterwards the children chatted to members of the mayoral party and the British Legion.

## THE WALKING GROUP

Unknown to us, there was a baptism service about to take place at Barlow Church but we just managed to find spaces to park in the car park. People in their finery were alighting from their cars and tripping into the church whilst we hunched down guiltily eating our sandwiches then starting our walk before the guests returned and saw us as interlopers.

We turned left at the main road, then crossed over to pass a derelict stone building, 100 yards past what used to be the George & Dragon (this now someone's home – not a Co-op).

We walked down a narrow, rocky and very long path which eventually widened and was bordered by mature oak trees, many having ivy clinging to the trunks. According to the BBC *Countryfile* programme that very evening, our English oaks are being threatened by the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) which was found 12 years ago a mile away from Kew Gardens and was probably imported from the Netherlands. In the UK, OPM is known to be present only in London and some neighbouring counties. It is subject to a government-led programme of survey and management to minimise populations, spread and impacts. Care has to be taken in dealing with this infestation as in humans it can cause skin irritation and asthma. For more information go to

<https://www.forestry.vov.uk/oakprocessionarymoth>

We arrived in the valley bottom before turning left to pass Broomhall Farm and onto the main road for a few yards then followed the bridleway and down a rough gravel path which eventually led us into Linacre Woods at the first reservoir. We kept to the right of this to admire the dramatic sight of the trees sweeping their golden treasure over the green stillness of the water. We continued on to the second and the top reservoirs where we followed a path, mostly near the water's edge, to reach a wooden footbridge and later another smaller one. A final footbridge over Birley Brook at the top of the reservoir led us again by the waterside, much of it along duckboarding.

There were one or two ascents during this walk including a tough climb up some stone steps, but a handrail came in handy to haul ourselves up by and before long we arrived at the almost empty car park. This was a beautiful walk where we were able to appreciate

the wonderful colours of autumn and kick our way through piles of brown and orange leaves scattered beneath our feet, just as we did many years ago, as children.

Steve and Julie Franks have volunteered to lead the walk on Sunday 2nd December. This is an easy 4 mile walk from Baslow and members should meet as usual, outside the church gates at 12 noon.

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## **THE WOMEN'S GROUP GO OUT FOR A MEAL**

On Wednesday 7th November twenty ladies went out for an evening meal at The Highwayman at Eastmoor. Everyone was impressed by both their meals and the efficient and pleasant service that we received. The seating arrangements in a private area ensured that we were all able to chat to others easily and without disturbing others.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th December when we have our annual Carol Service in church at 7pm followed by the Christmas party in the Parish Room organised by the committee.

*Jean Lee*

## **200 CLUB**

The Club winners for October 2018 were as follows:-

First prize	(£35)	Chris Witham	(Number 131)
Second prize	(£18)	Gwyn Eyre	(Number 60)
Third prize	(£6)	Diane Peet	(Number 120)

New members are always welcome. Please contact either Richard Peet (Tel. 520697) or Stephen Hewitt (Tel. 275225) for more information.

The next draw will be held on Sunday 16th December 2018

## A Letter from Richard Peet, Churchwarden

What a busy month November has been, and now we look forward to the new church year, Advent, and the birth of Jesus Christ.

We started the month with our monthly coffee morning hosted by Michelle and Natasha. I would encourage members of the congregation with family and friends to join us for this time to socialise together.

On the weekend of 10th and 11th we had our World War One exhibition. This was a wonderful and powerful occasion which brought back many memories and a time when the church and community came together.

A lot of hard work went into making the event successful, and we should be encouraged by what the occasion achieved as well as the feedback received.

The same can be said of our Christmas Fayre, where again the community of Newbold came and supported the event. People from as far away as Liverpool and Glasgow also attended.

We need to encourage more of our congregation to help at events such as quizzes, coffee mornings, the Fete, Christmas Fayre and other social gatherings taking place in church, and by getting involved with our different groups. We all have gifts and talents to be used and sometimes we just need encouragement to bring them out.

On 18th November we had a wonderful occasion at Dronfield Parish Church, where Mary Dee was confirmed by Bishop Jan. Mary thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, after feeling somewhat nervous beforehand which is only to be expected.

We have a strong congregation, and we must encourage the growth of our church through mission out in the community and within our church. This was shown recently after the memorial service where after speaking to a lady during refreshments in the Parish Room about the Monday club she was invited to come the following day. Not only did she come but another lady who attended the memorial

service came, together with another woman also. After speaking to a gentleman I understand he may be joining us early next year.

We now look forward to December and our services leading up to Christmas Day.

The origins of Christmas is "Christ Mass" where the birth of Christ is celebrated.

The church year begins on the first Sunday of December and culminates with celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the true meaning of Christmas.

We remember the lonely, the homeless, those away from family, and all who are ill, in hospital, in hospices, together with the residents of Elm Lodge and Ridgewood House. We pray for everyone, especially at this time of year, and we continue to pray for them throughout the coming months.

May I wish you all a Happy, Peaceful and Joyful Christmas filled with Love.

.....

### **CONFIRMATION OF MARY DEE**

I would like to say a big thank you for the encouragement and support I received at my Confirmation on Sunday 18th November 2018.

Thanks particularly to Ben and Richard, both of whom put me at ease on arrival at the church. It was a very moving and emotional service, but I thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. I would like to thank my friends and family for all their support and attendance at the event; it was very much appreciated.

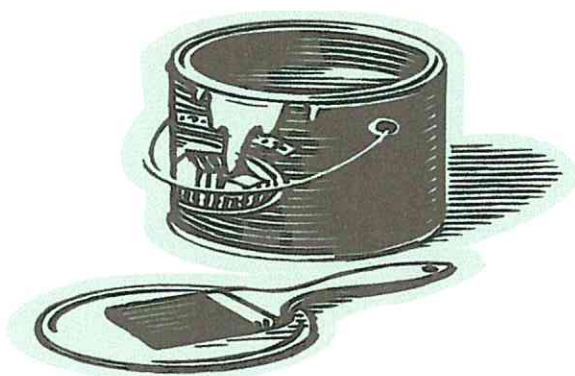
It has taken a long time to get there but I have done it at 83 years of age!

.....

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# How to use 'The Bible in a year'

The Bible is broken up into readings for each day of 2018. The idea is to make it more manageable to read your Bible. Each day there is an Old Testament and a New Testament reading.

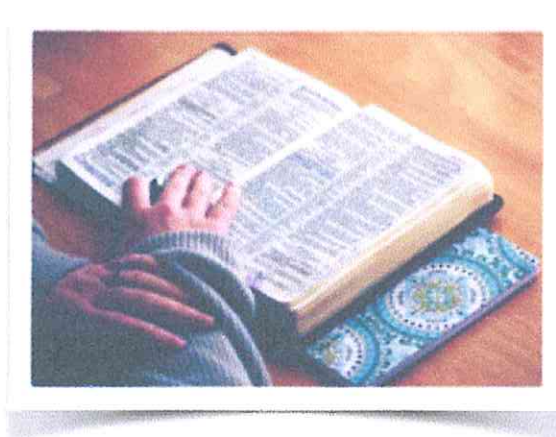
One of the easiest ways of getting into it is to read each passage slowly, take some time to think about what you have read, pray, and then ask these three questions:

What did the passage mean to those who heard it first?  
(what context were they living in and how might it have spoken to them?)

What might it mean for me today?  
(Consider the themes of the passage. Does it speak to you?)

What am I going to do about it?  
(Is there something in the passage that I need to respond to - through prayer, through action, through discussion with someone else?)

These three questions are obviously not the only way to read the Bible, but they are a way of helping us to make a start...



## *A Prayer*

Lord God, help me to read the Bible expecting to learn more about You. Give me the desire to keep on exploring the Bible. Help me to find ways to understand how you spoke to others in the past, and how you speak to me today. Amen

# The Bible in a year - December 2018

Dec 1: Ezek 40-41 ; 2Pet 3

Dec 2: Ezek 42-44 ; 1John 1

Dec 3: Ezek 45-46 ; 1John 2

Dec 4: Ezek 47-48 ; 1John 3

Dec 5: Dan 1-2 ; 1John 4

Dec 6: Dan 3-4 ; 1John 5

Dec 7: Dan 5-7 ; 2John

Dec 8: Dan 8-10 ; 3John

Dec 9: Dan 11-12 ; Jude

Dec 10: Hosea 1-4 ; Rev 1

Dec 11: Hosea 5-8 ; Rev 2

Dec 12: Hosea 9-11 ; Rev 3

Dec 13: Hosea 12-14 ; Rev 4

Dec 14: Joel ; Rev 5

Dec 15: Amos 1-3 ; Rev 6

Dec 16: Amos 4-6 ; Rev 7

Dec 17: Amos 7-9 ; Rev 8

Dec 18: Obadiah ; Rev 9

Dec 19: Jonah ; Rev 10

Dec 20: Micah 1-3 ; Rev 11

Dec 21: Micah 4-5 ; Rev 12

Dec 22: Micah 6-7 ; Rev 13

Dec 23: Nahum ; Rev 14

Dec 24: Habakkuk ; Rev 15

Dec 25: Zephaniah ; Rev 16

Dec 26: Haggai ; Rev 17

Dec 27: Zech 1-4 ; Rev 18

Dec 28: Zech 5-8 ; Rev 19

Dec 29: Zech 9-12 ; Rev 20

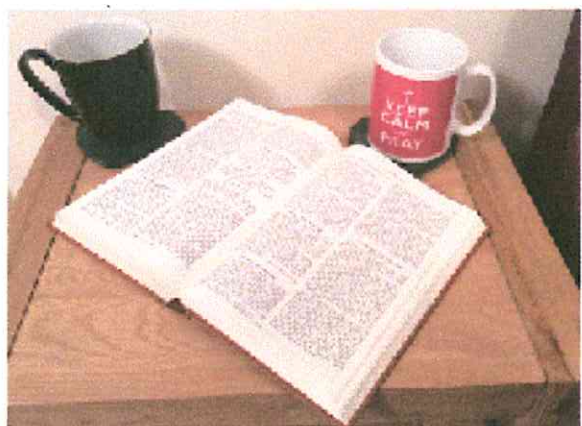
Dec 30: Zech 13-14 ; Rev 21

Dec 31: Malachi ; Rev 22

Ezek = Ezekial

Rev = Revelation

Zech = Zechariah



## **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

A big thank you to all who ran stalls, provided prizes and made things, bought and sold raffle tickets and came along on the day and dug deep into their pockets.

The total raised was £1900.

## **DETAILS OF PRIZES**

**Name the Dolls House** – Spire Mansions won by Ruth (from outside our congregation)

**In the Box** – Prize was £47.00 was won by Linda (from outside our congregation)

**Christmas Cake** was won by Elaine (congregation member)

## **RAFFLE**

£50 – Ticket Number 2084 - Claimed

Food Hamper – Ticket Number 303

Chocolate Hamper – Ticket Number 461 - Claimed

Perfume – Ticket Number 2325 - Claimed

Scholl Pedi Gift Set – Ticket Number 2329

Fothergill's Hairdressing Voucher 907 - Claimed

3D Puzzle – Ticket Number 208 - Claimed

Whiskey – Ticket Number 2299 - Claimed

Port – Ticket Number 2324 - Claimed

Sherry – Ticket Number 2135 - Claimed

Panatone – Ticket Number 2230

Celebrations – Ticket Number 16 – Claimed

**WANTED** – A team of folks with suitable skills to organise our Church Fete. Please see Ben, the Church Wardens or Heather if you have such gifts to bring to the table.

# From the Registers

## Holy Baptism

18 Nov           Amilia-Louise McCracken

*May all things belonging to the Spirit  
live and grow in her*

## Funerals

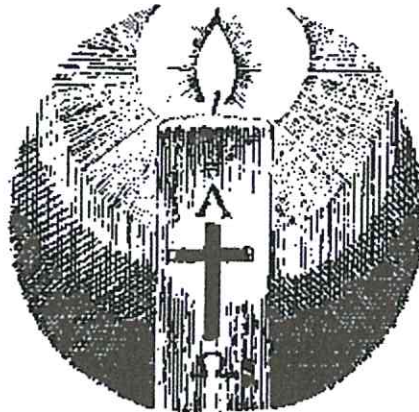
7 Nov           Ada Sybil White                           aged 84

Churchyard       [burial or interment of ashes]

24 Nov           Clive Knowles

26 Nov           Keith Brown

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*



# DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

1	Sa	10.00	Coffee Morning [PR]
2	S		<b>First Sunday of Advent (S1)</b>
		08.00	Mass
		09.30	Parish Mass
		12.00	Walking Group
3	M	13.00	Monday Club Christmas Party [PR]
		19.30	PCC Meeting [PR]
4	T	09.15	Mass [PR]
5	W	09.30	Church School Mass [School]
		19.00	Newbold Women's Group Carol Service & Party
9	S		<b>Second Sunday of Advent (S2)</b>
		08.00	Mass
		09.30	Parish Mass
		11.00	11 O'Clock Service – 'Advent'ures
10	M	13.45	Monday Club [PR]
11	T	09.15	Mass [PR]
15	Sa	09.00	Churchyard Morning (till 12.00)
		10.30	Men's Group Brunch [PR]
16	S		<b>Third Sunday of Advent (S3)</b>
		08.00	Mass
		09.30	Parish Mass
		11.30	Holy Baptism
17	M	13.45	Monday Club [PR]
18	T	09.15	Mass [PR]
19	W	10.00	Cavendish School Christmas Service
		14.00	Church School Juniors Christmas Carols
21	F	09.30	Dunston School Christingle
			Last Day of Church School Term

23	S		<b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent (S4)</b>	
		08.00	Mass	
		09.30	Parish Mass	
		11.00	11 O'Clock Service – Nativity	
		18.00	Carols by Candlelight	
24	M	23.30	Midnight Mass	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
25	T	09.30	Family Celebration with Holy Communion	<b>Christmas Day</b>
26	W		<b>Bank Holiday</b>	
30	S		<b>John the Evangelist – Patronal Festival (S5)</b>	
		08.00	Mass	
		09.30	Parish Mass	

**COFFEE MORNING**

*This month's Coffee Morning is on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2018*

*10.00 until 12.00*

*in the Parish Room*

*Please invite folks to come!*

*Everyone welcome*

*Items for the January Magazine  
to the editors by Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
December 2018, please.*

*The Editors wish all our readers  
a very happy Christmas*

## THE MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club is meeting on three occasions in December. We welcome new members and perhaps this month or even the New Year is the time to think about joining a club, particularly if you are feeling lonely.

The programme is as follows:

- 3rd            1pm Parish Room – Christmas Party with food and fun
- 10th          1.45pm Parish Room Social Afternoon
- 17th          Visit to the Revolution House, Old Whittington
- 24th & 31st No Meetings

The first meeting of the New Year is on Monday 7th January 2019 1.45pm in the Parish Room.

We wish all the readers of the Evangelist and the congregation of St. John's Church, the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of love. Merry Christmas and happiness for the New Year to all.

Please contact Margaret Beasley if you would like to join us in 2019. Her phone number appears on the back page of this issue.

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## NEWBOLD BUILDING PROJECT

If anyone has any old £1 coins, please pop them into the church model on the table at the back of church. We are currently still able to bank these and they will be added to our Building Project funds.

Thank you.

*Lesley Howard (Church Warden)*

The Basilica of the Sagrada Familia, Barcelona - written by Stephen Franks after a recent visit to this spectacular building.

Little did the founders of the new church dedicated to the Holy Family realise that over 126 years after work started on the building the Sagrada Familia, it would still be unfinished and also a major tourist attraction.

The building is now linked with Antoni Gaudi but he was not the first architect. Its initial creation was down to a devout Catholic bookseller called Josep Maria Bocabella. He commissioned the diocesan architect Francisco de Paula del Villar to build his church. The first stone was laid on 19th March 1882 and the building of the crypt took place. After only a year Del Villar resigned over differences with Bocabella and the 31 year old Gaudi was recommended as the new architect.

Within weeks Gaudi changed the project, altering its structural appearance and the magnitude and significance of the work. Until 1914 Gaudi worked on this and other projects but after 1914 until his death in 1926 the church was his only project.

Gaudi's plan was to build a church on a Latin cross ground plan with enormous dimensions. It was to have five naves, a crossing, an apse, eighteen towering spires and three facades.

Most of Gaudi's work is based on looking at how nature has built its own structures, from the internal shape of small plant stems to enormous trees. This allowed him to build the structure of the Sagrada without the need for huge internal walls, buttresses and flying buttresses. He built models of his ideas, both to test the structural tensions and also to put over his ideas to others as he soon realised that he would not be alive when this huge project was finished

Gaudi was an expert in light, many of his ideas both at the Sagrada and his other projects, was how to get natural light into the interior of his buildings. In the case of the crypt of the Sagrada he increased its height so that internal windows around the high altar could be built to allow light to enter the crypt below.

The internal design of the Sagrada also allowed light to flood into the huge interior. The interior of the basilica is 90 metres long with the vault of the crossing 60 metres above the nave. His relatively narrow columns branch out at the top like trees allowing huge loads to be supported. The central nave roof towers 40 metres above the floor. The columns are built of different types of stone, depending on the weight they have to support, porphyry, basalt, granite and local stone.

Gaudi's idea was to put the holy story on the outside of the Sagrada Familia, much like stained glass was used in medieval cathedrals to explain the bible to the illiterate masses.

Gaudi planned for 3 huge facades, only one of which he saw partially completed in his lifetime – the Nativity Façade. The façade is made up of three porticos dedicated to Faith, Hope and Charity. In each portico there are scenes of Jesus' early years from conception, birth, childhood and adolescence. At the top of the charity portico is the tree of life, covered in green glass and twenty-one white marble doves. Towering over the façade are four spires, the two outside ones 98 meters high, the two inside ones 107 metres. This façade was completed in 1936.

Gaudi only sketched his ideas for the Passion façade, these were used as inspiration when construction work started in 1954. By 1986 the sculptural program was started by Josep Maria Subirachs. Twelve groups of sculptures create a large 'S' as your eyes travel up the façade – the Stations of the Cross, the Pathway to Calvary. Above them a pediment was built composed of 18 bone like pillars topped by the inscription 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews'. At the apex of the façade a cross reaches the height of 40 metres. Above this façade a further four spires match those on the Nativity façade.

The Glory façade was planned to be dedicated to the glorification of Jesus and the pathway of Man to reach eternal life. When complete it will be the main entrance to the church giving access to the central nave. Gaudi made a model of this

façade but it was destroyed in 1936 during uprisings at the start of the Spanish Civil War. It has been partially reconstructed and along with photographs and accounts left by Gaudi and others will be the basis for the final construction and decoration. A monumental staircase will give access to the church but this will require the demolition of buildings as well as bridging the main road in front of the basilica. Another four spires will top the façade to match the Nativity and Passion facades.

Work has recently started on building the central towers of the church. Gaudi planned the structure to be built vertically so that it could be seen from any point in Barcelona. Over the apse will be the tower dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Topped by a star the tower will be 130 metres high. Four towers dedicated to the Evangelists will reach a height of 135 metres and in the middle of them, the most important tower will be dedicated to Jesus. This tower will be topped by a four armed cross and will be 172.5 metres high when complete making it the tallest church building in the world. (For comparison Salisbury Cathedral reaches a height of 123.1 metres).

The main nave of the basilica was covered and an organ installed in mid-2010 to allow religious services to take place. On the 7th November 2010 Pope Benedict XVI consecrated the church in front of a congregation of 6,500 people with a further 50,000 following it outside. It is hoped that the main structure of the basilica will be complete in time for the 100th anniversary of Gaudi's death in 2026.

Visitors to Barcelona can access the Nave, Crypt, Museum, Shop, and the Passion and Nativity towers. Tickets can be purchased to go up the towers by lift although descent is down a spiral staircase of 400 steps.

Building the Sagrada Família is not supported by any government or official church sources; money from tickets purchased by tourists is now used to pay for the work.

## **BIBLE SUDOKU**

First you answer the scripture-based questions to determine the numbers for each puzzle and place them in the squares mentioned. Then proceed as normal, placing numbers 1 to 9 in each row, each column and each of nine 3 x3 shaded areas within the larger puzzle.

For D9, A6, B1

How many daughters did David have? (1Chronicles 3:9)

For F7, A3, I2, E1

To be put on the “list” of needy widows, a woman needed to be over what age – specifically, what number times 10? (1Timothy 5:9)

For H4, C5

On how many commandments hang all the law and the prophets, according to Jesus? (Matthew 22:40)

For G2, D5, B3, A8

How many things, according to Proverbs, never say, “It is enough”? (Proverbs 30:15)

For F8, H1, E6

A cord of how many strands is not easily broken? (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

For I6, A2, F3, D8

Which chapter of Genesis begins with God blessing Noah and his sons?

For D6

Which verse in Revelation 4 says “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty”?

For H8, A5

How many devils were cast out of Mary Magdalene? (Mark 16:9)

For C1, I7, B4

Of the first 9 psalms, which one begins, “Give ear to my words, O Lord”?

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Newbold Parish Church Pre-school, The Eagle Club, St Johns Road, Littlemoor, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 8QN

# CONTINUING MY JOURNEY THROUGH ARMENIA

*Marilyn Pidcock*

## The Armenian Genocide of 1915

Since the end of the Byzantine Empire in 1453 when the Ottomans took control of Constantinople, Armenia (Christian) became a battleground as hostilities grew between the Ottomans (Islam) and Persia (Zoroastrian and Islam).

During the 1700's Armenians had been subject to foreign rule and often persecuted. During the 1800's there were various wars between the Ottomans (Turkey) and Russians. In the Crimea War, Britain and Turkey were against the Russians. Russia had to evacuate some Armenian areas. An area in present day Eastern Anatolia was Western Armenian around the area of Van and including Mount Ararat.

Britain was more concerned with trade routes to India so when Russia defeated the Ottomans again in 1877-78 Britain was intent on weakening Turkey's role in the region rather than the treatment of the Armenian people. Three treaties were signed in 1878 in March, June and July by Britain, Turkey and Russia. What had been Britain's responsibility in June to enforce in July became nobody's. It was this abandonment of British influence on the plight of the Armenians together with the increased harsh treatment by the Moslem Turks and Kurds that led to Gladstone, a devout Christian, making his last major speech in 1896 on the subject of the plight of the Armenians.

The removal of pressure on the Sultan by Britain between June and July 1878 led to the consequences culminating in the genocide in 1915. Western ambassadors protested but did nothing else when 3000,000 Armenians died in the pogroms of 1894-96 or by 1909 when Young Turk movement in a policy of Turkification, massacred 20,000 Armenians in Cilicia.

Russia too wanted Russification so closed schools, and libraries and Armenian Church property were taken over by the Tsar. Many Armenians emigrated mainly to USA.

The Ottoman Empire entered World War 1 on the German side but was in a state of decline, Armenians were the only significant Christian people to remain under Ottoman rule. In 1915 Russia had joined the allies. The existing concern by the Ottomans of the loyalty of the Armenians led to 60,000 of them serving in the Ottoman forces to be demobilised and put into labour camps in February 1915 to be massacred by April. The Armenians, living near the war front and others nowhere near, were moved into the Syrian Desert with the expectation that if they survived the march they would die of starvation, in reality they were massacred. Large scale massacres of Armenian elite, priests and lawyers first, then the others, were carried out in Constantinople and other cities on 24th April 1915. They were carefully planned and simultaneously carried out in all regions of the Ottoman Empire. About 1 ½ million Armenians died in the first genocide of the 20th century. It was recognised as such by the European Parliament in 1987 and also recognised by 21 countries and 42 US states, but not by Turkey or the UK (but Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland do).

Continuing our holiday in Armenia, we went round the Genocide Museum which was opened in 1995. It is a circular, subterranean building. We saw well documented written evidence and photographs, many taken by German army photographers. It was harrowing to read and look at. The genocide was not lost on Adolph Hitler who when he wrote *Mein Kampf* while in prison in 1923, wrote about "Final Solution", and other things he had learnt from the Army General. He was a keen student of history and on the eve of his invasion of Poland in 1939, said "who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians".

Outside we walked past markers with the names of the towns and villages where the massacres were known to have taken place. Opposite were trees planted by visiting dignities. This was the first memorial erected in 1965 by the Armenians from around the world to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

There are 12 slabs representing the 12 lost provinces of Western Armenia, all inward leaning to express mourning. At the centre, but 1.5 metres below, burns the eternal flame. It was my turn to deliver the Bible reading for the day which was Matthew 5: 43 – end. It

was very moving and emotional. Outside was the 44 metre tall stele, reaching to the sky, symbolising the survival and spiritual rebirth of the Armenian people.



## **PRAYER**

You gave your all to the world in the bleakness of that stable.  
Love was born that day  
Pure love  
Undiluted  
Poured out for all who call on your name.  
Such Grace  
Undeserved  
Deserves a response in the life that we lead.  
Forgive our ingratitude for all you have done,  
Draw us to your Word,  
Give us a new song to sing,  
That will resonate throughout this world.  
And begin with us today.        Amen

December 2018

# our Diocese

A monthly snapshot of Church of England life around Derbyshire

## Bishop Jan writes...



As I went to brush my teeth the other morning, I was halted in my tracks by a news item on the radio. The Church of England's attendance figures had just been published. It wasn't sounding good. The number of people attending church regularly

on a Sunday had declined once again. I picked up the toothpaste with a sigh. And then I paused once again when the reporter went on to say, "But the number of people attending mid-week and occasional services is on the rise." This, they concluded, was "evidence that the Church's desire to relate to cultural change was beginning to bear fruit."

We are so used to going to church on Sunday morning that we sometimes fail to see that those around us are out shopping. Or playing football. Or cleaning the car. Or working in Tesco's. The 'cultural change' the news item referred to is the 24-hour culture we find ourselves in, where Sunday is no longer seen as a special day. Christians will always meet on a Sunday morning. We are, after all, celebrating the resurrection that first Easter Sunday. But for those on the fringes of the church, or for those with no church background at all, any day will do.

Christmas is the time when special services abound. Visitors will come to our

churches for carol services, Christingles, school nativities and Midnight Mass. How will we welcome them? For those of us who preach, how will we connect the old familiar story with the lives of those sitting in front of us? How will we use our noticeboards and websites and parish magazines to invite them in?

The Church of England has produced some excellent materials called Follow the Star. Posters, invitation cards, ideas for families and churches are all included. You can find out more at [www.churchofengland.org/christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/christmas) But whichever resources you choose, thank you to clergy, lay ministers, churchwardens, sidespeople, organists, choristers, bell ringers, welcomers, tea makers and washer-uppers who will make our churches across Derbyshire places of light and hope and joy this Christmas.

Amidst the busyness may you find time to ponder anew the mystery of our God who, "became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood." (John 1:14)

A very happy Christmas to you all.

*The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane  
Bishop of Repton and  
Acting Bishop of Derby*



## Breathing Space - Derby City Deanery needs your support



Breathing Space is an initiative of Derby City Deanery that aims to support positive mental wellbeing in the City of Derby. It focuses on the positive contributions that can be made to support the mental health of

everyone, and not just those who have a particular diagnosis.

We are appealing for funding to develop our social media – ideally an app that will help people to locate the activities as they need them – and to help fund mental health awareness training for volunteers.

Beside your prayerful support, please consider us as part of your Advent giving:

Crowdfunding (until 31 December 2018):

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/breathing-space-derby-mental-wellbeing-project](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/breathing-space-derby-mental-wellbeing-project)

What is a Breathing Space?

A Breathing Space is an activity or opportunity that supports one or more of the recognised features that help to improve our wellbeing - Connect, Be active, Take notice, Keep learning, Give.

Examples of Breathing Spaces:

- Connect - Gathering Place at St Augustine's: breakfast, chat, debt advice, signposting to social services, and lots of encouragement.
- Be Active - The Daily Mile at Ashgate School: children run and walk around a track in their playground with amazing benefits to their concentration in class!
- Take Notice - Thursday Evensong at Derby Cathedral, is later on Thursdays so that working people can drop in to participate, or just relax and unwind with the music; Green Space Lunch : city workers picnic in St John's garden, with occasional speaker and music – and the opportunity for reflection, offloading, and prayer in the Quiet Space.
- Keep Learning - Godly Play with Elders, at St Edmund's Allenton & Shelton Lock: stories, memories, sharing, playing (why should children have all the fun?) and Faith through Art, creative activities at St Werburgh's, Spondon.
- Give - Christmas Lunch on Jesus at St Peter's in the City, sharing meals and food parcels.

To register an activity as a Breathing Space, please contact Deanery Administrator Jo Simister [jo.simister@derby.anglican.org](mailto:jo.simister@derby.anglican.org)

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## Now is the time to #FollowTheStar



**#FollowTheStar** is the Church of England's 2018 Christmas campaign.

The campaign will serve a number of purposes as thousands of Christmas services and events will be taking place in churches all over the country in the run up to Christmas to:

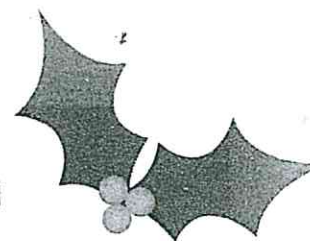
1. Remind everyone that Christmas doesn't end on Christmas day - in fact, that is just the start!
2. Encourage people to remember that their church is there all year round, not just at Christmas.
3. Guide people to the A Church Near You website so they can discover more about our churches to experience and explore.

How your church can get involved:

- Visit [www.churchofengland.org/christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/christmas) to learn more about the campaign and order resources including banners, booklets, bookmarks and posters.
- Update your page on A Church Near You with your Christmas services and events.
- Share the #FollowTheStar Christmas videos and social media posts.
- Be a "star church" by displaying stars prominently.
- Participate in "night of the stars" on Friday, 21 December 2018 by having a star on your church building.
- Download the #FollowTheStar app (available late November 2018).

Be part of this national initiative and raise the awareness of your Christmas services so that we can unite and bring the true meaning of Christmas into our communities.

## Christmas Events around our diocese



### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Crooked Spire, Chesterfield  
17 November - 2 December 2018

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Old Whittington, St Bartholomew  
30 November - 4 December 2018

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Dronfield, St John the Baptist  
30 November - 9 December 2018

### **Christmas Craft Market**

Brampton, St Thomas  
1 December 2018,

### **Christmas Market**

Allenton & Shelton Lock, St Edmund  
1 December 2018

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Barlborough, St James the Greater  
1st & various dates in December

### **Christmas Angel Festival**

Chapel-en-le-Frith, St Thomas Becket  
1 - 8 December 2018

### **Holy Spirit Evening**

Langley Mill, St Andrew  
2 December 2018

### **Ocho Christmas Concert**

Repton, St Wystan  
04 December 2018

### **Derby New Opera Company concert**

Chaddesden, St Philip  
5 December 2018

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Chesterfield, St Thomas  
7 - 9 December 2018

### **A Celebration of Christmas (concert)**

Darley Dale, St Helen  
8 December 2018

### **Messiah by G. F. Handel**

Derby Cathedral  
8 December 2018

### **Concert of Music for Christmas**

St Lawrence, Whitwell  
8 December 2018

### **Festival of Trees & Nativity Scenes**

Holy Trinity, Tansley  
8 - 11 December 2018

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

14 - 24 December 2018  
Belper, Christ Church

### **Flower Festival**

Breaston, St. Michael  
14 December 2018

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Bakewell, All Saints  
14 December 2018

### **Christmas Concert in aid of Rainbows**

Repton, St Wystan  
14 December 2018

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

15 December 2018  
Wirksworth, St Mary

### **'A Festival of Angels'**

Ashbourne, St. Oswald  
16 December 2018 - mid January 2019

### **Organ Recital - Seasonal Music**

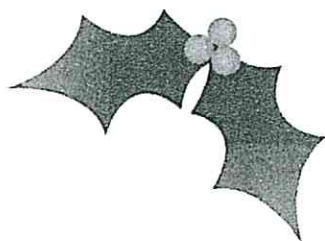
Staveley, St John the Baptist  
19 December 2018

### **The Muppet Christmas Carol & Elf**

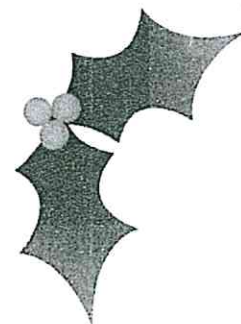
Derby Cathedral  
22 December 2018

### **Celtic Service with Carols**

Crich, St Mary  
23 December 2018

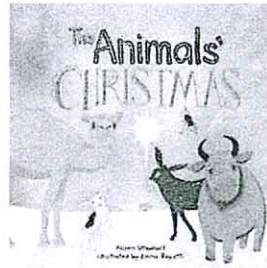


Details of these and other events can be found at:  
[www.derbyshirechurches.org](http://www.derbyshirechurches.org)



## The Animals' Christmas - Book Review & Competition

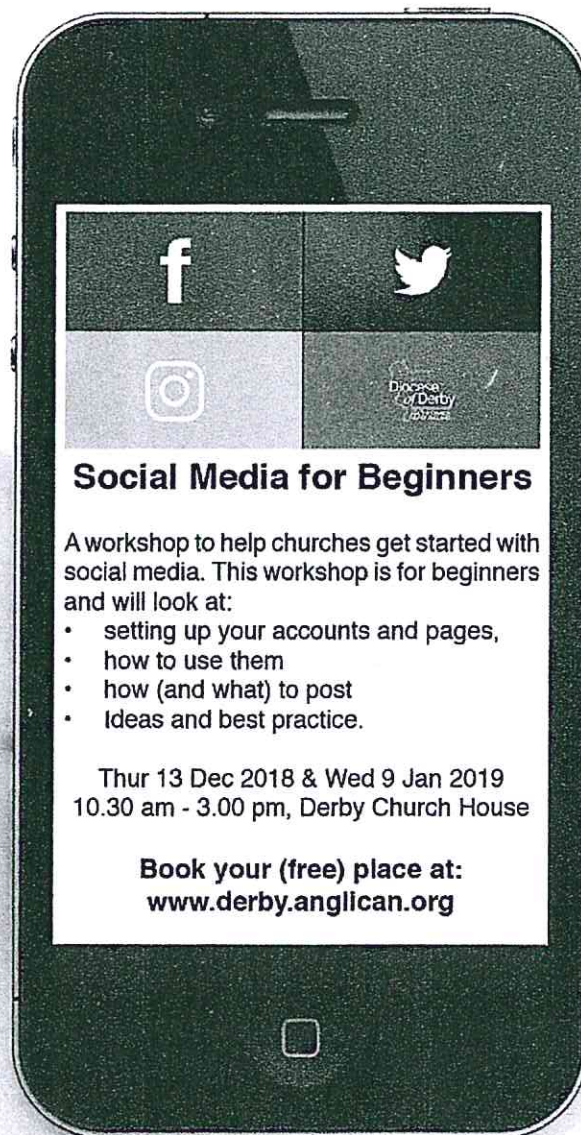
Sian Kellogg reviews "The Animals' Christmas":  
*This delightful hardback children's book provided an enchanting approach to telling the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of the animal characters involved in the story. It's nicely written and well presented, with colourful imagery and a nice balance between text and pictures.*



The Animals' Christmas is published by Redemptorist Publications and is available to buy for £9.95 from [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

*I read this book to my four-year-old daughter and we both enjoyed letting the beautiful illustrations captivate our imaginations. With its simple description of the nativity story I felt my daughter was able to understand the context of story and engage with the characters. It provided a lovely understanding of the importance of Jesus' birth but also the importance of all God's children.*

**WIN A COPY** of the book (in time for Christmas!), Simply send an email marked "The Animals' Christmas" with your name and address to [Together@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Together@derby.anglican.org) by 10 December 2018. A lucky winner will be chosen from all entries received.



The church of St. John the Evangelist thank Dunston Garden Centre for kindly donating a magnificent Christmas tree once again.

The Rector, the churchwardens and the congregation wish your staff a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.





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