



Newbold Parish Church

The Evangelis



December 2023

70p

Messy Christmas

4pm on Sunday 3 December

Christingle

(the one with the candle in the orange)

4pm on Sunday 10 December

Candle-lit carols

6pm on Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass

11.30 on Christmas Eve

Family service

10am on Christmas Day



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*Items for the next edition to be with Rhoda or Sue
By Sunday 17th December
revrho2020@gmail.com sue.wheeler.stjohns@gmail.com*

Public Worship

Sunday 10am Mass

The use of the common cup has been restored, and communicants are free to decide if they wish to receive from this or not.

Please be assured that Communion is received in full with just the wafer (host). Please note that dipping the wafer in the chalice is not permitted.

Please do not attend if you feel unwell.

First Sundays 4pm Messy Church

A time of worship based on craft activities, singing and stories, followed by food. Ideal for families.

Tuesday Morning prayer 10am

A 30min service of prayer on Zoom continues each week gathering at 09.50 for a 10am start. All Welcome.

Contact church office for Link.

Wednesday 10am Mid-week Communion

A service of mid-week Holy Communion

Now taking place in the Parish Room

For all the Christmas services see front cover and p20

We wish to say a big **Thank You** to our
advertisers, contributors and readers,
for your support this year.

We wish you
a very
Happy Christmas
and
a Peaceful
New Year!



Advent:
jigsaw bits
still scattered,
but you've pieced together
the frame: ground and sky.

#TinyAdventPoems 10/24

Text - Amy Scott Robinson | Design - Richard Lyall



From the vicar

Revd Rhoda



I'm writing this with a sense of thankfulness as we end the liturgical year on Sun 26 Nov and begin the new year with the season of Advent.

Thankfulness for what has gone before in the previous 12 months and thankfulness for what is to come.

I'm thankful in this past year that I was appointed as vicar for the parish of Newbold with Dunston, with the news announced on Mothering Sunday. I had a wonderful licensing service on Wed 28 June with support from so many from the church and the community, and then I finally moved into the new vicarage on the Skylarks estate at the beginning of September.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to welcome regulars and the occasional visitors to the 10am Mass on a Sunday, to the midweek Mass, and for the wonderful Messy Church congregation each month, and for all those who help out with the services. I'm thankful that we've been able to resume our regular services at Elm Lodge and Ridgewood House and for the joy that this brings the residents and ourselves.

I'm thankful for the churchwardens and church trustees (the PCC) and all the work they do to ensure the smooth working of the parish, and for the important tasks of Safeguarding and Health and Safety. I'm thankful for the all the verging and administrative tasks that are done.

I'm thankful for this year's Pilgrimage to Walsingham (my first as your vicar), the summer fayre, the installation of the churchyard benches provided by the community, the ongoing Churchyard tidy-up from the community pay-back team, the Heritage Open Days looking at our stained-glass windows, Mark and Elaine's

confirmation, the Remembrance service at the Littlemoor war memorial.

I'm thankful that since the start of the school year in September we have hosted all three local primary schools, Newbold Church School, Dunston School, and Cavendish School, each with wonderful Harvest Festival services.

Just last weekend, I'm thankful for a wonderful Christmas Fayre—for everyone pulling together to make it a great occasion, and for everyone who came and supported it. It was a lovely atmosphere.

And during Advent as we prepare for the Christmas Season, I'm thankful for the best news ever, that God chose to become one of us so each of us can come to know God.

I'm looking forward to the full programme of Christmas services planned (see the front cover), from Messy Church crafting and Christingle to the old traditional favourites (Carols by Candlelight and Midnight Mass).

Rev Jilly is also offering a 'Blue Christmas' service this year for those who find celebration difficult at Christmas (Christ Church, Dec 3rd, 4pm), and The Crooked Spire will be holding a Service of Hope and Light to remember all those affected by Domestic Abuse on Tues 5th Dec 5:30-6pm.

The Church of England's theme this year – Follow the Star: Join the Song – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany. Our Archbishops say that:

"The shepherds were astonished to find the night sky filled with angels singing God's praise. And before long they were singing, too ... Centuries later, singing is still central to how many of us celebrate Christmas. We invite you this Christmas to follow the star, journey to the manger, join the song and come into the presence of Jesus Christ."

Rhoda +

Churchwarden's Corner

From Richard Peet



A warm welcome to the December edition of the Evangelist.

We have been making plans for our services for December leading up to Christmas preceded by Advent.

This is a busy time in our churches as we lead up to celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ.

You will find details of our special services in this magazine.

The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they symbolize hope, peace, joy and love.

The first Sunday of Advent is **SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER**, and this season represents the beginning of the Christian year, which this year is year B.

It is a lovely time of year as we welcome our local schools to join us for their special services. Cavendish, Dunston and our church school will be coming to our church during this month.

We also have our **MESSY CHURCH ON SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER AT 4pm.**

What words describe how you feel at this time of year - comfortable, joyful, full of anticipation, excitement, hope, expectation, celebration, and preparation.

For many, Christmas is a difficult time. We pray for all who will be alone, for the housebound, the sick, those in hospital, and those in our local residential and nursing homes.

We remember all who are struggling due to the various increases in heating and food prices.

We remember the food hut and food hub and the homeless especially at this time of year.

We are visiting Elm Lodge, and Ridgewood House for the first time at Christmas since before covid, and we have been visiting them for many months this year. We look forward to going in to visit, and I always come away uplifted.

What are you looking forward to doing in 2024? Maybe you are doing something that you have never done before or haven't done for many years.

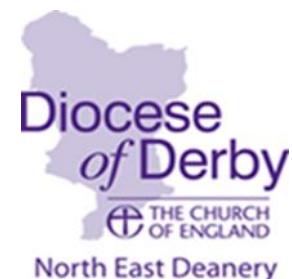
Importantly let us remember to love each other, take care of each other, and to always say thank you to one another.

May we pray for peace and love throughout the world in 2024.

Thank you all for your support for Carol and myself in our capacity as your churchwardens during 2023, and we look forward to serving you in 2024.

Diocese Vision Prayer for 2022

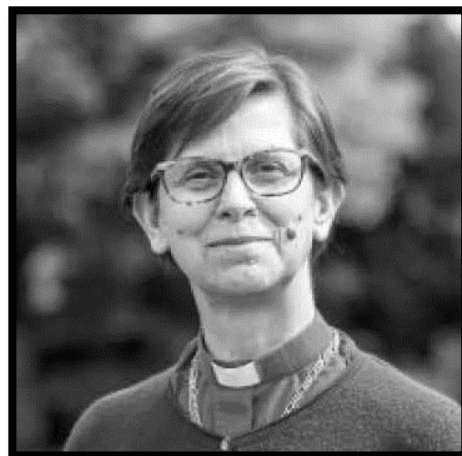
Our Diocese celebrates its centenary in 2027 and as part of the preparation for this they are encouraging us all to pray this prayer:



*Gracious God, in your mercy and for your glory,
renew us, reshape us, revive us –with generous faith,
courageous hope and life-giving love –
that, in transformed lives through growing church
and building community, we may see your Kingdom come
and be good news for all. Amen*

Message for December 2023

During Advent, in the run up to Christmas, we pray: 'even so, come Lord Jesus'.



Our prayer longs for the fulfilment of God's promise that the risen Jesus will come again in glory and, at last, death shall have no more dominion, every tear shall be wiped away, sword will be turned into ploughshare, and, by God's merciful judgement, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Our prayer also hopes, in the meantime, for the fulfilment of God's promise that the risen Jesus will be with us always to the end of time. 'Come, Lord Jesus' is a prayer not just for the end of all things but for today. It is a prayer that remembers that Jesus first came to ordinary people in the midst of their everyday life.

I've been having conversation, in the run up to Christmas, with people in Derby and Derbyshire whose everyday today echoes the ordinary lives of those in the first Christmas story. I've heard stories of sheep farming, chatted with a hotel owner, learnt about midwifery, talked to a broadcaster, met with an educator and listened to a child. (You can hear these Christmas Conversations through Advent via the diocesan website www.derby.anglican.org or my Bishop Libby Lane Facebook page).

God chose to become part of everyday people's ordinary lives when Jesus was born. Those we read about in the gospels weren't particularly special people, weren't especially good or religious, wouldn't have made history except that God chose to share their

lives. God chooses that still. And so, we glimpse heaven in the ordinary, as I did through my conversations.

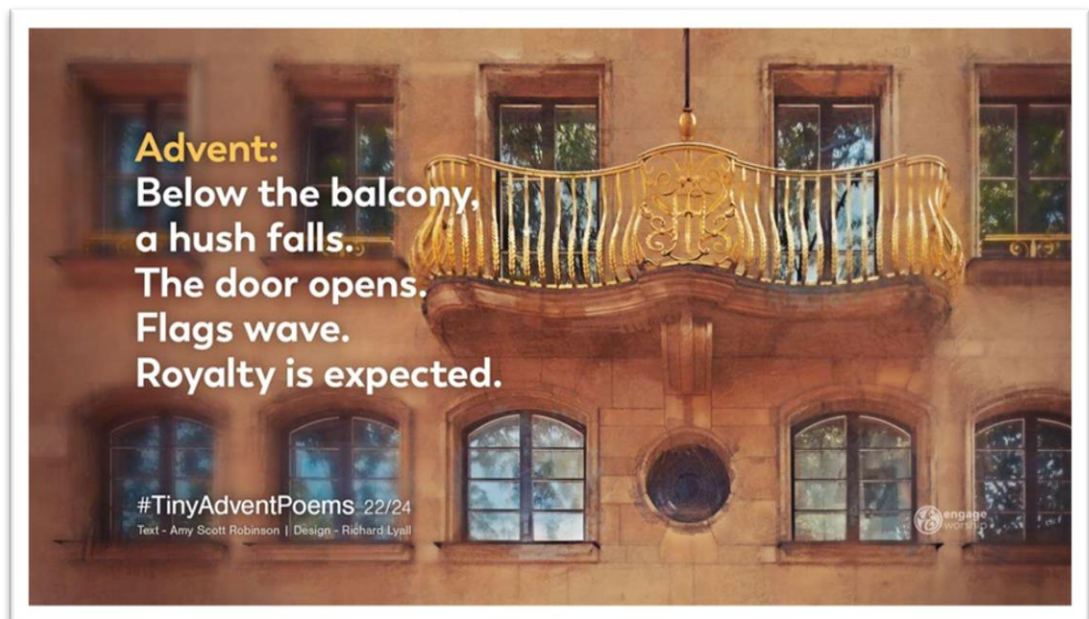
As I pray this Advent, in the run up to Christmas, ‘even so, come Lord Jesus’, I’m hoping to catch sight of God in the everyday lives of people around me, people like you – the ordinary people of Derby and Derbyshire. Not because we’re particularly special or especially good but because this is how God chooses to be known. And until the end, when Jesus comes in glory, we find the Kingdom of God among us.

+ Libby Derby

The Rt Revd Libby Lane
Bishop of Derby



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL





Newbold Parish Church Pre-school
The Eagle Club, St Johns Road, Newbold, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S41 8QN
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Email – newboldparishchurchpre-school@hotmail.co.uk
Ofsted – 206826
Charity Number - 1084204



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If you would like further information please contact the setting on 01246 451141 / 07944595092 to arrange an appointment or email us on newboldparishchurchpre-school@hotmail.co.uk to request a welcome brochure.

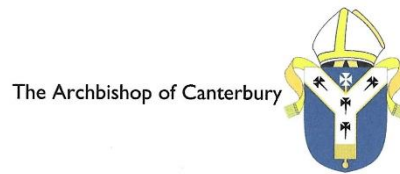
Prayer for the Holy Lands

We have all been hearing the news of the devastating conflict in the Holy Lands. Bishop Libby recently circulated the following joint letter from The **Most Reverend Justin Welby**, The Archbishop of Canterbury of Canterbury, and The **Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum**, The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, asking us all to respond prayerfully and generously.

The letter was written a few weeks ago and much has gone on since but the call to prayer and generosity remains as important today as it was when the letter was written.



The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem



The Archbishop of Canterbury

24th October 2023

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

From Archbishop Hosam Naoum:

Just over two weeks ago, the world was horrified at the sudden eruption of war in the Holy Land, resulting in hundreds of deaths, injuries, and displacements. Since that time, those numbers have multiplied into the thousands, as open hostilities have drastically escalated. Innocent civilians, especially women and children, have been caught in the deadly crossfire. As you have probably seen, a massive rocket blast exploded in the midst of our own Ahli Hospital in the heart of Gaza City, tragically killing or seriously wounding hundreds of refugees who had gathered there because they had no other place of shelter in which to go.

Although Ahli's buildings were heavily damaged, two nights later our devoted staff partially reopened the hospital. In doing this, they demonstrated the determination we have in the Diocese of Jerusalem to persevere in our Christian mission to serve others as though we were serving Christ himself (Matt 25 :31-46). And this is the case not just for Gaza, but throughout all the Holy Land. Yet in order to accomplish this mission in the midst of a devastating war, we need to draw upon the strength of the larger Body of Christ. For we understand that when one member of the Body suffers, all parts suffer (1 Cor 12:26).

And so, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I appeal to you to first of all to pray for our mission here, as well for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa 122:6). Secondly, advocate with your representatives for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land, so that all who dwell within these lands can live in security.

Finally, if you are able, support our ministries in Gaza, Palestine & Israel, and throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem by contributing financially through one of our international partners.

Thank you for helping us continue the work of our Lord Jesus Christ in the very lands in which he himself ministered in his earthly life before offering up his life on our behalf and then rising again victorious from the grave, overcoming death and giving us hope for a new life. May God bless you.

From Archbishop Justin Welby:

As war devastates the Holy Land, we ask where Christ is to be found amid the cries of His children.

When the lives of the innocent are at risk, we strain our eyes for the light of the One who offers healing, peace, and justice. In Gaza, the Al Ahli hospital, run by the Diocese of Jerusalem, is that light. Despite being hit by rocket fire last week, it is still providing critical care to the injured and anyone in need of medical attention. As health services become even more vital in Gaza, the work of

the hospital becomes more difficult for urgent need of medications, equipment and fuel.

Please, continue to pray for those who mourn, those who are in pain, and those who are in fear, and for those who are caring for the injured and bereaved. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says that those who have looked after the sick have cared for Christ himself. I urge everyone, if they are able, to support the Al Ahli Hospital's work caring for the wounded body of Jesus Christ and contribute to the Gaza Appeal.



The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem



The Most Reverend Justin Welby
The Archbishop of Canterbury



Newbold Women's Group, November 2023 Report

From Wendy Drake, Committee Member

At the beginning of November, a good number of ladies met and enjoyed our annual meal out at Chesterfield Golf Club, our second year of eating there.

The December meeting, Dec 6 at 7pm in the Parish Room, will take the form of a Christmas Celebration. We will have readings both religious and humorous, and the singing of Carols, to be followed by Christmas food, and goodies and, some seasonal refreshments will be available. It's the occasion too when we exchange our 'Secret Santa' gifts.

Looking ahead to 2024, the speaker in January will be Jim Dickinson, talking about 'The History and his Career with Old Maps'.

For those of you who haven't yet been able to join us, it would be great to see some new faces. We meet on the first Wednesday evening of the month from 7pm to about 9pm in the Parish Room. Cost is £3 each time to include a raffle ticket and refreshments – non-alcoholic! Do speak to Trish, Marilyn J., or myself if you wish to know more. You could also invite your friends along to see how we function.

Until then, the Committee and myself, would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and others, a Very Happy, Peaceful and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

This takes you back.....

Children today will never know what it was like to take loads of photos... and have to wait a week to find out they were all useless.



To **ADVERTISE** in

The Evangelist

January to December
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£35 for ¼page

£60 for ½ page

£110 for full page

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Offers for Church Funds.

Contact Wendy/John Drake

07305312894/07305363506

Readings and Collects

Sunday 3 December Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64.1-9 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Sunday 10 December Second of Advent

Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

(or)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Sunday 17 December Third of Advent

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 24 December Fourth of Advent

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 24 December Midnight Mass

Isaiah 9. 2-7, Titus 2. 11-14 Luke 2. 1-20

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Monday 25 December Christmas Day

Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-14

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Sunday 31 December Patronal Festival, St John the Apostle and Evangelist

Exodus 33.7-11a 1 John 1-10 John 21.19b-25

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Diary DECEMBER 2023

Sunday 3 December Advent Sunday	10am Mass
	4pm Messy Christmas!
Sunday 10 December Second of Advent	10am Mass
	4pm Christingle
Sunday 17 December Third of Advent	10am Mass
Sunday 24 December Fourth of Advent	10am Mass
Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve	6pm Carol Service
	Midnight Mass 11.30pm Mass
Monday 25 December Christmas Day	10am Family Service
Sunday 31 December Patronal Festival	10am Mass

Every Tuesday* 9.50am **Morning prayer** via Zoom

Every Wednesday* 10am **Mid-week Communion** in Parish Room

**there will be no Tuesday prayers and Midweek communion between Christmas and New Year.*

Saturday 2 December **Coffee Morning** 10am-12pm Parish Room

Saturday 2 December **Flower Arranging Demo** (see page 21)

Monday 4 December **Monday Club** Parish Room 1-3pm

Wednesday 6 December **Newbold Women's Group** 7pm

Saturday 9 December **Churchyard Tidy-up** 10am-12pm

Monday 11 December **Monday Club** Parish Room 1-3pm

See opposite for further **Monday Club** information.

Christmas Wreath

Saturday 2nd December

12 pm to 4 pm

Christmas Wreath Workshop in
the Parish Room

You will be shown how to make a Christmas wreath then have a go at making your own to take home and hang on your own door ready for Christmas.

Cost £15 which includes drinks and materials to make your design.

All proceeds will go to the flower arranging fund that provides flowers for Church though the year.

For more information and book a place contact Julie on 01246 557059



Come and join the family fun at our **Messy Christmas Service**, with crafts, singing and food!

Sunday 3 December 4pm

Monday Club

Meeting as usual 4 and 11 December.

No meetings 18 and 25 December or 1 January

Christmas meal on 21 December

Meetings recommence on Monday 8 January.

We wish everyone a happy and joyous Christmas!



Subscriptions for Parish Magazine

Now due!



What a great year we have had!

Many thanks for buying and contributing to the magazine.

A big thanks also to our advertisers, whose valuable support helps to fund the magazine.

If you want to keep receiving your copy of the magazine next year it is time to pay your subscription.

Monthly cost 80p

Annual Cost £8 (equates to 2 free editions)

You can pay via

- the person who delivers your magazine
- the collection plate on a Sunday in an envelope clearly marked with your name and “magazine subscription”.
- By direct by bank transfer – see details on inside back cover. Please use reference “magazine”.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

29 October Skyla Mae
Hitchings-Smith



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

Churchyard [burial or interment of ashes]

13 November Maureen Shelbourne
15 November Elsie Wilkinson "Betty" Wickens

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Pray for our local community.

During the week commencing 18 December our local schools will be holding their Christmas Services in our church. Please pray for the staff and students of our church school, **Newbold Church of England School**, and for **Dunston Primary** and **Cavendish Junior School** as we make them welcome.

Please also remember the residents and staff of our local care homes **Ridgeway House** and **Elm Lodge** where we will be taking Christmas Services during December.




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Messy Church

From Chris Barnes



Safe or Scary?

That was the question Rhoda asked of the children at our Messy Church on 5th November. Not surprisingly, she got a range of both expected and unexpected answers. Rhoda used the 23rd Psalm to explain how God is always there to comfort us, even when we walk down dark paths, and that He will eventually give us good things to enjoy.

This was after we had all enjoyed doing several craft activities. The kids particularly liked the making candle holders out of modelling clay and “jewels,” so much so Ann had to get another bucket of clay. They also made skeletons out of cotton bud sticks, masks of night animals, satsuma “pumpkin” faces and pictures of spiders’ webs with plastic spiders. Many thanks to all who helped.

Next month, (3rd December at 4.00pm), we will be looking at Advent and Christmas.

All are welcome.



The Walking Group

From Evelyn Lowe

We welcomed a new member and drove to Tapton Lock for our walk at the side of the canal and on to Brimington. Unfortunately, we had to circle around for a while as Chesterfield Football Club were playing Portsmouth for a televised match and cars were parked everywhere. We had just started to walk when we spotted a massive, red fungi (fly



agaric) as big as a tea plate, on the opposite bank of the canal and minutes later heard an excited roar from the football ground – Chesterfield had scored the first goal. Two rabbits heard our approach and scurried across the grassland nearby. We reached Weeldon Mill Lock, where The John Varley II was waiting for the water to reach the correct depth before it could carry on with its journey. We

passed a nicely decorated tree stump, carved with oak leaves, mushrooms and a sunflower but by then couldn't hear any sounds from the football stadium so remained in suspense until arriving home to find that our local team had won. The water in the canal was very high due to the heavy rain recently and rippling in the same direction as we were walking, together with a few couples with their dogs, all having a relaxing, Sunday afternoon stroll in the sunshine with the sound of an ice cream van tinkling away in the distance. We travelled over the red, bricked bridge, signposted Brimington and onto a tarmacked track, bordered by trees on each side with lots of wet, brown and yellow leaves underfoot. Down a small path and onto a housing estate and then up another path and towards the breakers yard which was full of cars in various stages of distress. Our walk brought us to a muddy field before we arrived at Brimington Road and passed the area which used to be called, and still is, the Skull and

Crossbones, and back onto the canal path. Two men were fishing from the path below us, the water was murky and further on, littered with rubbish washed up by the recent floods. We stopped to talk to a father of two small boys who were magnet fishing. They had magnets attached to a length of rope each and were throwing them into the canal. According to the father, they had previously brought up a bicycle!

As we approached Tapton Lock at the end of the walk, the John Varley II sailed gracefully past us.

Whatever the weather, we all enjoy getting out in the fresh air so thank you to Bob, this month's leader.

If anyone wishes to join us, gather at the church gates at 12pm with a packed lunch on **Sunday 3rd December** or ring 0779 1735 204 for more information.



I've started taking walks around the old clock tower.

It's a great way to pass the time!



From the Archives

The Evangelist 1953

Told by Walter Russell Bowie of Virginia, U.S.A.

On the night when the little child of Mary was born in the stable in Bethlehem, three people were in the inn when Mary and Joseph were refused admittance.

They slept within the sheltering walls while the Christ-child was born in the stable. They knew nothing of the brightness of angels in the sky. They heard nothing of shepherds, who, on the plains of Bethlehem, heard an angel's voice and hurried to the stable to see the little child in Mary's arms. They only slept, unknowing, and next morning rose indifferently to start upon their homeward way.

But as they set out together on the road that led down from the hill of Bethlehem to the Judean plain, it happened that they drew together; and they talked to one another and asked what had brought them there.

"I came to Bethlehem," said Marius, a Roman centurion, "with a detachment of legionaries to guard the town during the enrolment and the taxing, and also for another particular reason of my own. I know the man who has bought the privilege of collecting Caesar's taxes here in Bethlehem. I have done business with this Jacob Ben Israel before. I told him it was to his good that Roman soldiers should be here to watch against thieves, and to keep the town in order while he gathered in his revenue. He was a wise man and he understood. And so I come away from

Bethlehem" - and here he touched his girdle - "with these hundred silver denarii which I can use to good advantage. I shall enlarge and adorn the courtyard of the house I am building for myself in Caesarea. My visit to Bethlehem has worked out well."

The second was a sheik named Ilbrahim who dwelt in his wide tents on the plains of Shephelah. "There is a market-place in Bethlehem," he said, "where many sheep are sold on the days when crowds come into the town. There are those in Bethlehem who have charge of the market-place, and there was a need of a little private converse between them and me. So I came upon my camel hither to talk with them. Hereafter, my sheep will be given room in the market before the flocks of any others who have sheep to sell. It is true I had to cross their palms with money; but the money I have paid will come back to me many times over in the days ahead." He laughed. "This journey to Bethlehem will mean much profit, and I am satisfied."

The third was a rich man of Jerusalem named Hazor, who rode upon a mule richly caparisoned. "An old friend of mine in Bethlehem lives in the one great house of the town," he said. "Once in every year he gives a feast to all his acquaintances, and I came to his feast last night. Such a banquet as it was! There were cakes made from the finest flour that is grown upon the Judean plains, the flesh of lambs, fish from the Sea of Galilee, pomegranates and dates and other fruit from the gardens of Damascus, and wine from the vineyards of Lebanon. Such a feast Caesar himself might have envied. It was worth more than a journey from Jerusalem."

As they rode together, they became aware of a shepherd lad who had been walking in the field beside them, keeping pace with them as they made their slow way down the hill, and gazing at their faces.

They stopped and looked at him.

"What mean you by walking there and staring at us?" said Marius.

"Forgive me my masters," said the lad. "I have heard what you were saying, and I wondered."

"Wondered at what?" said Ilbrahim.

"Wondered whether there was not more that you saw and found in Bethlehem," said the shepherd.

"Did you see last night a shining in the sky?"

"Not I," said Marius. "I slept sound in the inn with a hundred good denarii to keep me company."

"Nor I," said Ilbrahim. "I too, slept and my dreams were opulent,"

"I saw nothing but the lights of the banquet hall where the wine flowed. Those were lights enough for me," said Hazor.

"And did you hear no tidings of a Child that was born?" said the shepherd.

They looked at one another in amazement, and they laughed.

"Who cares for nonsense such as this?" said Marius. "Every moment somewhere a child is born. What concern is it of mine if there is another more or less in Bethlehem? I came to teach Jacob Ben Israel how to be generous. He learned his lesson well, and I am going away with all that I wanted to get in Bethlehem."

"I have made my arrangements in the market-place, and that will suffice for me," said Ilbrahim.

"I have had my feast, and that will be enough to dream on for many days to come," said Hazor.

Then as they went their way along the road the shepherd stood and looked at them. For a long time he gazed. And then his eyes lifted and he looked at the sky and at the rim of the far-off hills. Slowly in his face a light began to glow, as though some inward flame were burning. Then softly he began to sing;

At the end will be but rust,

Where earthly treasures are;

*They whose eyes are in the dust will never see
a star.*

They who came to Bethlehem

And only dross have sought

*Will take away alone with them the emptiness
they brought.*

He stopped, and was silent while still his eyes were wide. Then he began again to speak, as though in the quiet field there was something which would hear;

"They think that they carry power and wealth and honour with them where they go, but it is not true. For the world will not be made better by the craft and violence of Rome, nor by the greed of merchants, nor by the indulgence of the rich. Surely the truth rather is in what I heard last night in the vision of the angels, and in what I saw as I knelt there by the manger in the stable in Bethlehem. Love was there. I

saw it shining in the mother's face. It was come in some strange, new way of wonder to our world in the Child who is called "the Saviour." The three young men yonder who have found all they sought in Bethlehem will go on their way and be forgotten. But only those who shall learn in Bethlehem the meaning of love, will be redeemed."

This story appeared in "Christianity and Crisis," 537 W. 121st Street, New York City.

Kitchen Corner

On Christmas Eve a member of my family coming from the country brought with him - as a surprise - a hare "in fur and all". I gave one look of horror, but eventually decided to tackle it.

First I had to clean it and hang it up, and before cooking had, of course, to skin it. That operation performed, I cooked it in the following way.

I tied bacon rinds and a few pieces of bacon around the body and the legs, then in a casserole fried one side in hot fat. After 10 minutes I turned it over and fried the other side. Then I cooked it gently over a low gas flame for about 3 hours, turning it over half way through.

When the hare was tender I made a brown sauce with the fat and added a quarter pint of milk and one teaspoon of vinegar (if you have any sour milk, use that). Finally having added seasoning, I sliced the hare and served it with mashed potatoes and vegetables. Red cabbage,

I found goes especially well with it and don't, of course, forget the redcurrant jelly.

The experiment worked well and I am now awaiting the next visitor to arrive with an appropriate offering.

This made me feel uneasy as I like to see a hare sprinting across a field whilst out walking. Much easier to grab a turkey from the supermarket and shove it in the oven! However, some of our readers may like the challenge. If you have any old recipes the editors are happy to print them in the magazine.

Events happening in 1953

Christmastide

Christmas Day

Holy Communion at 12, 8, 9 (St.Chads) and 10.30. The service at midnight is intended only for those who are regular communicants throughout the year. They are expected to fast from food, drink and tobacco from at least 10pm.

Feast of our Patron Saint

St. John's Day, Sunday 27th

All who claim to belong to St. John's Church should come to it in the morning of St. John's Day. No work! No shopping! No excuse this year!

Sunday January 3rd

We hope to present the Story of Christmas in mime, at 6.30.

Friday January 8th

Come and enjoy yourself at the Parish Party in the Church Hall. Supper at 7pm, then games and dancing.

And humour in 1953

Here Lies

A letter written by an 18th century villager to the sexton of his church; it is badly spelt, but the meaning is clear enough.

"Mr. Gemery my wife is dead and wants to be buried. Dig a grave for her, and she shall come to be buried tomorrow at one o'clock. You know where to dig it - by my other wife. Let it be deep."



Churchyard Birdwatch

Christine Wieloch

November

The birdwatch should have taken place the previous week on November 4th but the weather forecast was bad, so it was cancelled and thank goodness it was, as there was plenty of rain that morning. In contrast Saturday 11th November was a bright and sunny day although it was cold and in places you could tell there had been a ground frost.

The church yard was full of birdsong that was beautiful to listen to, although it was impossible to see the birds singing as they were too well hidden. There were some birds about but they didn't stay still long enough for us to make a proper identification

Thankfully we did manage to identify some birds and, in the end, had a total of eighteen species. The highlight of our morning was a tree creeper in a tree to the east of the parish room. We have not seen one of those for a very long time.

Species seen were blackbird, black headed gull, blue tit, buzzard, crow, collared dove, dunnock, feral pigeon, goldfinch, great tit, herring gull, jackdaw, long tailed tit, magpie, robin, tree creeper, wood pigeon and wren.

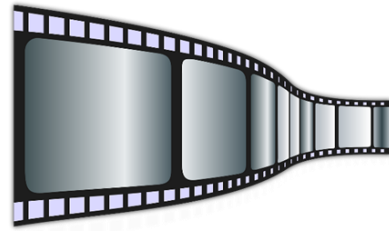
The next bird watch will be on 2nd December (weather permitting).



Answers to the Film Quiz in November Edition

1. Michael Gambon 2. Goldmember
(2002) 3. Four 4. Ant-Man

5. Joni Mitchell 6. Ben Shephard
7. Castaway (2000)



8. Kevin McCloud 9. Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn, whilst
kicking a helmet at the Orcs funeral pyre. 10. Gala Bingo

11. Porridge 12. Scottish 13. The Good Life 14. 295
episodes, 31 series between 1973 and 2010 15. Eddard
'Ned' Stark 16. Specsavers

Thank you!



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GIVING

We are hugely grateful to those of you who already give regularly or who give what they can when they can, we could not function without your support, thank you.

If you are not currently giving to the church you can support the work of Newbold Parish Church financially in all sorts of ways:

Standing order - This is the best way for us to keep track of our finances. Regular giving allows us to budget and plan. If you don't give this way, and would like to, please contact us and we can send you a form.

Cheques - can be made payable to:
'Newbold PCC income account'

These can be put in the collection plate on a Sunday or addressed to:

The Treasurer, Newbold Parish Church, St John's Rd,
Chesterfield S41 8PE

The Direct electronic bank transfer details are:

'Newbold PCC income account'

HSBC Bank plc

Sort Code: 40-17-15

Account No: 61331795 (please mark it 'donation')

And this **QR code** will take you to our giving page online.




Gift Aid – If you pay income tax do consider giving via the “Gift Aid” scheme. We can claim back, from the government, an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. You will need to make a Gift Aid declaration for us to claim, so do let us know if you would like a form to join this scheme.


Finally, if you are struggling financially, do feel free to lower your giving. We don't want anyone to feel pressure to give.

St John the Evangelist Church, on St John's Road, is the Church of England Parish Church of Newbold with Dunston, in the North East Derbyshire Deanery, Archdeaconry of Chesterfield, Diocese of Derby and the Province of Canterbury.

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For **Baptisms**, please contact our Church Administrator, Sue;
 sue.wheeler.stjohns@gmail.com ☎ 07787980961

For **Weddings**, please contact our vicar, Rev Rhoda;
 revrho2020@gmail.com ☎ 07838 316610



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