

HARDWICK DEANERY NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2020



Third Sunday of Advent: A Virtual Christingle service with The Children's Society

Just over 50 years ago The Children's Society introduced the Christingle service to the Church of England, and it has become a treasured part of Christmas with children and young people holding their orange with a candle at its centre signifying light and hope.

The red ribbon around the orange reminds us of God's amazing and incredible love. The cocktail sticks with the sweets remind us that even in tough, tough times, there are always things in all of our lives that we can be thankful for. And the candle right in the centre shines a light showing us that light always overcomes darkness.

But what Christingle tells us most of all, is that when we stand together, we can rekindle hope in the hearts of children and young people. Because as the Christingle reminds us light always overcomes darkness. And hope always overcomes fear.

This year of course the Christingle service was very different – The Children's Society's held its first ever online National Christingle Service in partnership with the Church of England.

The service included Royal President of The Children's Society, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, along with the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is sharing a message of support along with the charity's Vice-Chair of Trustees, the Bishop of Derby, Libby Lane.



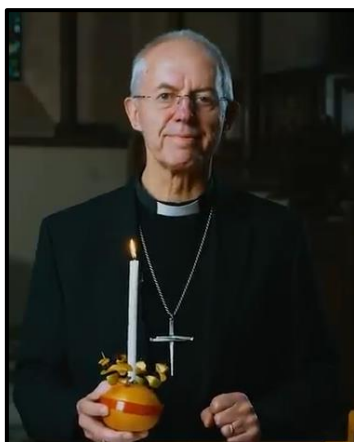
St Martin's Church Alfreton

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Rt Revd Libby Lane Bishop of Derby talks about the Christingle



The Most Revd and Right Honourable Justin Welby Archbishop of Canterbury says a prayer for The Children's Society



HRH The Duchess of Gloucester Royal Patron of The Children's Society

Welcome

Revd Canon Malcolm Macnaughton, who will be the next Bishop of Repton, seems to have a particular sense of timing! The announcement of his appointment was made on Friday, 30 October 2020, the day before national restrictions were once again implemented across England. Currently the Chief of Staff to the Archbishop of York, a position he has held since 2007, Malcolm was educated at Queens' College Cambridge and trained for ministry at Ridley Hall.

He served his title in the Diocese of Durham and was ordained priest in 1982. Malcolm is married to Pam, an ordained pioneer minister and a leadership specialist with the Church Pastoral Aid Society. Malcolm's unveiling in the Diocese of Derby was socially distanced, of course, and featured visits to three local food projects helping those in need during the Covid crisis.

Speaking as the announcement was made, Malcolm said he relishes the task ahead of him: 'The Covid crisis is tough for everyone, and we need to be focussed on bringing real hope to those most at risk, those living in poverty, and young people who have so much to offer, but whose opportunities for education, development, and employment, are so limited just now. It is great to see the Church in Derby and Derbyshire finding new ways, alongside the old, of being church and seeking the common good.' Introducing Malcolm to the Diocese of Derby, Bishop Libby said: 'Malcolm brings, out of his own deep commitment, a rich and varied experience of ministry.'



The new Bishop of Repton Revd Canon Malcolm Macnaughton with his wife Pam, Archdeacon Carol Coslett and Bishop Libby Lane.

We welcome his particular gifts in accompanying people hopefully through change, and his passion for reaching those on the margins, and younger generations.'



Statistics for Mission 2020

This year may have been very different and you may well be thinking 'Statistics for mission? What statistics?' for which you will of course be forgiven as I too thought we might not be gathering data this year.

However, it is important that we have this information so we can fully assess the impact of the Covid-19 virus on parish mission. The online parish returns system is now open and you can begin entering your data. The Parish Returns website can be found at:

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

If you need help in using the system, the user guide should give you all the help you need. If you don't have a copy, you can download one once you're logged on through the Users Menu. You may find it useful to complete a paper copy of the return form and use this to input your data online, however, please note that paper returns of statistics for mission are no longer accepted.

You must complete the return online.

If you cannot remember your login details or need any help please get in touch with Ailsa at ailsa.cooling@derby.anglican.org

Last year we had a 100% return on statistics for mission, we can't better that but we can equal it.



The 1973 Royal Mail Christmas stamp shows Wencelas as he sees the poor man gathering winter fuel.

Who was Good King Wenceslas?

We all know the carol Good King Wenceslas and we know he looked out on the Feast of Stephen when the snow was deep and crisp and even. But who was he? Was he a real person?

As with many 'true' stories there is both fact and fiction. The Christmas carol tells the story of a king going on a journey, braving the harsh winter weather to help a poor man. The journey was on the Feast of Stephen – the 26th December and the Second Day of Christmas. The king takes his page with him to help the poor man. When the page is about to give up

the struggle against the harsh weather he is able to carry on only by following in the king's footprints, step for step, through the deep snow. The story is based on the deeds of a 10th century king who was in fact a duke. Wenceslas was the Duke of Bohemia, the westernmost and largest region in what we know today as the Czech Republic. The title 'king' was conferred on him after his death by the Holy Roman Emperor Otto the First. The carol we sing was written in 1853 by John Mason Neale.

Bishop's Badge 2020

As with most things this year the Bishop's Badge service was very different. There were two recipients this year from the Hardwick deanery; Jim Morton from St Mary's Crich and Stephanie Oldfield from St Mary the Virgin Pilsley. Stephanie was awarded the Bishop's Badge for her work supporting local residents during the Covid-19 lockdown, work that she has continued to do. Stephanie set up and runs a library scheme, arranges for shopping and prescriptions to be collected and launched a new Fairshare food project. Stephanie has also encouraged people to get involved in a grow your own scheme by distributing home grown vegetable seedlings for planting.

Jim Morton from Crich, was awarded the Bishops Badge for his work in setting up CSW Digital Church. Jim was awarded his badge online via Derby Cathedral to Crich, in a special service honouring those who had contributed to the life of the church in a significant manner during the COVID crisis. The presentation took place with Revd Ian Whitehead being able to personally give the certificate and badge to Jim (whilst maintaining social distancing) at the Rectory. Revd Ian reports that huge laughter rang out when the new Dean of the Cathedral read that Jim was from St Mary's Cr'I'ch and the Bishop corrected him by saying 'if I may gently correct the Dean it's pronounced Cr'eye'ch'. Sorry to remind the Dean! Bishop Libby wrote to Jim saying: 'I am writing to inform you that you have been nominated to accept and receive a Bishop's Badge award. You have been nominated for 'responding positively and courageously throughout the Covid-19 crisis providing online worship opportunities through digital church, social media, Alexa and zoom.'

Our warmest congratulations to both Jim and Stephanie on their remarkable efforts during this difficult year and for the receipt of a well-deserved reward.



Left:

Bishop Libby in the cathedral during the Bishop's Badge service



L – R: Revd Ian, Jim Morton, Jo Morton (aka Jim's better half)

A 2020 Nativity

Mary was sitting in her garden with a cup of tea and a slice of homemade banana bread.

She had finished her lockdown chores and had even squeezed in a quick Joe Wicks PE session, so she had a little bit of free time before her Microsoft Teams meeting at 11.

As she sat, suddenly there was an angel standing 2 metres away (he didn't have a mask on but that was okay, as they were outside).



The angel told her she was to have a baby. He would be God's son, a light for all the people of the world, and she was to call him Jesus. Mary was a little confused at first, but then everything is a bit confusing at the moment. She wondered if this was fake news, but with a bit of Googling and a lot of praying, she realised that this really was God's plan. And so she said 'Yes'. She had to tell her fiancé, Joseph, though, and he was not best pleased – at least not until the angel paid him a visit too. 'Don't worry' Joseph said to Mary. 'We can bring the wedding forward – after all, the banns have already been read. We'll need to cut down the guest list – but we can livestream the service to everyone else on Facebook'.

A few months went by, lockdown was eased a little and then tightened again, and it was almost time for the baby to be born. The Prime Minister said that Mary and Joseph needed to go to Bethlehem to be counted (even though, last week, the PM had also said they shouldn't make unnecessary journeys, which confused them a little). They wondered and wondered and wondered what to do – but they knew that if they didn't get counted, they wouldn't be able to get Universal Credit, and with the carpentry business struggling, they really needed the help. So, they agreed, reluctantly, to go – even though Bethlehem was in a higher tier than Nazareth. They decided they would be safer if they avoided public transport, so they went by donkey instead. If anyone stopped them, they would say they were doing their daily allotted exercise.

When they got to Bethlehem, it was busier than they expected for a little town in lockdown. No wonder the R number was so much higher here than at home! They tried to find somewhere to stay, but it was hopeless. The first inn they came to had closed, and all the staff had been furloughed. The second inn was open, but only for takeaways, which needed to be pre-booked online and collected from the car park at a set time. They were really tired as they approached the final inn in town. 'We are open' said the innkeeper 'but we're full of keyworkers who are away from their families'. Mary was close to tears she was so tired, and the innkeeper noticed her eyes filling up. 'But I can see how tired you are' he continued. 'How about the garage round the back? It'll be quiet, and you'll be safe for the night'.

And so Mary and Joseph (and, of course, the donkey) settled down for the night. And, in the middle of the night, the baby was born – which meant that Joseph could be there, which was good. He couldn't have been there, could he, on a maternity ward? And at least the garage was Covid Secure. They called the baby 'Jesus' just as the angel had said, and they placed him in a wooden crate, wrapped in a blanket.

There were some shepherds in the fields nearby, watching their sheep (after all, they couldn't work from home, could they?) They'd been in a bubble since the second lockdown began and were watching "I'm a Celebrity" on their phones with a wry smile – they knew just how cold hillsides could get at night at this time of year. All of a sudden, a heavenly host appeared, singing. Well, not quite a host – more

a heavenly trio, standing 1 metre plus (with mitigations). And not quite singing, either – more of a muted humming behind their visors. The shepherds were used to hearing things from across the fields, though, so they had no problem making out what the angels were ‘singing’. A baby had been born – he would be their King - and they could ‘meet’ him on Zoom. After a bit of a tussle with their rural broadband, they managed to connect. They could see the baby king, but they couldn’t hear anything – and they weren’t sure whether you could tell a king’s mum that she was on mute!! It was soon all sorted out, and they were able to sing to the new baby (because you can still sing on Zoom). How amazing was that! Then they Zoom-waved goodbye (for quite a long time) and left the meeting.

Quite a long way away – not part of the travel corridor – there were three kings. A star had told them about the king (the angels would have had to spend too long in quarantine if they’d gone there). They made the journey to Bethlehem, too, walking at a safe distance from one another, only stopping for the occasional Greggs’ vegan sausage roll. They didn’t want to travel by camel (camels had been superspreaders of MERS virus a few years ago, and so the kings thought they’d better be safe than sorry). Llamas were a pretty cool replacement, though – everyone loves llamas!

When they got to Bethlehem, they found the garage. They sanitised, scanned the test & trace QR code on their apps and – one at a time – were able to go and meet the new baby, Jesus, who was safely tucked up behind a perspex screen. They texted Joseph the Hermes tracking code for their gifts (these were due to arrive in a couple of days and would need to be left for 72 hours before opening). Finally, they bowed down before Jesus and said goodbye. Then they each whipped out a handy pack of antibacterial wipes to make the garage door handle safe for the next visitor.

And the baby? He smiled, yawned and went straight back to sleep. Because that’s what babies do. (Of course, some of the details would be different if Jesus was born this Christmas, not in the 1st Century. But the truth of Christmas – the importance of Christmas – is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow: A heavenly king born into our earthly mess. A shepherd king – for kings and for shepherds. An eternal king – promising eternal life for each of us.

May the peace of the Christ child be yours, this Christmas and always, Revd Rachel.



Viscus Album

Mistletoe or to give it its proper name Viscus Album is native to the UK. It is a parasitic plant meaning it doesn’t put down its own root system but uses another plant as its host, taking food and water from the host plant. It grows on a number of trees including lime and poplar but the most well-known is the apple tree. Despite growing on trees, mistletoe is not generally found in a woodland setting, preferring hosts in open situations with plenty of light. You are more likely to see it in gardens, orchards, parkland and even churchyards.



The Christmas tradition is to hang mistletoe in your home over a door or a place people are likely to congregate. When someone is standing under the mistletoe it’s custom to kiss that person. It dates back to a very old belief that mistletoe holds the gift of fertility.

Mistletoe is commonly found in Wales, the West Midlands and the South of England, with particularly large populations in Gwent, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Somerset, this may be because of the large number of apple orchards in these regions but it could also be because of the milder climate.

Derbyshire Mind – www.derbyshiremind.org.uk



This year's Bishop of Derby Harvest Appeal supports the work of Derbyshire Mind a local organisation that focuses on the mental health and wellbeing of residents in Derbyshire and Derby City. Derbyshire Mind is committed to developing innovative and responsive services which promote mental health awareness and wellbeing.

Through more than 50 years of experience and local work supporting people experiencing mental health problems, Derbyshire Mind has developed and provided a range of different services.

Derbyshire Mind is committed to:

- working for improvements in local mental health services and offering quality local services
- making it possible for people with mental health problems to voice their opinions
- challenging the stigma attached to people labelled “mentally ill” and increasing public understanding of mental health issues

Derbyshire Mind works in partnership at a local level with statutory, independent and voluntary sector agencies in the health and social care sector. Help and advice can be found from the following local agencies:

Amber Trust – www.ambertrust.co.uk

Derbyshire Mental Health Services – www.derbyshirementalhealthservices.nhs.uk

Time to Change – www.time-to-change.org.uk/employment

The Glastonbury Thorn



Royal Mail Commemorated the Glastonbury Thorn on its 1986 Christmas stamps.

The Glastonbury thorn is a form of common hawthorn, found in and round Glastonbury, Somerset. Unlike ordinary hawthorn trees, it flowers twice a year the first time in winter and the second time in spring.

The trees in the Glastonbury area have been propagated by grafting since ancient times. The tree is also widely called the holy thorn, though this term strictly speaking refers to the original tree.

The Glastonbury Thorn is associated with legends about Joseph of Arimathea and the arrival of Christianity in Britain. According to legend, Joseph of Arimathea visited Glastonbury with the Holy Grail and thrust his staff into Wearyall Hill, which then grew into the original thorn tree.

The original tree has been propagated several times, with one tree growing at Glastonbury Abbey and another in the churchyard of the Church of St John.



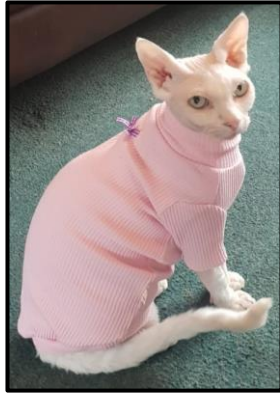
***Dull November brings the blast,
Then the leaves are whirling fast.***

***Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.***

The Months, Sara Coleridge

The Twelve Pets of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas Murphy said to me not the Santa hat again.



On the 2nd day of Christmas Dingy said to me does my bum look big in this?



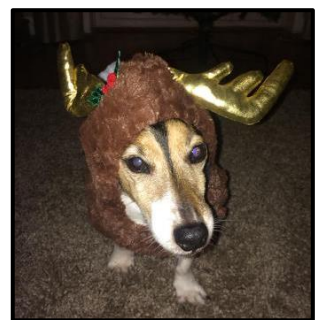
On the 3rd day of Christmas Poussain said to me what do you expect me to do with that lot?



On the 4th day of Christmas Betsy said to me go away.



On the 5th day of Christmas Bob said to me you're not brave enough to try and put a Santa hat on me.



On the 6th day of Christmas Monty said to me What's this supposed to be?



On the 7th day of Christmas Tabitha said to me you can't fool me, I know the birds aren't real.



On the 8th day of Christmas Bella said to me I've had a shampoo and set but I'm still going to roll in fox poo.



On the 9th day of Christmas Matu said to me first chance I get I'm ditching the jumper

On the 10th day of Christmas Mabel said to me so I'm eating loo roll, what's it got to do with you?

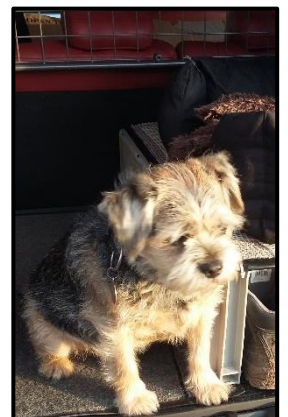


On the 11th day of Christmas Mia said to me I don't like these antlers.



And finally, on the 12th day Bob said to me

Is it safe to come out now?



Christmas Wordsearch



There are 40 Christmas related words and phrases to find in the puzzle.
Happy hunting!

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

Advent
Angel
Baby Jesus
Bethlehem
Carols
Christingle
Christmas Eve
Christmas Tree

Decorations
Figgy pudding
Fir cones
Frankincense
Gold
Good King Wenceslas
Holly
Hope

In the Bleak Mid Winter
Ivy
Joseph
Joy
Manger
Mary
Mince pies
Mistletoe

Mulled wine
Myrrh
Nativity
Noel
Reindeer
Robin
Saint Nicholas
Shepherds

Silentnight
Sleigh bells
Stable
Stocking
Three Wise Men
Tinsel
Wreath
Yulelog

A Parishioners Tale Christmas 2020



Well the year 2020, what can one say,
Will this coronavirus, ever go away,
What about Christmas, you may well ask,
We know full well, we'll be wearing a mask.

Wise Men and Kings alike, camel mounties they stop,
Sorry lads, you can't go to the shop,
We're going to Bethlehem, following that star,
Apologies again, but we've closed the bar.

Christ has been born, Him we are going to meet,
Can we go to the inn, if we have something to eat,
The hotels are closed, there's nowhere to stay,
But he's outside in a stable, laying on hay.

Mary and Joseph are waiting, taking it in shifts,
We've come many a mile, each bearing gifts,
There are angel as well, making sure he is safe,
Wrapped in swaddling clothes, so the hay doesn't chafe.

The animals looking on, keeping an eye on the bed,
Their stomach's a rumbling, waiting to be fed,
But soon they must move, King Herod's on the way,
Every male child, he is wanting to slay.

Why all this fuss, over one little lad,
Well we know the reason, God is his dad,
His life and His death, made us all what we are,
True Christian's of faith, spread so near and far.

Over 2000 years, we have worshipped His name,
And because of the virus, nothing will ever be the same,
But whatever may happen, we still keep our faith,
So God Bless you all, and make sure you stay safe.

Amen

Mick Bust, Bolsover Parish Church

And finally.....

Merry Christmas and safe, well and happy New Year.

