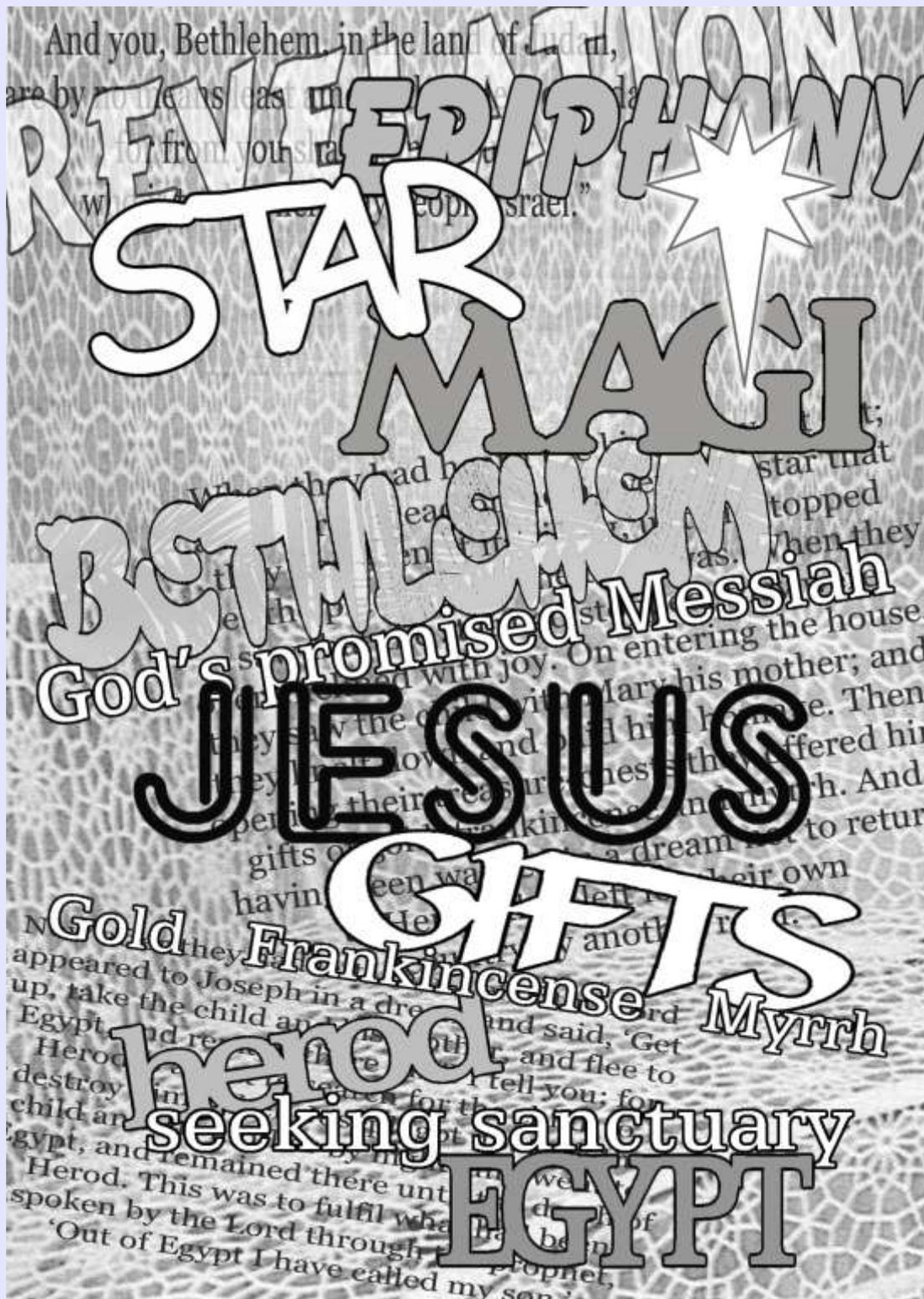


# All Saints' Croxley Green

Parish Magazine

January 2023





# All Saints' Croxley Green

## Sunday Worship in Church

**8am Holy Communion BCP**  
(First Sunday of the Month)

**9.45am Parish Communion**

**11.30am Family Service**  
(Third Sunday of the Month)

## Weekdays

**Morning Prayers 8am in Church**  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion

**The Church is Open Daily** for private prayer and meditation.

**The Parish Office** is open for enquiries from 9am to 12 noon, Tuesday to Friday. Answerphone available outside these hours. Tel: 772109

**Parish Administrator:** Judith Man

**Website:** [www.croxleygreenallsaints.org](http://www.croxleygreenallsaints.org)

**Email:** [office@croxleygreenallsaints.org](mailto:office@croxleygreenallsaints.org)

**Magazine**  
[magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org](mailto:magazine@croxleygreenallsaints.org)

## Vicar:

Revd. Canon Miriam Mugan  
The Vicarage WD3 3HJ Tel: 772109

## Honorary Priests:

Revd. Dr Anne Shaw Tel: 827663

## Assistant Curate:

Revd. Paul Palmer Tel: 07740871289

## Churchwardens

Lyndon Palmer Tel: 720856  
Anne Oke Tel: 220782

## Assistant Churchwardens:

Nik Bennett Tel: 773623  
Ann Palmer Tel: 720856

## Sacristan:

Chris Oke Tel: 220782  
Assistants: Mary Bittles Tel: 771275  
Chris Fagan Tel: 720319

## Parochial Church Council:

**Secretary:** Chris Fagan Tel: 720319

**Treasurer:** Andrew Nobbs  
Tel: 770039

**Hall hire email:**  
[hall@croxleygreenallsaints.org](mailto:hall@croxleygreenallsaints.org)

**January 2023**



**Revd. Canon Miriam writes:**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! How quickly another year has rolled by. The New Year often heralds a sense of a ‘new beginning’, an opportunity to set ourselves goals or promises or make resolutions about how we want to change our lives/be better people. So often we start out with such good intentions only to slip back into old habits as the weeks go by. For Christians we get the chance to re-challenge ourselves in a few weeks time when Lent arrives and we once again set ourselves challenges for our Lenten journey. Perhaps we should forget about setting ourselves challenges that are so difficult to maintain or achieve and instead just allow ourselves to be who we are, recognising our uniqueness and the gifts that God has given us. Perhaps if we stop striving to be someone else by always striving for something else, we might bear greater fruits as the person that we are. The author of Psalm 139 writes about how amazing God’s creation of human beings is and he sums it all up in the phrase ‘for I am fearfully and wonderfully made’. Perhaps this could be your mantra as you seek to ‘just be’ and reflect on the person God has created and called you to be.

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in the Christmas services and activities and those who decorated our Church so beautifully, led the singing, cleared numerous chairs (and collected much rubbish!) after each school carol service. It was wonderful to be able to have all of our services without the restrictions that we have had imposed on us in recent years due to Covid. People often comment as they come into our church about how open and welcoming it is and what a lovely friendly atmosphere. There is a real sense of God’s presence and peace in our church which really touches people and, by allowing God to work in and through you, it is manifest in the warmth of welcome and acceptance people receive from you. So thank you for being who you are.

The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starts on the 19th January and, as is our tradition, we will join our sisters and brothers in Christ from the other Churches in Croxley Green for a joint service on Sunday 22nd January at St Bede's Church at 3pm. Do please come along and join us if you are able to.

Also, on 22nd January we will be reflecting on the importance of Safeguarding within our Church. Safeguarding is not just the responsibility of the clergy, Churchwardens and the PCC, we are all responsible for ensuring people's safety and wellbeing and knowing what to do if someone shares something with us that concerns us.

As we go into the New Year, may you know that God journeys with you and may the wise words of the diplomat and theologian Dag Hammarskjold: 'For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, 'yes' be your prayer.'

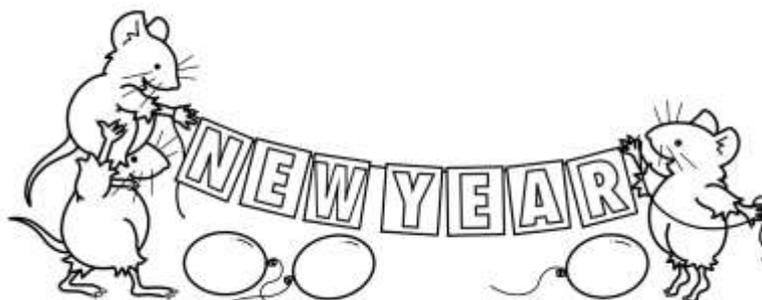
With my love and prayers for a peaceful New Year

*Miriam x*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dates for January 2023

19th January	Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starts
22nd January	Joint Service with Churches in Croxley 3pm at St Bede's Church Baldwins Lane





## All Saints' Archives

During 2023, we plan to reprint an event which has been recorded in a past magazine and which we hope will be of interest. The articles will be titled 'From Our Archives'.

Parish Magazines are kept and bound and then stored in our archive room, a small room in our Parish Hall. It is not quite a complete record of 150 years of All Saints' as there are several missing volumes but nevertheless we are fortunate to have a sizeable sporadic record of Church activities over the years.

Many of us involved with the recent publication of 'Act of Faith' consulted them for information, for example, about past vicars, the two Church Schools, All Saints' in the two world wars etc.

As well as past magazines being held in our archives, there are also the two Church School log books, records of some of the work of the Buildings Committee and many photographs.

The role of archivist has never been a formal one at All Saints'. Norman Spring acted as an archivist and, later, so did Diane Galloway, who took the important step of moving the most important papers to HALS (Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies Library) which is in Hertford.

In recent years, John Galloway has acted informally as our archivist greatly helped by Jude, our Parish Secretary and for a while by her son, Alex.

John has also acted as a sort of liaison officer with HALS and other archives that contain papers relating to All Saints', for example those at Lambeth Palace, with local historians and on occasion with C of E historians.

*Shelagh Booth (with thanks to John Galloway)*

## Reflections on Curacy



As I write we are approaching Christmas and I am exactly half way through my curacy with you all at All Saints' Croxley Green. I wanted to share a few thoughts on my time so far and to thank you for the love, friendship and generosity that you've shown me, especially in some difficult times.

As I am a self-supporting Minister, or SSM, in early 2021 I started talking with the Diocese about where I might be deployed for my curacy (their phrase, not mine!) My first question was where would I be placed? I was told, "Well, that's up to you, where would you like to go?" I wasn't expecting that! I made a list of all the churches that are within a 20-minute drive and started a shortlist. I won't comment on which churches were on that list, but I will tell you that All Saints' was at the top! I didn't send the list in but waited for the Diocese to tell me where they thought I might be placed. When Bishop Michael called me to tell me that he felt that All Saints' would be a good fit, I can't tell you how happy I was! I felt then, and still feel today, that I am called to minister alongside you. The welcome that my family and I received from you at my first service was wonderful. Pimms and puddings is definitely a great way to start!

When I came to you in June 2021 you may know that I was on furlough from my then job and that I was subsequently made redundant at the end of September 2021. While this was expected, the support that I received at church was amazing and when I was taken ill in December, running through to February of this year the same support, love and encouragement was one of the things that really kept me going, and continues to do so.

It has been wonderful to work my way back into ministry after the time that I was isolating, and although I am still on medication, and always will be, I know that your support is always there.

What has been a real joy has been to see the Holy Spirit working in our church building and through our work in the community that is Croxley Green. Miriam and I meet regularly and we often end up with big smiles on our faces as we talk about what is happening at All Saints'; from the Friday Café to Quiet Church, we've twice welcomed some of our young people to take their first communion; there have been baptisms, a beer festival and our Christingle service. And this is all in addition to our spirit-led worship and Communion on Sundays!

Of course, a high point of the last 19 months was my Priesting in July of this year. It was so wonderful to have my All Saints' family in the congregation; I could almost feel the wave of prayer! Celebrating at my first service of Holy Communion that evening was also brilliant and I was so blessed to have so many of you there alongside friends and family as well as Lucy Dallas, my former tutor, who preached.

When I met with Miriam a few weeks ago I told her how lucky I felt to have been placed at All Saints' for my curacy. I've learnt so much, experienced so much and have found different ways of doing church that makes what we do at All Saints' so accessible and welcoming to all. I know that there are still more experiences to be had and learning to take on. And I know that I will mess up, on occasion, but I am reassured by knowing that my All Saints' family are there for me, always.

Thank you for your welcome, support, love, friendship, fellowship and prayers. I am really looking forward to the next 18 months and whatever God has for me after that!

*Revd. Paul*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Miscellaneous observations on life...** *Parish Pump*

Sign on door of music shop: Gone Chopin, have Liszt, Bach in a Minuet. – *Anon*

Feel a failure because you don't get everything on your list done each week? Don't worry – the only person who ever got everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe! – *Anon*

# **Notes for PCC Meeting 5th December 2022**

## **2022 Warm Spaces in Croxley Green**

The PCC decided that the Friday Cafes should be published in the directory of Warm Spaces in Croxley Green, alongside other churches and other premises, but not to apply for a Warm Spaces grant at the present time without further investigation of the requirements for receipt of a grant.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC resolved to adopt two policies for signature by Miriam as Vicar:

- i) A policy for responding to cases of domestic abuse when we were made aware of them;
- ii) A policy for safer recruitment to parish posts, including recruitment of ex-offenders. This policy was one which the Church of England required all parishes to adopt.

## **Finance Report for 2022 and Budget for 2023**

Andrew Nobbs, the Treasurer, reported a full-year forecast for 2022 of a surplus of income over expenditure of £8,101. This estimated outcome would be £19,966 better than the budget originally set for the year and was highly satisfactory. A final figure would depend on income to be received during November and December.

Andrew presented a budget for 2023 which projected a deficit of £11,864. Andrew advised that the 2022 surplus should be retained within the financial reserves to help meet this loss if it occurred. The deficit might be increased by a loss of income from Hall bookings if the Hall was refurbished during 2023. The PCC resolved to accept the 2022 projected outturn and to adopt the budget for 2023 as set out by the Treasurer.

## **Trustees Report to the Charity Commission for 2021**

Chris Fagan the Secretary presented a report for 2021 which covered the services, morning prayers, study courses and outreach activities and sought to demonstrate how the parish offered a public benefit to the local community and thereby fulfilled its duty as a religious charity to promote within Croxley the whole mission of the Church of England. The information in the report was drawn from the Annual Report previously adopted by the PCC and reported to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April. The report was accepted by the PCC for submission to the Charity Commission.

## **Buildings Matters**

### **New Security Camera**

A new camera covering the sacristy had been installed

### **Roof Repairs**

A list of necessary repairs had been prepared. Some work would be done under guarantee but some would require the parish to hire and pay for a cherry picker, which the PCC had previously approved.

### **Reinstatement of Tarmac on the Drive**

It appeared that a full reinstatement would be more expensive than originally envisaged. Further information on costings will be sought.

### **Christingle Service, 11 December**

There was a need to flag up that the proceeds of fundraising at the service will go to the Church of England Children's Society.

### **Future Meetings – Dates and Times**

The PCC had previously agreed that, to avoid having to heat the Church during winter months, meetings of the PCC and some other Church bodies should be held in the Committee Room. The PCC had agreed to meet on Mondays starting at 8pm in view of another booking on Monday evenings. The PCC agreed to switch its meeting night to Wednesdays, starting at 7.30pm.

### **Parish Magazine – Printed Copies**

The question whether a charge should be made for printed copies posted to parishioners was raised. It was noted that the magazine was an important link with parishioners who were not able to attend Church frequently, that the magazine was available free of charge on the website and printed copies were freely available in the church and at events such as the Friday Cafés and that recipients of printed copies did pay for postage. It was therefore agreed that no charge other than postage should be made for printed copies posted to parishioners.

### **Request for a Pony to appear in The Croxley Mummers Performance in the Church Hall**

Miriam had received a request for a small pony to appear in the Mummers' performance on Sunday 18 December. The animal would be under the control of its owner. The PCC resolved to make no objection to the pony appearing in the performance.

*Chris Fagan PCC Secretary*

## January Prayer Diary

<b>Date</b>	<b>In our Church Family</b>
1st	Liz Gowshall
2nd	Sarah, Ben, Abbie and Joshua Guest
3rd	Richard and Patricia Hall
4th	Anne Harris
5th	Clare Hearnshaw
6th	Gretel and Ron Hibbert
7th	Francis Hilsden
8th	Matthew, Sarah, Emily and William Hilton-Dennis
9th	Sheila Hiscock
10th	Phil and Linda Hobbs
11th	Val Hunt
12th	Karen, Paul, Amelie and Olivia Jarvis
13th	Carly, Paul, Lucas, Oliver and Finley Johnson
14th	Sam, Simon, Carys and Nerys Jones
15th	Valerie Kendle

16th	Margaret and Roger Kircher
17th	Anni and Tom Lowery
18th	Lorraine, Nigel and Isobel McCobb
19th	Jean McLaughlin
20th	Sue and Roger McKeague
21st	James McShane
22nd	Gill and Brian Main
23rd	Jude, Yin and Alex Man
24th	Jane, Ed, Joseph and Ben Manning
25th	Janet, Graham, Zoe and Samantha Martin
26th	Miriam and Rao Mugan
27th	Judith and David Muir
28th	Valerie and Michael Murray
29th	Faith Nazir
30th	Sheila Newman
31st	Andrew Nobbs





## **WOW**

### **Walk of Witness**

17th December 2022

Churches Together in Croxley organised a Christmas Walk of Witness similar to the one that is traditionally done on Good Friday but with carols and reflection at each station.



As you can see, the walk was well attended as people from Croxley walked from Watford Road Co-op to the Green via the station, the Library and the Methodist Church.

At the final stop, there was a carol sing-a-long, helped along by mulled wine and mince pies amidst the snow.



## Walk Of Witness

### WOW!

What a way to begin, as the last vestiges of the day's sunshine witness the beginning of our journey

Onward we go, stopping at the Met Station, the Library, the Methodist Church and onto The Green

Walking, chatting, singing carols, listening to the Christmas Story as the sky reveals its glory at dusk of blue, pink, grey and white

It was a crisp chilly evening as about 40 of us from all the churches in Croxley stood on The Green sipping a cup of very welcome warmed mulled wine, ate mince pies, made new friends and thought of the journey Mary and Joseph made so long ago and the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Fran Bennett*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Promise

*by Jackie Kay*

Remember, the time of year  
when the future appears  
like a blank sheet of paper  
a clean calendar, a new chance.

On thick white snow  
You vow fresh footprints  
then watch them go  
with the wind's hearty gust.  
Fill your glass. Here's tae us. Promises  
made to be broken, made to last.

*From A Poem For Every Day Of The Year*

# Christingle

## 11th December 2022

Church looked wonderful as it was transformed by the candles of the lit Christingles. The lights in the windows created a festive atmosphere as



the Church was filled with families who joined together to celebrate the Christingle service.

£186 was raised for The Children's Society.



# Croxley Mummers

The Croxley Mummers performed around Croxley on 18th December 2022, starting at All Saints' Church. They performed their traditional Mummers' play with a few topical additions.

The money they collect is donated to The Peace Hospice.



This year, a pony was the surprise addition to the cast, much to the delight of several youngsters in the audience.



Revd. Paul had not seen The Mummers before...you can probably tell by the confused look on his face.



## Crib Service 24th December 2022



An empty Church, ready for the Crib Service

The Church soon started to fill up and by 4.30pm it was like Bethlehem....no room!



The Crib Service this year was based on 'Amazing Days' written by Bob Hartman and printed by The Bible Society.

Several of the young people at Church narrated the story that highlighted the AMAZING and AWFUL aspects of the Christmas story.



Family time around the Crib

There was congregation participation: every time the words AMAZING and AWFUL appeared in the story, the congregation had to shout them out. Miriam and Paul helped with this by holding up the relevant signs.



The story was also told through the carols that we sang. It was lovely to hear so many voices joining together in Church.

At the end of the service, the atmosphere in the Church was so happy as Christmas wishes were shared.

Copies of ‘Amazing Days’ were handed to the children as they left for home so that the story could be shared again.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **1st January : The Naming of Jesus**

**Have you ever wondered where the name ‘Jesus’ comes from?**

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, ‘Yehosua’, or Joshua. There is also the Hebrew-Aramaic form, ‘Yesua’. In Greek, it became ‘Ἰησοῦς’ (*Iēsoûs*), and in Latin it became ‘Iesus’.

The meaning of the name is ‘Yahweh delivers’ or ‘Yahweh rescues’, or ‘Yahweh is salvation’. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke (1:26-33) told Mary to name her baby Jesus: “because He will save His people from their sins.”

*Parish Pump*

## Christmas Market Feedback

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone involved in the fair today. What a fantastic event. Loved the live music, the cakes and lunch were delicious and what a wonderful friendly atmosphere. I shared a table with a friend and I made a fantastic £75.00 for Cure Parkinson Trust.

*Janet Tublin*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Getting ready for Next Christmas!

The Children's Tombola was a great success at the Christmas Fair this year. The stall was empty by 2.30pm, needing to be replenished from sweets and the Sunday Church children's activity boxes in the office! We need to repeat this success next year without the stress of finding more stock so.....

Please be mindful after Christmas and throughout the year for any unwanted toys and bring them to the Church Office !  
Thank you!

*Jane Bates*



\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas Postbox



Thank you to everyone who used our postal service and to those who went out and delivered the post all around Croxley. We raised £124 for Crisis.

This was added to the proceeds from Friday Café on 11th December and a total of £205 has been sent to support Crisis.



## Thank You

A big THANK YOU to Margaret and Dick who came and tidied up the lavender bushes in preparation for the Christmas season. They often sneak up to Church to tend the

gardens. Nobody usually sees them doing the work but this time they were 'caught in the act'. We do appreciate their commitment to our garden and the results of their efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Lyndon and Ann Palmer on the arrival of their third grandchild just before Christmas. Elliott Quinn weighed a healthy 8lb 15oz.

\*\*\*\*\*

## An Early Christmas Surprise

A surprise visitor arrived with bags of gifts at Toddlers on 19th December 2022, much to the delight of the children who had enjoyed a morning of fun together.



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## **Smile Lines** *from Parish Pump*

### **Amen to all that**

When my young daughter said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). Then, for several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, she began to add: “And all girls.”

This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity finally got the best of me and one night I asked her what she meant by it. Her response was simple: “Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying ‘All Men’!”

### **Write, right?!**

The Director of Ordinands was giving some of his young clergy a preaching assignment. He finished it with the warning: “They say the pen is mightier than the sword. But if you miss the deadline for this sermon, you’d better bring the sword.”

### **Oops!**

A father had given his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. Next day, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. “Look Dad,” she said, “My pup runneth over!”



### **Afternoon Tea**

19th December 2022

A wonderful afternoon was spent chatting, eating and singing carols when the Christmas afternoon tea was held on 19th December.

Thank you very much to everyone who baked and prepared the food, to those who set everything up and to those who washed up and cleared everything away...and thank you to Fran Bennett for organising the event, it was very much enjoyed by all those who attended.



## **2nd January St Basil the Great champion of the Church**

Basil was most people's idea of the perfect diocesan bishop. He was a theologian of distinction, who as a monk devoted himself to much prayer and teaching. He leapt to the defence of the Church from the persecution of the Arian emperor Valens, but also appreciated great secular literature of the time, gave away his inheritance to the poor, knew how to run a soup kitchen, and counted thieves and prostitutes among his converts. Not your everyday bishop!

Basil (c330-79) came from a distinguished and pious family, and he had the best education available at Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens. He decided to become a monk with Gregory of Nazianzus, and settled as a hermit near Neo-Caesarea. He became Bishop of Caesarea in 370, with 50 suffragan bishops to look after. It was the time of the great Arian heresy, and Basil would come to be seen as one of the great champions of the Church, defending it from secular encroachments.

Basil loved his people and was known for his generosity and care for the poor, both through food and medical care. He was a great preacher – preaching both morning and evening to vast congregations, and organising services of psalms before daybreak.

He was interested in monastic legislation, and to this day, nearly all monks and nuns of the Greek Church follow his rule. His emphasis was on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual work, rather than on solitary asceticism. His rule allowed for almsgiving, hospitals and guesthouses. Basil also wrote some important works on the Holy Spirit.

He died at 49, worn out by austerities, hard work and disease. He was so loved that even strangers mourned his death, and in the centuries that followed, many artists painted pictures of him. His cult spread rapidly in the West, through Greek monks in Italy and through St Benedict admitting that his rule had been inspired by “our holy father Basil.”

*Parish Pump*

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# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis 12:1-9, 17:1-22, 18:1-15, 21:1-7

About 6000 years ago, God told Abram and his wife Sarai to leave their home and go to a new land that He would give them

This land will belong to your family, but not yet

and I am changing your names to Abraham and Sarah

You and Sarah will have a son, Isaac

But Sarai and I cannot have children

'Abraham' means 'Father of many'  
'Sarah' means 'Princess'

We are too old to have children. Ha ha ha!

It was noon, and everyone was resting from the heat...

He recognised the Lord

He ran to tell everyone

When Abraham saw three men coming to his tents.

Please stay and have something to eat.

Quick, we need a feast cooked for special guests

Sarah was in the tent, listening

By this time next year, you will have a son

Why did Sarah laugh?

I didn't laugh

At our age? Ha ha ha!

Yes, you did.

Soon afterwards...

Sarah and Abraham's baby boy was born

They called him 'Isaac' which means 'laughter'

I'm pregnant!

I'm so happy, I can't stop laughing

Ha ha ha! Ha ha ha!

## Word Search

n	o	o	n	d	i	c	a	r	a	z
h	l	a	u	g	h	x	b	a	b	y
z	d	b	f	a	t	h	e	r	r	m
l	o	r	d	a	r	c	j	g	a	p
i	s	a	a	c	m	h	n	b	h	r
s	o	m	e	t	h	i	n	g	a	i
q	f	e	a	s	t	l	e	m	n	
t	e	n	t	s	a	d	e	y	e	c
n	a	m	e	v	e	r	y	o	n	e
s	a	r	a	i	h	e	a	o	c	s
l	a	n	d	t	o	n	s	h	w	s

family

land

name

children

feast

old

Sarah

baby

father

everyone

tents

something

Lord

Abram

princess

laugh

resting

Sarai

three

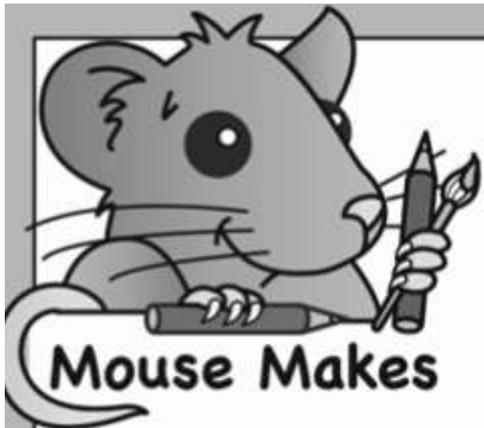
noon

Abraham

men

son

Isaac



## Mouse Makes



Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?

Read Luke 2:1-4

When Samuel came to Bethlehem who sent him? Who did he go to see? \_\_\_\_\_ and his sons.

Who had he come to anoint as king?

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13



Naomi and Ruth came to Bethlehem where had they travelled from?

\_\_\_\_\_ and why?

When did they arrive?

At the \_\_\_\_\_ harvest.

Read Ruth 1:22

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

## A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

When the Magi (wise men) came to Bethlehem where had they travelled from?

The \_\_\_\_\_

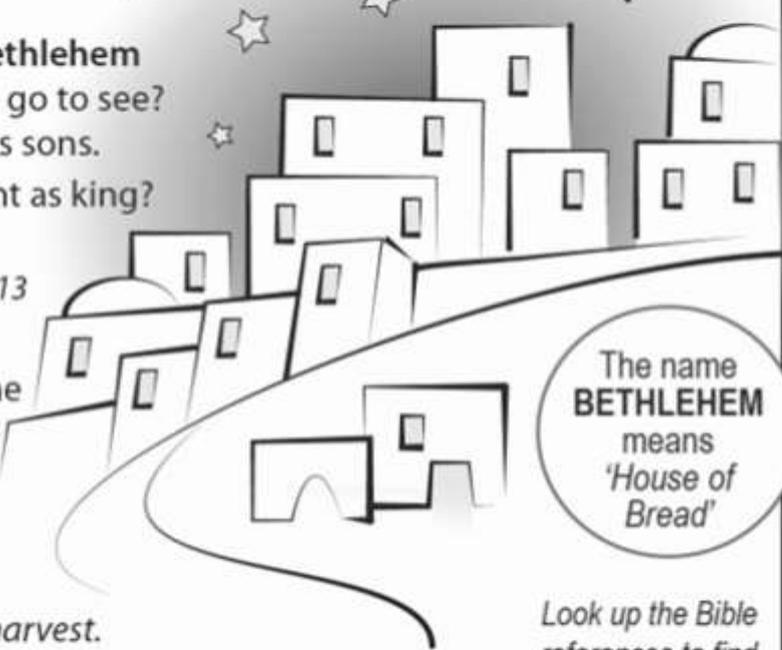
Why did they make the journey?

What did they follow to get there?

A \_\_\_\_\_

What did they see?

Read Matthew 2:1-12



The name **BETHLEHEM** means 'House of Bread'

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words, find them and these words below in the wordsearch

JOURNEY  
 BETHLEHEM • GOD  
 JOSEPH • MARY  
 JESUS • BORN  
 MAGI • MESSIAH  
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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*The Magazine Team  
would like to wish you all  
a happy, healthy and peaceful  
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Unless otherwise stated, pictures are taken from Parish Pump or else they are produced by members of the magazine team.

*We encourage articles from a wide range of contributors and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors.*



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