

Trinity Times

The Parish of Holy Trinity Church , Barkingside

**£12 subscription
£1 donation.**



Who We Are

Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside, IG6 2BX

We are a lively, Family friendly Church
with a Heart for the Common Good, and want to make Jesus
Christ known in Barkingside

Our Services

Sunday 10:30am & Wednesday 9:45am

The Church is open for Private Prayer, and as a Welcoming Space Monday,
Wednesday and Friday 10am - 12noon, and you are Welcome to Join us at our
Tuesday Drop-In 9am to 1pm in the Parish Hall

'Drop In'
Every Tuesday
9am—1pm
Parish Hall

Tea, Coffee, Snacks
Games and Crafts
Good Company
Friendships

Dear Family,

Wishing you all a peaceful and life-giving Christmas and New Year!

In the midst of so much darkness around us, and pain and challenges we all face, it has been really wonderful to see God doing life-giving things in our church. **God is good, and Kate and I are so grateful for the goodness and blessings we see right in our midst.** And we thank you for your role in this: For your open heart and servant-hearted attitude.

As we journey through Advent, we are getting ready, and ask, reflect, and re-decide. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ and newness among us, we hope that God will act in us, through us, and around us.

This year's theme in the Church of England is "**Follow the Star: Join the Song**", highlighting how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other on this journey (on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we will give out the 12 Days of Reflections for Christmas and the New Year). So let's follow the Star and sing together – and let's see what happens.

At our Carol Service I started my reflection with with these questions: **I wonder what it is that you desire, hope and dream?** – May I ask you something personal? **Are you tired, anxious, and aware of the pain around us?** Are you horrified about the dreadful war in the Holy Land and the Ukraine? Are you in pain about the cost of living-crisis here? **And what about more personal things going on inside you?** I lost my mother earlier this year and there are times I really miss her. We have three daughters and one son – and if I am honest, there is so much gender-based violence, that I am often very anxious that something happens to my darlings. So **I wonder what it is that YOU desire, hope and dream?!**

If someone would have asked ME 10 years ago, to "follow the stars", or believe that impossible things can happen, I would have laughed! I was a successful University Professor and I thought I had all the answer to things, and that I was the top man! Then, at some point, the pain and the tiredness became so much, that I had to admit that I didn't have all the answers.

And as I started to let go of my big ego, my desires, hopes and dreams changed: It's not anymore about writing books with my name on; being admired; or knowing the answer to things. **It's about wanting to become more wholesome; it's about loving others more; it's about asking for forgiveness.**

Something remarkable happens at the end of every year: We come together and sing about the impossible birth of a baby to a very old woman, and a pregnancy brought about by the Holy Spirit. And in the midst of it angels appear! Once a year we seem to open ourselves up to these mysterious things. And when I recently stayed in my home village in Germany for a few days, I bought a wonderful handcrafted wooden angel at a Christmas market.

And yes: I still experience frustration, disappointment, impatience and despair at times – but meanwhile I know where to turn to. I realise that nothing out there has any permanent answers or solutions to any of the fundamental issues we face. It's all pretense! **Real newness, real change, and real healing comes only from one source: Only God who can make the impossible possible.**

How do I know? Because I have experienced God acting in me and others more than I ever imagined. God has changed me and others fundamentally. Angels have definitely come into our lives in beautiful ways.

So I dare to wait, to pay attention, to listen and see – just for one thing: For the presence of God. What a wonderful gift! And I want to receive this one Gift that truly matters, and that can break into

our tired patterns of pain and fear: **The divine and life-giving energy of God that is floating around us and through each one of us.** So I wonder: **What it is that YOU desire, hope and dream?!**

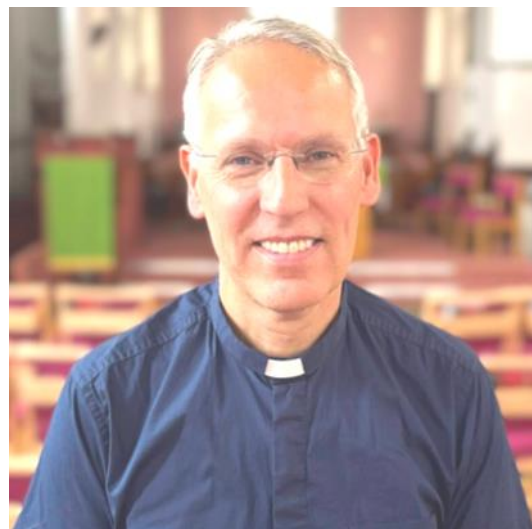
Finally, and as always: **Thanks so much for who you are, and for all you do. Wishing you a wonderful season of Advent, a joyful Christmas and then a peaceful time over the New Year break.**

For now, we are looking forward to seeing you at our celebrations and church services! And we are excited about starting our **Alpha Course** on Wednesday 17 January at Marino's Café. Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. **Please consider doing Alpha, and discern who you might bring along as a guest – ideally someone who knows little about the Christian faith.** We will have sign-up forms in church - alternatively feel encouraged to contact me in person.

God is good, and he is calling us to do exciting things in 2024!

All my blessings,

Fr Chris



Christmas all wrapped up!

Norma Murrain.

"And this will be a sign to you, you will find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:2

Do you ever dread wrapping all those Christmas presents? The large roll of fragile paper that slides around on the table, the lumpy gifts that defy wrapping, the tape that sticks to your fingers... what is so important about wrapping presents, anyway? Why not just hand them over?

Well did you ever consider that the very first Christmas present EVER was wrapped up – in swaddling clothes? In biblical times, after a birth, the umbilical cord would be cut, the baby would be washed, rubbed with salt and oil, and then carefully wrapped in swaddling clothes. The swaddling is described as a cloth or blanket, tied together like bandages. This process was carried

out with great love and care and was thought to have health-giving benefits.

On the other hand, to ignore the swaddling process was seen as abandonment and rejection. "And as for thy nativity, on the day thou wast born, thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to soothe thee. Thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. (Ezekiel 16:4 KJ21)

So why wrap your presents? Because just as the baby Jesus was swaddled as a sign of great love and care, wrapping our gifts is a sign of our own effort, love, and care towards those whom we love.

So be patient with the wrapping paper, and Happy Christmas!

This is adapted from an article by Norma Murrain of www.silverfishjewellery.co.uk

A heart for helping the people of the Middle East

There are numerous communities in the Middle East which, for one reason or another, find themselves excluded from the mainstream. They are the focus of the charity 'Embrace the Middle East', which supports more than 50 health, education and community projects through their partners on the ground.

Embrace the Middle East explains: "We enable and partner with the Middle East's Christians as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised communities. Where there is a need – for refuge, a home, for health care, for education, for justice and human rights – we, with our partners, respond."

Embrace works with various groups in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. If you would like to support people in need who live in the lands of the Bible, please visit: <https://embraceme.org>

Preparations: *By Lester Amann*

Christmas is a time for making plans. Presents to buy, cards to send, decorations to put up, food to order, travel arrangements to make... the list goes on and on. But whether our plans are ambitious or simple this Christmas, we still dread anything going wrong.

Yet plans seemed to fall apart that first Christmas. Mary and Joseph had planned to marry and set up home together in Galilee. Then Mary had become unexpectedly pregnant, and they were summoned to Bethlehem for the census. So instead of a comfortable Galilean home amongst family, they were suddenly parents, all alone in a place fit for animals!

The shepherds had expected another routine night on the hills of Bethlehem. But the angel's message and a heavenly choir changed everything, and they went to search for the Christ-child instead. Their change of plans brought them great joy!

The Eastern men had expected to find the 'King of the Jews' in a royal palace. But the star bypassed Jerusalem and took them to Bethlehem. Then their plans changed again, when they were warned in a dream to avoid Herod, and slip home another way.

The Holy Couple then had another upset of plans: Joseph was warned in a dream NOT to go home to Galilee, but to flee for safety in Egypt instead.

At first sight, all these changes display a chaotic mix of circumstances. But behind it all, God was working out His divine purposes. When Jesus was born, all the Old Testament prophecies of His coming were fulfilled. Nothing happened by chance. Into a messy world God brought to us His Son, to be our Saviour.

We worship a great and loving God who not only planned that first Christmas but is also preparing for our stay in His eternal home.

The plans God makes are wise, and they always succeed! (Isaiah 28:29)



Thoughts from your President, Maxine Paul

I do hope those of you who came enjoyed the service and AGM at the Cathedral last month. How lovely it was to see so many of you there and to come together to worship, to share what has been happening during the year and to look to the future. It was also such a privilege to have Bishop Lynne with us and to hear about how hard her experience was as a single mum in church. It was so inspirational that she was able to hold on in faith that "all will be well with God" to bring her to where she is today.

We are in the middle of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence and it is shame there is no formal prayer diary for the 16 days from Mary Sumner House, but I do hope that you have been able to use the prayers we have sent out via your branch leaders or join in on Facebook or WhatsApp. Do try to wear a purple domestic abuse awareness ribbon during this time. You may have been able to set up a "red chair" display at church – I was given the opportunity by my minister to speak about RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse as part of our Safeguarding Sunday service. I was also permitted to put a red chair in the room during Diocesan Synod on The Global Day of Action. Don't forget to ask if you can put your RISE UP posters in church or make peace doves to raise awareness of domestic abuse 365 days of the year as well during the 16 Days of Activism and even see if you can get your church to pledge its support too.



Advent is here as well. I know you will take some time to reflect, in between the carol services, mince pie-making, present-buying, as to why God had to send Jesus to us and that the wonder of Christmas is merely the beginning of the greatest of love stories that never ends.



Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. Amen

May all the joys and blessings of the Season be yours and the peace and love of God go with you in 2024.

Love and blessings. Maxine x

AGM, Council and annual thanksgiving service

It was great to see so many members at our Annual General Meeting and Thanksgiving service on 13th November. Bishop Lynne Cullens gave a thought-provoking talk and President Maxine provided feedback on the Annual Gathering and the new RISE UP against domestic abuse campaign. You can view the impact video from the Annual Gathering which was shown at Council here [Annual Gathering 2023 | Mothers' Union \(mothersunion.org\)](#)

All branch contacts should by now have received a branch pack containing your annual returns paperwork alongside a set of Roundabouts for your branch members. Please let Secretary Kathryn know if you haven't yet received yours. If you have any queries about the annual returns or need any help with your annual returns paperwork then please contact secretary@muchelmsford.org.uk or treasurer@muchelmsford.org.uk.

With God nothing is impossible: Transformation – Now!

Protect our birds

This Christmas why not give the birds in your garden a Christmas present by joining the RSPB? More and more of our wild birds are disappearing, making the RSPB's work vital, to make sure that the birds we have grown up with and love remain a familiar sight for our children and future generations. More than 200 different kinds of wild bird live within our shores – why not help the RSPB to help them? Visit: www.rspb.org.uk

Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre.

He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Presents

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks. But the argument always ends in a tie.

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!" "What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be when the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter. - *Anon.*

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. - *E K Kruger*

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. - *Alfred Hitchcock.*

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. - *Jonathan Swift.*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men! - *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost. - *Corrie ten Boom*

We must not have Christ Jesus, the Lord of Life, put any more in the stable amongst the horses and asses, but He must now have the best chamber. - *George Fox*

The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable. - *R Sockman*

Christmas in my heart

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and, thanks to credit cards, it's also on my Visa card statement twelve months a year.

Turkey

He ate so much over the holidays that he decided to quit cold turkey.

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? The outside.

Sums up Christmas

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: 'Peace on Earth'; 'Goodwill to Men'; and 'Batteries not included'.

Red

What's red and white, red and white, and red and white? Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

Stronger

Statistics prove we're all getting stronger. Fifty years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty-five years ago, it took two people to carry £30 worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.

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4th December:

Osmond, an immigrant before Brexit

Osmond is the saint for you if you regret Brexit, and believe that immigrants can bring good to Britain. Osmond came to England from France back in the days before EU regulations. It was shortly after 1066, and he was a Norman, following William the Conqueror.

Osmond himself was no soldier, but a gifted and godly man, with a great gift of administration. He became royal chaplain, and then chancellor in 1072, producing numerous royal letters and charters for the king. In 1078 he was made bishop of Salisbury. As such, he completed and consecrated the cathedral, and formed such an outstanding chapter and constitution that it later became a model for other English cathedrals.

Osmond took part in the preparation of the Domesday Book and was present when it was presented to William in April 1086. He died in 1099, well respected for his purity and learning, and his lack of avarice and ambition.

6th December: St Nicholas, patron saint of children

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children and was given 6th December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution.

According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Over the centuries many people 'on the fringe', including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron.

Perhaps it was on account of St. Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6th December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after a time his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the windowsill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krishkinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.



The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents.

What's in a (Christmas) Name?

What do your family call him, that cheerful old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he's Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he's Saint Nicholas. That's his real name, abbreviated to 'Santa Claus' by Brits and Americans who don't like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into a more homely, cuddly kind of name for the children. Whatever he's called, his function is the same – delivering presents to children at Christmas.

The first St Nicholas was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears may be a vague representation of a bishop's garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on 6th December, and the lucky children in Belgium and the Netherlands get their presents then.

21st December: Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green..." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: "Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene."

POSADA

Just to let you know the Posada will begin its' journey around the High Street on 1st December. The Nativity Set will go from shop to shop, and to local Churches.

There will be **Carol Singing on the 19th in the Chequers at 4pm**, and the **Fairlop Oak at 4.45pm** before it continues on its way.
All are welcome.



Matthew 1:18 Joseph's dilemma

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit...."

It is not clear at what point Mary told Joseph the news of her pregnancy, but when she did it came as a bombshell. What should he do, knowing the child was not his? Could her story be true? He was however a righteous man, and he sought God for direction rather than acting impulsively. God spoke to him through a dream, confirming that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and this gave him the courage to stand by her, and take her as his wife. It was a brave decision, but he now knew that the child would be the One to save people from their sins.

It is easy when we have difficult decisions to make to be impetuous or hasty, but the best decisions are made slowly and with prayer. When you are making important choices ask God to guide you clearly, and to give you the courage to do what is right.

Matthew 1:22 Long-awaited Immanuel

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')... And Joseph gave Him the name Jesus.

The plan of salvation is intimately connected to the Old Testament, and was the fulfilment of prophecies made long ago. God was sending His Son into the world that we might be saved. God is with us – this astonishing, mind-blowing truth underpinned Joseph's straight-forward trust in Him. Today as you get on with your life, pray that the wonder of knowing that God is with you will never be far from your awareness.

Luke 2:1-7 Bethlehem

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... so Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

This is perhaps the most familiar picture we have of the Christmas event—but remember what was happening. This was no ordinary child. In Jesus God became a human being and dwelt among us, perhaps the greatest miracle (and mystery) of all. As you visualise the scene again, let worship arise in your heart: *'From heaven you came, helpless Babe, entered our world your glory veiled.'* Emmanuel, God with us! The Servant King, worthy of all our adoration and love.

LORD God, in this season please help me to live in the wonder of your upside-down Kingdom where your love for us compels you to become helpless, vulnerable and dependent. May your Kingdom come in and through my life today.

Luke 2:8-12 The Shepherds arrive

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

The first visitors are not VIPs but humble shepherds who have been summoned by an angelic visitor. For those who have eyes to see, there hidden in the manger beneath the blankets is the Son of God, the one sent by the Father to be the Saviour of the world. Very few of those crowded into Bethlehem that night were aware of what was happening. Only those with faith could recognise the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. It is the same today.

Lord, I pray for eyes to see where the glory of Heaven touches earth. May I be alive today with the

truth that the Saviour, rescuer, King Jesus has been born 'to us' and that there is joy in this for all people. May my life reflect that glory even in a small way in my interactions with people, so that in this Christmas season the good news of great joy will be known.

Luke 2:13-15 Angel hosts

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

The darkness of the Judean hillside was lit up by the appearance of a great angelic choir, messengers sent to herald the birth of the Saviour. Their song breaks the stillness of the night, first in praise of God for his act of mercy in sending the Son, and then in proclamation of the peace the child will bring to earth. The shepherds now decide to do the unthinkable -leave their flocks, and head off into town to see the new born King. Such is the drawing power of the Saviour.

Sometimes there are things we too must leave behind if we are to follow his call, but whatever sacrifice is needed, it will be worth it just to find him for ourselves.

Luke 2:16-20 Mary ponders

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ... Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...

The shepherds became the first evangelists, proclaiming the good news... That was their response, and it should be ours too. But for Mary there followed a time of reflection. Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are in fact good companions in the spiritual life.

Thank you, LORD Jesus, that you are still found when we search for you. May I be willing to share the discovery I've made with others at this time. But I also want to know you better in my inner life, too. Please give me that balance of active following and heart-pondering reflection, especially in this Christmas season.

26th December: St Stephen – the first martyr

Have you ever stopped to consider that the very first martyr of the Christian Church was a deacon? (But no, he wasn't worked to death by his church.) It was Stephen, one of the first seven deacons of the Christian Church. He'd been appointed by the apostles to look after the distribution of alms to the faithful poor, and to help in the ministry of preaching.

Acts 6 and 7 tells us all that we know of his life, and the passages seem to suggest that he was an educated Hellenistic Jew. Certainly, Stephen's famous challenge to the Jews reveals him to have been learned in the Scriptures and the history of Judaism, besides being eloquent and forceful.

Stephen's proclamation on the day of his martyrdom pulled no punches. He told the Jews that God did not depend on the Temple. The Temple was but a temporary institution destined to be fulfilled and superseded by Christ, who was the prophet foreseen by Moses as the Messiah for whom the Jewish race had so long awaited.

Stephen then challenged his hearers for resisting the Spirit and for killing the Christ, as their fathers before them had killed the prophets. The Jews were so outraged by this that they stoned Stephen on the spot for blasphemy.

As he died, (c 35 AD) Stephen saw a vision of Christ on God's right hand. The men who were witness to the stoning placed their clothes at the feet of Saul (afterwards Paul), who (to his deep regret later) consented to Stephen's death.

By the fourth century Stephen had his own feast day in both East and West Churches. When his supposed tomb was discovered in 415, his popularity soared. His (supposed) relics were taken to Constantinople and then Rome, along with some stones (allegedly) used at his martyrdom.

Early on the Church made Stephen the patron saint of deacons. In the late Middle Ages he was also invoked to help against headaches (?!).

In England, 46 ancient churches are dedicated to him, most of them built after the Norman Conquest. In art Stephen is usually given a book of the Gospels and a stone, and sometimes the palm of martyrdom.

Why King Charles never throws cake away

King Charles is on a mission to tackle food poverty and rising food waste.

It is said that he and the Queen eat daily slices from the same cake until it is finished, as part of a drive to curb their personal food waste.

As for the nation, the king has been increasingly concerned that in the UK, 12 million tons of food is thrown away each year - even though almost three quarters of it could still be eaten, according to experts. In contrast, an estimated 4.7million people are living in food poverty.

To combat this problem, King Charles has launched The Coronation Food Project, to coincide with this, his 75th year.

Up to eight new food hubs around the country will store food, prepare it, and package it, before redistributing it to organisations like food banks and community kitchens. The long-term goal is to circulate 200 million meals a year.

In the meantime, King Charles is careful not to throw his cake away. Is there one simple thing you could do in your own kitchen this Christmas, to curb your personal food waste?

The Heart of Christmas by Canon Paul Hardingham

We're at that time of year again! But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? At its heart, Christmas is all about a God who has showed up on earth. The Creator of the universe, whose hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby. 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' (John 1:14)

Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, innkeeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! Why do we do all this? It's to remind us that God deals with the mess of our world by sending His Son to die in our place. This makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Himself:

When the time came, He "did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start understanding the heart of the Christmas message. However, it's so much more than simply a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:

*If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;
If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;
If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;
But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.*



New £15 million fund to help churches with energy bills

The Church of England is to provide £15 million for dioceses to help churches struggling to pay their energy costs.

The Energy Costs Grant will be distributed to dioceses to enable them to help Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) cover the increased cost of heating and lighting church buildings this winter.

Dioceses will also be able to use some of their fund allocation to make additional targeted hardship payments for clergy and other employed ministers to cover household bills, in particular energy costs.

The new funding comes after £3 million was made available earlier this year by the Church of England for dioceses to distribute to clergy and lay ministers who are facing a particular hardship because of the cost-of-living crisis.

The Energy Costs Grant is accompanied by [information](#) aimed at helping churches to become more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

John Spence, Chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, said: "The Government has announced welcome support for non-domestic energy users including voluntary sector organisations such as PCCs.

"But, in spite of this, our churches still face the challenge of significant rises in their energy bills over this winter, and that is why we are announcing the Energy Costs Grant which will be in addition to Government support. We will keep the situation under close review throughout the winter."

The man who gave us safe milk and saved the silk industry *Tim Lenton*

Two hundred years ago, on 27th December 1822, the French biologist, microbiologist and chemist Louis Pasteur was born. One of the fathers of germ theory, he was best known for the pasteurisation process, which is named in his honour.

At school he was not an outstanding student, his favourite subject being art. But he eventually became a professor of chemistry first at the University of Strasbourg, where he met his wife Marie, and then, in 1854, at the University of Lille, where he was also dean of the science faculty.

A Roman Catholic by birth, he was said to have retained strong beliefs in God and eternity, – saying that studying nature led to his amazement at the works of the Creator. But he rarely attended church, saying that he prayed while working in the laboratory.

His achievements were many and varied, though after his death some doubt was cast on his methods and his failure sometimes to attribute the work of other scientists. He is best known for the now familiar process of pasteurising milk, removing harmful bacteria, but he also developed vaccinations for anthrax, TB and rabies. He also created, in 1865, a method of eliminating microbes that attacked silkworm eggs and was said to have helped save the silk industry as a result.

In 1868 he suffered a stroke and became partially paralysed, but he was able to continue his work. In 1885 he vaccinated a boy who had been bitten by a rabid dog: the success of this brought him fame and led to fundraising and the building of the Pasteur Institute in Paris in 1888. He died in 1895.

The story behind the hymn: Good King Wenceslas

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen... ever wonder who on earth he was? Here are three of the five verses...

*Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel
When the poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel...*

*Bring me flesh and bring me wine; bring me pine logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither.
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the rude winds' wild lament, and the bitter weather...*

*In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourself find blessing.*

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia.

For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the *rex Justus* – or 'righteous king' - that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king's footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol - it goes back to Finland in 1582.



25th December: The history of Christmas

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the third century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring equinox, 25th March, popularising the belief that He was born nine months later on 25th December. John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day in about 400.

In the early Middle Ages, Christians celebrated a series of midwinter holy days. Epiphany (which recalls the visit to the infant Jesus of the wise men bearing gifts) was the climax of 12 days of Christmas, beginning on 25th December. The Emperor Charlemagne chose 25th December for his coronation in 800, and the prominence of Christmas Day rose. In England, William the Conqueror also chose 25th December for his coronation in 1066, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting.

Cooking a boar was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas feasts, and singing carols accompanied it. Writers of the time lament the fact that the true significance of Christmas was being lost because of partying. They condemn the rise of 'misrule' – drunken dancing and promiscuity. The day was a public holiday, and traditions of bringing evergreen foliage into the house and the exchange of gifts (usually on Epiphany) date from this time.

In the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a rejection of many celebrations that were associated with Catholic Christianity. Christmas was one of them. After the execution of Charles I, England's Puritan rulers made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years. The restoration of Charles II ended the ban, but religious leaders continued to discourage excess, especially in Scotland. In Western Europe (but not worldwide) the day for exchanging gifts changed from Epiphany (6th January) to Christmas Day.

By the 1820s, the significance of Christmas was declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it. His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance. Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26th December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect 'boxes' of money or gifts from their customers.

In Europe Santa Claus is the figure associated with the bringing of gifts. Santa Claus is a shortening of the name of Saint Nicholas, who was a Christian bishop in the fourth century in present-day Turkey. He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor. By the Middle Ages his appearance, in red bishop's robes and a mitre, was adored in the Netherlands and familiar across Europe.

Father Christmas dates from 17th century England, where he was a secular figure of good cheer (more associated with drunkenness than gifts). The transformation of Santa Claus into today's Father Christmas started in New York in the 1880s, where his red robes and white beard became potent advertising symbols. In some countries (such as Latin America and Eastern Europe) the tradition attempts to combine the secular and religious elements by holding that Santa Claus makes children's presents and then gives them to the baby Jesus to distribute.



At Christmas time when I was small
We placed the figures in the stall
(Mary, Blessed Babe and All),
Made calendars for, kitchen walls,
And decked our tree with shiny balls.

On Christmas Eve beside the fire,
We gathered round the wicker chair
To hear our mother's mother read
Of sugar-plums that danced in air,
Of moonlight on new fallen snow
And this we knew – as children know –
Was evidence of love below.
The great high arc of heaven's dome,
Of Christmasses secured by home.

The cold – a stabbing, piercing knife.
The stars – small dazzling flecks of light
Our breath rose up up in columns white,
And Oh, the still of Christmas night !

I ask myself – what did it mean
The stockings, tinsel, branches green,
The smell of oranges and pie,
The wreaths, the bells, the winter sky,
Where once a star shone for the Child,
Whose birth we hailed with praises mild,
While overhead the Milky Way
Was passage for Old Santa's sleigh.

We still hang up the mistletoe
My children's faces rosy grow,
Their boots squeak on the hard-packed snow,
Their eyes with eagerness will glow,
And I'm the only one who'll know,
That it was different long ago.

The only thing that's changed is me.
It's hot a fir with lights I see,
For only God can make a tree –
This is what I see –
And children's eyes can only be
Small windows on eternity.

And so with gifts, and cousins small,
And so with garlands in the hall,
And firelight's shadows on the wall –
God's handiwork, that's all.

Yet in this season of our joy
There are those who feel a toy
Is all that matters – not The Boy,
Whose praises we should all employ,
Lest man all brotherhood destroy.
Come, take your stand – decry the whim
That turkeys, gifts and greetings slim
Define the core – they are the rim
And but the glossy surface skim
For in our hearts we kneel to him.

Camilla R. Bittle

Mary

As Jesus' mother, Mary plays a crucial part in the Christmas story. It begins with Gabriel's visit to her: *'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus.'* (Luke 1:30,31). This conversation takes us straight to the heart of what Christmas is all about. God was doing something unique, that had never happened before! *'God was beginning, at this divine and human point, the New Creation of all things. The whole soiled and weary universe quivered at this direct injection of essential life.'* (CS Lewis).

This child unites heaven and earth: the eternal God entered time and space and became a baby, both a real human being and fully divine. It reminds me of the sci-fi film *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) in which a team of surgeons are shrunk to the size of blood cells and injected into the veins of a patient to perform lifesaving surgery. The Christmas message affirms that God has entered the bloodstream of humanity to put things right with Him on the inside. We can know Him personally and make sense of His world.

God chose an unknown, frightened teenage girl to bring about this new beginning for the world. Her response is the pattern for us, as we welcome God's special gift into our lives this Christmas: *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:38).

Mary gave an unqualified Yes to all that God wanted to do in her life. It was a costly decision, which risked both shame and scandal. Yet she was ready to obey God and trust His plans for her life, despite her many questions. Is the same true for us this Christmas?



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Promoting a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young people & adults

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

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

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Kaye Larbi
Role: Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 07847 324955
E-mail: psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk



Name: Chris Szejnmann
Role: Vicar, Holy Trinity
Tel: 07804 641931
E-mail: priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk



Name: Danielle Law
Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 01245 29 44 44
E-mail: dlaw@chelmsford.anglican.org

Local Authority Social Services:

Children's Social Care: 020 8708 3885
Emergency Duty Team: 020 8708 5897

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.**

OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010 327
- National Careline: 0800 0699 784

Nativity Quiz in 20 Questions Canon Paul Hardingham.

1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born?
a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?
3. What did Joseph do for a living?
4. Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
5. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
6. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
8. Where does the Bible say Jesus was born?
a) In a stable b) In hay c) In a manger
9. According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born?
a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey
c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) None
10. What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?
11. The wise men travelled to Jerusalem.
a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) westward
12. What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?
13. How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
14. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
15. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
16. What is the City of David also known as in the bible?
17. Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
18. What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean? a) God with us b) Son of God c) He

Food Banks across the UK may be facing their 'worst winter' yet

The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) has warned that the numbers of people needing foodbanks this year are still rising, as the cost-of-living crisis continues.

The Trussell Trust, which runs the UK's largest network of food banks, expects to support more than 600,000 people between December and February. This means handing out around one million food parcels, or an average of one parcel every eight seconds, which is 11,500 parcels a day, making it the "worst winter yet" for the charity.

These figures support what workers at Citizens Advice have found, that there is a "terrifying new normal of people living on empty."

To compound the problem, many independent food banks are now running low on donations. As the manager of one such foodbank recently told the IFAN, "Surplus food is down. Our collections are under 50% of what they were. It just doesn't work."

Paul O'Brien of social justice charity Micah Liverpool put it this way: "Food banks cannot sustain this level of poverty for much longer."

Su Parrish, based at The Easter Team in Crawley, explains a further problem for the foodbanks: "Everyone is feeling the strain of struggling to support clients with increasingly complex needs. Most of our volunteers signed up to give out food parcels and be a friendly face spreading some love. They didn't anticipate the level of stress that clients now exhibit because of the situations they are in."

who is God d) Chosen One

19. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?

20. Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?



Wordsearch

The story of 'Silent Night'

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent Night	Joseph Mohr
Loved Carol	Young Priest
Austria	Organist
First Sung	Midnight Mass
Stille Nacht	Melody
Heilige	Single
Christmas Eve	Bing
Father	Version
	Third

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

Christmas Prayer 2023 *By Daphne Kitching*

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred - and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will *always* shine in the darkness and the darkness will *never* be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always.

In Jesus' saving and powerful name. Amen.

All faiths are not the same

For many religions, God is considered unknowable – just a supreme power or presence 'out there' somewhere. Not so Christianity.

The heart of the Christmas message is His coming to us in peace and love – as the Bible says: 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' (John 1:4 RSV)

Jesus was born a baby, grew up amongst us, healed us, did many miracles, taught us, and then went on to die for us. He entered our time and our space, and we could approach Him and talk to Him.

Jesus made clear that to see Him was to see the Father. What a wonderful God! He is the Creator of the Universe, but He is also Jesus, who calls us into a daily relationship of love and dependency upon Him.

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



On how to make the most of carol singing

Carol singing is not what it used to be. My fond memories of a group of choristers, muffled in scarves and overcoats, carrying lanterns, and walking from door to door in the snow, as they sang 'While shepherds watched ...' had to be suddenly revised when I saw your own music group, in T-shirts inscribed with 'Jesus loves You', singing 'Little donkey', in your shopping centre. I suspect any money you raised would just about have paid for the electricity used to power your banks of electronic equipment. Singing in the main square of the Centre next to the fountain may have looked good, but it seemed to mean that the choir members were obliged to make constant trips to the lavatory.

Here at St James the Least of All, carol singing is regarded as a staff perk for the choir; the year when the Boys' Brigade tried to break their monopoly was suppressed with a ruthlessness that would have impressed Genghis Kahn.

Our annual carol-singing route involves months of meticulous planning. We find that a transparent collection box is vital, so that donors can see what earlier patrons have given. This means that those who are bound to put in notes must be visited first – '*pour encourager les autres*'. It also needs a detachable base, so that if coppers are given, they can be removed from sight before the next call.

Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bedtime, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols (unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.

The choir always finishes its evening at the local pub – but again, the timing must be carefully managed. Too early and there will only be the landlord, his wife, and their Labrador to listen; too late and people will be so full of Christmas cheer that any carols will be hi-jacked and become the equivalent of back-of-the bus rugby songs.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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Wednesdays 10:30-12:00
Fridays 10:00-12:00**



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

	8	7	6	2	
9	1		8		
4			5	3	8 6
2		7		5 1	6
	5	9			1 5
5 6		8	7		1
			3		9 7
	3	1	2		4



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves



We've got online carol-singers again!



The Ven John Barton considers the Christmas story ...

No Room? On the Contrary

This year one carol will be sung with particular poignancy. It retells the message of angels, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests" and continues:

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

The angels' goodwill message will persist

despite our clamour, for it proclaims God's all-embracing and eternal welcome. Heaven's doors are ever open: it is home for everyone. The final biblical vision is of an all-encompassing city: "On no day will its gates ever be shut... the glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it."

Jesus, for whom there had been no room at the inn, taught that God's kingdom is home for every race: "I say to you that many will come from the East and the West, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." He reassured those anxious about the future: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms..."

No room? Don't you believe it!



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Ilford, Essex. IG6 2BX

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 am – 12 noon
(07478 187 010)

parishoffice@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

HALL LETTINGS

hallbookings@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

(please note that halls are not generally available for wedding receptions or parties for children over 11 years)

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

please contact:

Rev Dr Chris Szejmann

020 8637 4859 to arrange an Interview

Parish Safeguarding

We are committed to Safeguarding Children, Young People, Victims / perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, and Vulnerable Adults.

The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England's website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mr. Kaye Larbi, who may be contacted at church or by email:

psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

The LEGAL STUFF

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Do you need help?



We are here for you and want to support you.

We would love to meet you! The church is open for private prayer, and as a welcoming space Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am - 12noon. You are also welcome to join us at our Tuesday drop-in 9am to 1pm in the Parish Hall, or during Worship Services on Sundays 10:30am and Wednesdays 9:45am. You can also contact our Vicar Chris or the Church Office via phone or email.

There are, however, many areas where it's best if you seek professional help. Please see the **“Help” page on our church website** for useful information (also available as a print-out in church), including two important links:

- **“Directory of cost of living support”**, Redbridge Council
- **“Help in Redbridge”** website

QR link to Holy Trinity Church website



Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside, IG6 2BX

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free; it includes a warm meal & drink, and there's no pressure to come back.

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PARISH OFFICE (in Church)

– normally open: Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am – 12 noon

e-mail parishoffice@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk or phone **07478 187 010**

VICAR:

Rev Dr Chris Szejnmann - 07804 641 931

The Vicarage, 36 Mossford Green, IG6 2BJ
priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Associate Curate **Rev Kate Szejnmann**
kate.szejnmann@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Clergy with Permission to Officiate:
Rev Margaret Chapman - 020 8504 6750

Churchwardens:
Chris Stoneham, -07828 885 439 / 020 8270 5742
chris.stoneham@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk
Kaye Larbi 020 8491 8178

Church Treasurer:

Laura Priestman
accounts@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Sacristan / Verger:

(& Organist) Mary Fabb - 020 8550 9694

Deputy Warden:

Maxine Paul

Magazine:

parishmagazine@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Mothers' Union:

mothersunion@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Music Group:

musicgroup@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Webmaster:

webmaster@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

PARISH DIARY

Every Tuesday 9am - 1pm 'Tuesday Morning Drop In'
Parish Hall (continuing weekly).

9th Dec Sat - 7pm - Church Christmas Party. Games, Food, Jazz Band

10th Dec Sun - 2nd Advent Service at 10:30am.

17th Dec Sun 10.30am - 3rd Advent Service
Sun 3:30pm—Family & Children's Christmas Party.
Bookings: Kate @ 07876 316718

24th Dec Sun 10.30am—4th Advent Service
Sun - 3pm - Christingle Service especially for children, but all are welcome.
11:30pm - Midnight Mass

25th Dec Mon - 10:30am - Christmas Day Service

31st Dec 1st Sunday after Christmas - Service at 10:30