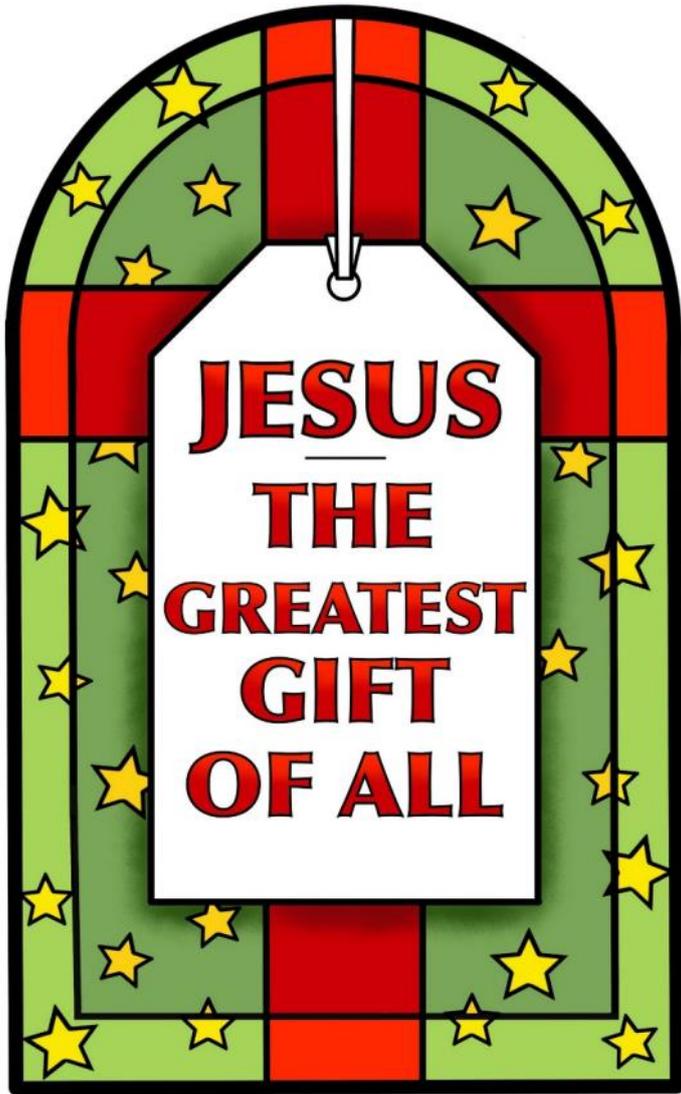


Trinity Times

The Parish of Holy Trinity Church, Barkingside

Holy Trinity is a lively, Family-Friendly Church. We have a Heart for the Common Good, seeking to make Jesus Christ known in Barkingside

**£12 subscription
£1 donation.**



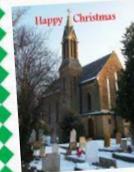
**'Drop In'
Every Tuesday
9am—1pm
Parish Hall**

**Tea, Coffee, Snacks
Games and Crafts
Good Company
Friendships**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Holy Trinity Church, Barkingside

- Saturday 30 November **Carol Singing** @ Tiptree Estate at 11am
- Sunday 1 December 1st Advent Service at 10:30am
- Sunday 8 December 2nd Advent Service at 10:30am
Carols by Candlelight with Fairlop Brass Band at 6:30pm
- Tuesday 10 December **MU Carol Service** at 2:30pm
- Friday 13 December **New Essex Choir
Christmas Bells Concert** at 7:30pm
- Saturday 14 December **Christmas Party**
Families & all generations—food & drinks, music & dance (Parish Hall)
4-7pm; 'booking only'; contact Kate @ 07876 318718
- Sunday 15 December 3rd Advent Service at 10:30am
- Sunday 22 December 4th Advent Service at 10:30am
- Tuesday 24 December **Christingle Service for Families**
at 3pm; **Midnight Communion** at 11:30pm
- Wednesday 25 December **Christmas Day Family Service**
at 10:30am



Mossford Green,
Barkingside, IG6 2BX
contact Chris @
07804 641931



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

Dear Family,

As we are journeying through Advent, when the light is scarce and we recognize the shadows and brokenness of the world, we have a few questions for you: **We wonder what it is that you desire, hope and dream? Are you tired, anxious, and aware of the pain around us?**

Let's really take the time to ask, reflect and re-decide on these deep questions and issues as we wait and prepare once more to celebrate Christ's coming that promises to bring salvation and light into darkness. We remember what happened around 2000 years ago, and we are invited to open-up to newness among us in the now, hoping that God will act in us, through us, and around us.

So this is what we pray for ourselves and all of you:

That we are changed by Advent & Christmas.

And we ask: Are you open for change and newness, or are you clinging on to old things that prevents newness from breaking through? **We pray that we, who have seen the star and heard the angels sing, respond to the call to participate in the new birth and new world proclaimed by these stories;** that we are participating with God; that we respond to our call to be Christmas Christians in a world that still descends into darkness.

At a recent sermon (Mark 13:1-8) Rev Chris tried to unmask **one of the greatest myths about Christianity:** Throughout Church history, many Christians when thinking about the start of God's reign, have pushed this into the future. But this is nothing but bad theology – and it's convenient to people! Because the thinking behind that is that it can't be today,

because that would mean that our lives would have to change today already. But that, of course, is rather inconvenient, because we would have to let go and self-surrender.

But here is the thing about Christmas: it clearly shows that God's reign has started – the Lord is coming every moment all the time. And we can grasp and see it right around us. For example, during our Carol Singing at the Tiptree Estate that led to many joyful scenes and conversations; during the Tuesday Drop-Ins when vulnerable people gather and share peace and joy; during the Salsa dancing or the Edge Youth Club when joy breaks through and healthy relationships deepen; during our Worship Services when people are touched by God; or when we see God at work during the visits at Birchwood Care Home, or the school visits in our church, or indeed during our wonderful parties. And we see God's glory in the many new people who have joined us, are blessing us and are changing us – and we say: Welcome in our midst, it's so exciting to journey together!



Friends: Here at Holy Trinity we are blessed by an outpouring of wonderful things – it's the reign of God! – and we invite you all to join in, in whatever way God calls you to do so. And we pray that our new "Stay & Play Group" starting on 9 January 2025, will be blessed and that more newness of life will break through.

Let us pray,

Lord Jesus Christ, open my heart more to grasping your reign in me and around me.

Open my heart to the only one thing that can break the tired patterns of pain and fear in my live.
Open my heart to your divine energy that is floating around me and us, and through each one of us.

Amen.

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 over the next few weeks! God is good, and he is calling us to do exciting things in 2025!

All our blessings,

Fr Chris and Rev Kate

That coin in your Christmas pudding David Pickup considers the coin in Christmas puddings

There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny. After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding.

We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile telephone. In future, will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? Hope not.

Other coins 'appear' at this time of year. Chocolate coins are traditionally given to children at Christmas time, and in Jewish tradition during Hanukkah. It is said that one night Saint Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw!**

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

A one-off or recurring gift to Holy Trinity
Barkingside PCC (Charity number 1128271);

You can scan this QR code that will take you to
our Giving Website.

A regular collection is taken at all Sunday
services;

You can give a cash donation or donate by
contactless card payment. *Mike Priestman*



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 40 Languages

Apache (Western) - Gozhqq Keshmish
Arabic - I'D Miilad Said ous Sana Saida
Croatian - Sretan Bozic
Danish - Glædelig Jul og godt nytår
Farsi - Sal-e no mubarak
French - Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!
German - Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr!
Greek - Kala Christougenna Ki'eftihismenos O Kenourios
Chronos Hawaiian - Mele Kalikimaka & Hauoli Makahiki Hou
Hebrew - Mo'adim Lesimkha. Shanah Tova
Hindi - Shubh Naya Baras
Iraqi - Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah
Irish - Nollaig Shona Dhuit
Iroquois - Ojenyunyat Sungwiyadeson homungradon nagwutut & Ojenyunyat osrasay
Italian - Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
Japanese - Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto
Korean - Sung Tan Chuk Ha
Kyrghyz - Jangl jllnglz guttuu bolsun!
Latin - Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis
Maori - Kia orana e kia manuia rava i teia Kiritimeti e te Mataiti Ou
Mongolian - Zul saryn bolon shine ony mend devshuulye
Nepali - krist Yesu Ko Shuva Janma Utsav Ko Upalaxhma Hardik Shuva & Naya Barsa Ko harkik Shuvakamana
Norwegian/Nynorsk - Eg ynskjer hermed Dykk alle ein God Jul og Godt Nyttår
Polish - Wesolych Swiat i Szczesliwego Nowego Roku.
Portuguese - Boas Festas e um feliz Ano Novo Romanian - Craciun fericit si un An Nou fericit!
Russian - Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva i s Novim Godom
Samoan - Ia manuia le Kilisimasi ma le tausaga fou
Sinh - Chuc Mung Tan Nien
Somali - ciid wanaagsan iyo sanad cusub oo fiican.
Spanish - Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo
Sudanese - Wilujeng Natal Sareng Warsa Enggal
Swedish - God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Tagalog - Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon
Tahitian - Ia ora i te Noere e ia ora na i te matahiti 'api
Thai - Suksan Wan Christmas lae Sawadee Pee Mai
Ukrainian - Veseloho Vam Rizdva i Shchastlyvoho Novoho Roku!
Vietnamese - Chuc Mung Giang
Welsh - Nadolig Llawen a Blwydden Newydd dda

NEW! Coming January 2025!!

Stay & Play Group

Parents/carers and their children 0-3yrs

Snacks and drinks, craft, songs, fun & friendship

Thursdays 8.45–10.45am
9 January start
£2 per family; term time

Holy Trinity Church
Mossford Green
Barkingside, IG6 2BX
Contact Kate: 07876 318 718



Archbishop of Canterbury warns against legalising assisted suicide

This, the Archbishop's statement on assisted suicide below, was made ahead of a recent new Private Member's Bill introduced in the House of Commons.

"Though our society might be divided over the question of assisted suicide, we all ultimately want the same thing for those who are suffering. We want compassion offered to those in deep distress and we want our loved ones to be able to die with dignity. My concern is that however well-intentioned, the Private Member's Bill being introduced in the House of Commons today will not achieve those things.

"The introduction of this Bill instead serves as an important call to properly fund and resource palliative care, community support services and mental health provision. As we listen to many of the heart-breaking experiences of those who have lost loved ones, it is important to remember that dying in pain is not inevitable. Good palliative care can provide us with the dignity and compassion we are all searching for as we reach the end of our lives. This proposed legislation risks eroding funding for palliative and hospice care.

"Furthermore, legalising assisted suicide would disproportionately impact many millions of vulnerable people, who might perceive themselves as a burden on those around them and the health service. My concern is that once you can ask for assisted suicide, it soon becomes something that you feel that you ought to do. Permission slips into being duty. This does not represent true choice for all, and I worry that no amount of safeguards will ensure everyone's safety at the most vulnerable point of their lives.

"A good death and compassionate care should be available to everyone, but the Bill being introduced will not achieve that."

Christmas Geese :

Canon Paul Hardingham gives thanks to the God who comes among us...

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: 'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!' So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: 'Why don't they follow me?!' Then he realised: 'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.' Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us'. Matthew 1:23.

Lambeth Palace: statement on Archbishop and Living in Love and Faith

Since the beginning of the Living in Love and Faith process, people across the Church of England have been studying, praying and sharing together about sexuality, identity, relationships and marriage. That process has revealed profound differences in theological conviction and biblical interpretation. But that does not change the fact that every group and every Christian has a place in the Church of England.

In his recent interview on the Leading podcast, the Archbishop of Canterbury was asked whether gay sex is sinful. Alastair Campbell was returning to this question having first put it to the Archbishop in 2017, during an interview for GQ magazine. In both interviews, Archbishop Justin spoke honestly about the fact that these are complex questions that have caused deep division in the Church. In both interviews, he said that what seem most central to him are stable, committed and faithful relationships.

Archbishop Justin was giving a personal view that reflects the position now held by himself, the Archbishop of York and many other bishops regarding sexual intimacy. He has been honest that his thinking has evolved over the years through much prayer and theological reflection – particularly through the Living in Love and Faith process – and he now holds this view sincerely. It reflects his commitment to continuing to welcome, love and include LGBTQ+ people more fully in the life of the Church. However, there is no consensus among the bishops on this question, and the Church remains deeply divided. Archbishop Justin stressed his absolute commitment to those who hold a traditional view having “a full and undoubted place in the Church of England”.

His answer does not indicate a changing of teaching from the House of Bishops. This is an ongoing conversation across the Church – and Archbishop Justin hopes that the bishops, together with clergy and laity, will keep praying and reflecting on these questions.

Christmas - time to remember Christians facing persecution.

This Christmas, there are about 360 million Christians worldwide who will not be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

They dare not do so.

That's because 1 in every 7 believers globally live in countries where they suffer oppression and discrimination for their faith.

So, instead of going to church and singing carols, they face violence and abduction, while others risk losing their jobs and livelihood. According to the latest World Watch List from Open Doors, there are 13 countries where Christians face extreme persecution, and 37 more where they face general persecution.

Fortunately, there are charities working on the frontlines to help these persecuted believers. You may wish to support one this Christmas, as a way of showing solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters worldwide.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide - specialises in freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). They work in 25 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. CSW is the only advocacy organisation with a sole focus on freedom of religion or belief that has United Nations accreditation.

Go to: <https://www.csw.org.uk/home.htm>

Help The Persecuted – works in 13 countries, including the Middle East, Turkey, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Yemen & North Africa. They currently provide a safe refuge in Lebanon to those fleeing the Middle East Conflict.

FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Who have served the community for since 1847.

HL HAWES & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

153 Station Road
Chingford
London
E4 6AG

106 Tanners Lane
Barkingside
Ilford
IG6 1QE

883 High Road
Leytonstone
London
E11 1HR

020 8559 3235

020 8550 4047

020 8532 9600

www.hlhawes.co.uk

info@hlhawes.co.uk



- . Specialist Worldwide repatriation
- . New Jaguar Vehicles

- . Horse Drawn Funerals
- . Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 
The UK's largest independent funeral plan provider

Making life **easier** for your loved ones
costs less than you might think.
Please Contact **HL Hawes & Son** on
020 8550 4047 for free advice & help

020 8550 4047

24 HOUR PERSONAL SERVICE FROM
PEOPLE WHO GENUINELY CARE FOR EACH FAMILY.

Canon David Winter reflects on the coming of Jesus...

The most beautiful story

A well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. "But you're an atheist", his interviewer protested. "Yes", he replied, "but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told."

That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

Probably the best-known statue in the world is 'Christ the Redeemer', towering over the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough.

His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph.

Yes, it is 'the most beautiful story ever told'.

Enjoy it again this Christmas. By the Revd Paul Hardingham.

The Challenges of Christmas

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! After one family had put up 250,000 Christmas lights outside, they didn't dare boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

The challenge of over-indulging

We all remember the episode of the Vicar of Dibley, where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, the average person gaining six pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. 'Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

The challenge is over too quickly

Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.



Everyday Christmas (Mal 4:2, Mt 1:23)

Light a candle,
Look into the light,
Pray.

Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings

As the flame rises,
Smooth, bright,
Know the comfort of Christ
In the carol speaking
Afresh.
Bringing Jesus
Into heart and prayer.

Emmanuel, God with us.
Light of the world,
Out of the stable
Into our situations.

Because of Jesus
Christmas is everyday.

The Lord is here.
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The night began as any other
The world not aware of a special birth,
Prophesied so long ago
That God would come upon our earth.

Shepherds roused by a choir of angels,
Wise men saw a special star,
Gathered round the tiny infant,
Bringing gifts from afar.

God had sent His Son to call us,
Jew and Gentile, bond and free,
All may come to know His presence
Reaching out to you and me.

As we celebrate this Christmas,
Let Jesus come not as a stranger,
But as a friend and loving Saviour –
Not just a baby in a manger.

By Megan Carter

Sol Invictus, Emperors and how Christmas began by Tim Lenton

It was 1,750 years ago, on 25th December 274, that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded and launched the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion. He erected a temple and declared 25th December a national holiday, to be known as the Feast of the Unconquered Sun. In 336, after the conversion of the emperor Constantine, the Church in Rome began to celebrate Christmas on 25th December.

Aurelian, who was born in Moesia – the south-eastern Balkans – rose from modest beginnings to become a strong and successful Emperor at one of the most difficult times in Roman history. He defeated many attempts to destroy the empire from without and within, notably attempts by the Gallic and Palmyrene Empires, and improved the lot of the common people.

His idea in promoting Sol Invictus as the main divinity of the Empire was to try to give everyone a god to believe in without betraying their own gods. However, when Constantine the Great, who was born during Aurelian's reign, became Emperor in 306 and converted to Christianity, it was the beginning of the end for Sol Invictus – and the start of the dominance of Christianity in the Roman Empire.

The date of 25th December was taken over and celebrated as the birthday of Jesus – and has been ever since, though scholars agree that this is an impossible date because flocks of sheep would not have been out in the fields in the dead of winter, and therefore shepherds would not have been out either. Other dates have been suggested, of which perhaps the most convincing is September 11.

It is a happy irony that in English, Christmas can be described accurately as the Feast of the Unconquered Son.

No Room? On the Contrary.... The Ven John Barton considers the Christmas story ...

All over the world, doors are being slammed shut this Christmas. As the wars in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in Sudan rage on, millions are losing their homes and places of safety. Elsewhere, hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers and would-be immigrants are on the road, seeking refuge anywhere they can find it.

Meanwhile, in recent years vast numbers of Christians have been forced to flee from their ancient homelands in Syria and Iraq. They mirror the Holy Family's escape into Egypt. Every time yet another infant dies violently, it is a reminder of the first century massacre of babies in the Bethlehem region.

So perhaps 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. Whatever is happening on earth, 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 in heaven? Don't you believe it!

Think twice before buying that goat in Ghana

What are you buying your friends for Christmas this year? If you are tempted by 'socially responsible' gifts that involve you NOT giving your friends anything at all, but instead giving your money to a charity 'in their name', you may wish to think again. Such gifts as goats in Ghana or chickens in Chad can make you feel virtuous, but may damage your relationships.

A recent study has found that people who buy others 'socially responsible' gifts can actually be considered to be self-serving and inconsiderate by the people to whom they give them. It seems that such givers often over-estimate how appreciative their friends will be to receive nothing.

A study at the University of Southern California found that to be successful, a gift must make the recipient feel 'extraordinary, and special.' If you suspect giving your various loved ones news about a goat won't achieve that, there is only one solution: instead of giving only socially responsible gifts, insist on receiving only them. Then your mantelpiece will be full of photos of happy goats and chickens, and your family and friends will enjoy your more usual gifts, and still be speaking to you.



Loneliness Stephen Gilson

It's not easy to be the life and soul of the party. We live in an ever-changing digital age where people can be excluded by accident as collateral damage in a way that can quite easily affect mental health and general well-being.

It can start with being too shy to engage with people around you. Or, you might regard others as being too (fill in your own adjective) to earn your company, far less your friendship. This may be due to your own pride, or maybe inverted pride, where you consider yourself unworthy.

This may apply at school, when you don't, where you don't get a relationship with a boy or girl who has attracted your attention. It may be as a result of getting too brave and then saying something crass or stupid which closes doors which should be ways into a friendship.

It can happen later in life, although in that case, there may be more tangible consequences, such as:

- being excluded from important influencing groups,
- the other person starts to avoid you
- the impact ripples through the group and people think less of you which marginalises both you and your work function
-

Another, more passive, way of becoming lonely affects people who are kept inside by age or infirmity. These people may have the compounded problem of no contact with relatives or neighbours or former colleagues. As far as the regular transactions of life, shopping, entertainment, take away food, much of this can be done online and delivered so quickly that meaningful conversational norms are limited to "hello", "thanks" and suchlike. The people delivering don't have time to chat, they are racing to meet the next deadline. The increase in the number of estates with high-density flats will exacerbate this. When I lived in Gants Hill, for example, I don't think I ever met a neighbour.

It is an important part of the Christmas story that God came down to Earth to save us all by using a simple couple, pushed out of the mainstream by crowds of people, needing a stable as shelter from the cold and wintry climate. They must have felt very lonely and unloved by the crowds.

Their destiny was to bring all people to the Love of God. It was another set of people who were accustomed to loneliness, the shepherds. They were brought by the star and then would lead others to the Manger; no longer lonely but first witnesses of a global phenomenon. This brings people together.



We are the current holders of the torch. We can bring the love of God to our neighbours and friends, perhaps someone on their own this Christmastide, be it some hospitality, a kindly word or deed. We have the means and the opportunity.

Let's come out of our loneliness and join together and welcome the new-born King.

(Ed:- anyone who is "alone" on Christmas Day is welcome to come to our house for a Lunch and to stay for the afternoon !!!)

- To some people, religious freedom means a choice of churches to stay home from. - Anon
- The best way to succeed in this world is to act on the advice you give to others. – Mother Teresa
- The great thing is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. - Anon
- Although we leave Your house, we don't leave Your Presence. - Anon
- Advertising: The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. - Stephen Leacock
- Suffering with truth decay? Brush up on your Bible. – Anon

Thoughts on the Incarnation

- The Son came out from the Father to help us to come out from the world; He descended to us to enable us to ascend to Him. - Anthony of Padua
- Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is. - Athanasius
- I hope your Christmas has had a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next – but that after all is the idea! - Evelyn Underhill
- God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. - CS Lewis
- My brother heard a woman on the bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it, Oh Lor'! They bring religion into everything. Look – they're dragging it even into Christmas now!' - CS Lewis
- Surely royalty in rags, angels in cells, is not descent compared to Deity in flesh! - H Law
- The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable. - Ralph Sockman

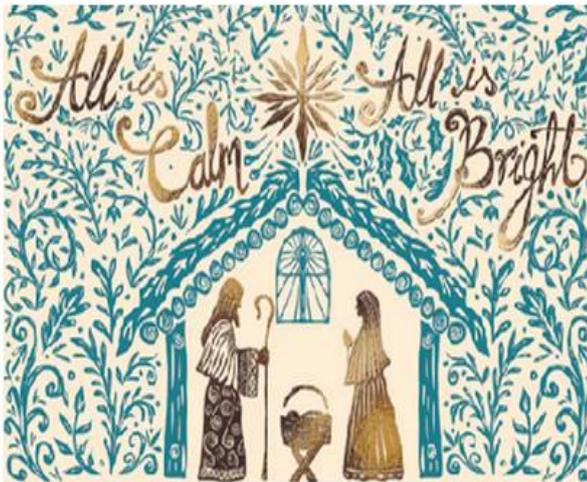
THE CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

MAKE YOUR OWN BY DRAWING LINES BETWEEN THE TWO COLUMNS

	OUR SON	WON AN OSCAR	
	GRANDMA	IS TRAINING TO BE A LAWYER	
	OUR DAUGHTER	CAUGHT A MOUSE AND LEFT IT ON THE STAIRS	
	THE CAT	IS FALLING APART	
	OUR HOUSE	GOT MARRIED IN AUGUST	
	THE VICAR	HAD A MAKEOVER	
	NEXT DOOR'S DONKEY	HAD A LOVELY HOLIDAY IN THE CARIBBEAN	
	GEORGE CLOONEY	KEEPS US AWAKE BY CONSTANTLY HEE-HAWING	

davewalker.com

HOLY TRINITY
with ST LAURENCE, BARKINGSIDE
MOTHERS' UNION



READINGS, CAROLS AND PRAYERS

for

Advent and Christmas

TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2024

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.

24th December - Christmas Eve

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mass. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

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



He's so glad he came

Book your **FREE CONSULTATION*** Today

EAR CLEANING & SUCTIONING

Hearing loss, blocked ears, ringing, buzzing or vertigo?

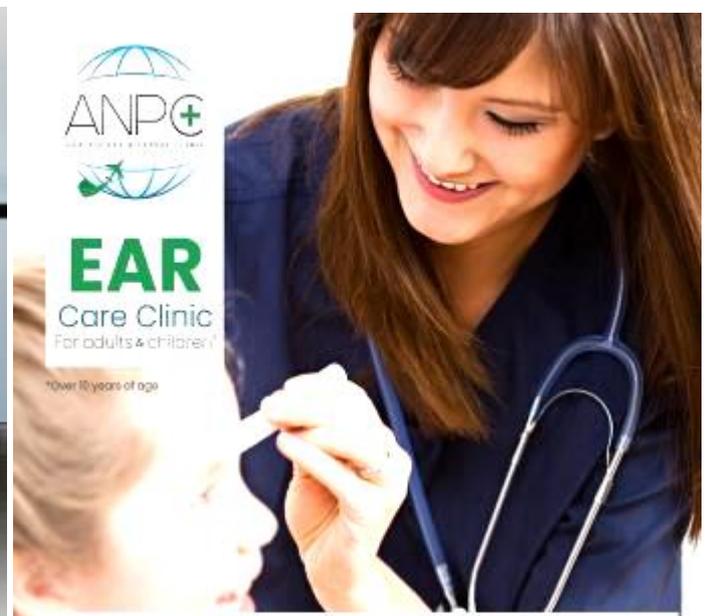
Call or text our experienced team or visit our website to book your consultation*

0207 175 1802 • 07932 42 72 95 • www.anpchealthandtravelclinic.co.uk

- Consultation, ear examination & diagnosis
- Ear wax removal from ear canal by suctioning
- Private prescriptions
- Simple ear infection treatment
- After care & review
- Advice & ENT referrals service

STARTING FROM JUST **£59.99**

*Free consultation if you have treatment with ANPC Healthcare



EAR Care Clinic
For adults & children*

*over 10 years of age

EAR CLEANING & SYRINGING

Do you have a build up of ear wax?

Book your ear wax removal in a safe and clean environment with our friendly experienced Nurses and Health-care Professionals

- Consultation, ear examination & diagnosis
- Ear wax removal from ear canal by water irrigation
- Private prescriptions
- Simple ear infection treatment
- Wax care & removal
- Advice & ENT referrals service

STARTING FROM **£40**

BOOK NOW

0207 175 1802 • 07932 42 72 95 • www.anpchealthandtravelclinic.co.uk

OUR CLINICS

SOUTH WOODFORD
11 Lily House, George Lane, South Woodford, London E18 1BD
EMAIL info@anpchealthandtravelclinic.co.uk
FOLLOW US [anpchealthcaretravelclinic](#) [anpc_healthcare_travel_clinic](#)

ILFORD
163A Longwood Gardens, Clayhall, Ilford, London IG5 0EG

Our other services include: travel vaccinations, child immunisations, blood tests, occupational health clinic, men & women health checks

OUR CLINICS

ILFORD 163A Longwood Gardens, Clayhall, Ilford, London IG5 0EG
SOUTH WOODFORD 11 Lily House, George Lane, South Woodford, London E18 1BD
EMAIL info@anpchealthandtravelclinic.co.uk
FOLLOW US [anpchealthcaretravelclinic](#) [anpc_healthcare_travel_clinic](#)

8 & 22 January
5 & 19 February
5 & 19 March

Holy Trinity Church
Barkingside, Mossford
Green, IG6 2BX
07804641931

just turn up — it's free!
everyone welcome!

Wednesdays 7:30-9:00pm

Salsa Dancing Classes for the Community

Beginners & Improvers
refreshments
joy & laughter
meet new people

Redbridge Council are looking for foster carers who would like to care for children who are disabled or have additional needs.



Gloria Samuel, Head of Service for Fostering and Children with Disabilities Services in Redbridge Council, previously fostered for 20 years. Many of the children she cared for had physical and learning disabilities.

Now retired from fostering, Gloria states “I don’t think potential foster carers realise just how much training and support is

available when looking after children who happen to be disabled or have additional needs. There are many different care packages offered to support the child and foster carers fully, additional allowances for the foster carers, and the training involved is outstanding”.

If you are considering fostering and would like to know more, please call us on 020 8708 6068 or visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringfaith> to book a place at one of our information sessions. **We can’t wait to hear from you!**

One Place East
Where disability matters
**Redbridge Voluntary Care
Good Neighbour Scheme**
VOLUNTEERS WANTED!
Befrienders . Companions
**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
FRIENDLY INDIVIDUALS WHO
CAN GIVE A LITTLE TIME TO
SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL
COMMUNITY**
For More Information:
Call: 020 8925 2435 for a chat
Email: info@oneplaceeast.org
Visit: www.oneplaceeast.org

Volunteers Wanted Befrienders/companions Redbridge Voluntary Care Good Neighbour Scheme

We are looking for friendly individuals who can give a little time to support their local community.

Do you have some free time to spare to make a positive difference in your community.

For more information, or to apply please contact:

020 8925 2435
info@oneplaceeast.org



Longwood Foot Clinic



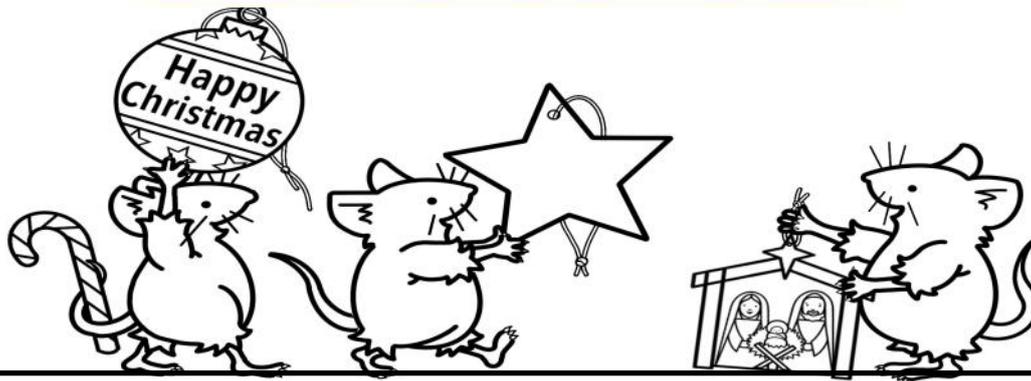
Chiropody & Podiatry

163 A, Longwood Gardens, Clayhall, IG5 0EG

What we offer

- Routine Footcare
- Corns and Hard skin removal
- Ingrowing toe nail surgery
- Fungal Nails
- Diabetic Footcare
- HCPC Registered Podiatrist
- Practising since 2012
- Member of College of Podiatry
- Easy transport, bus no 462
- Easy parking space
- Home visits available

Tel: 020 8551 6729



J A CURRAN

Gas appliance, service / maintain.

Plumbing repairs and maintenance.

20, Carlton Drive,
Barkingside.
IG6 1LU



Tel:- 020 8220 7157

Email:- jacurran@ntlworld.com

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too
WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

Nolite Timere (Do not be afraid)

Do not be afraid
Of angels in the sky
Nor of the Babe in manger laid
Or of the death He'd die.

Do not be afraid
Of magi bearing gold
Their clothes of velvet and rich
braid
As mysteries unfold.

Do not be afraid
Of Herod's fatal rage
Or soldiers on a killing raid
On those of tender age.

Fear not, instead rejoice!
For joy the angels bring!
Good news is in the angel's voice
Of Christ, our Saviour King!

By Nigel Beeton

Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas.

Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy."

Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

The Colours of Christmas *There are several colours that we traditionally associate with Christmas. They are green, red, and gold, and to a lesser extent, white and blue.*

Green: Evergreen plants like holly, ivy and mistletoe were used for thousands of years to decorate buildings during the long dark winters.

The Romans exchanged evergreen branches in January to wish each other good luck. The ancient Egyptians brought palm branches into their home during the mid-winter festivals.

In Europe during the Middle Ages, the 'Paradise tree' which figured in plays about the loss of Eden, was normally a pine tree with red apples tied to it.

Red: This is the colour of holly berries, and it reminded people of Jesus's blood when He died on the cross. Red is also the colour of bishops' robes, which is how St Nicholas came to be portrayed wearing red. Red is also the colour of fire, which keep you warm during cold dark nights.

Gold: This is the colour of the Sun and light. It was the present of one of the Wise Men, and traditionally, was the colour of the star over Bethlehem.

White: This is the colour of purity and peace. It is the colour of the altar cloth at Christmas.

Blue: This is the colour of Mary's robe. It is also the colour of the sky and heaven.

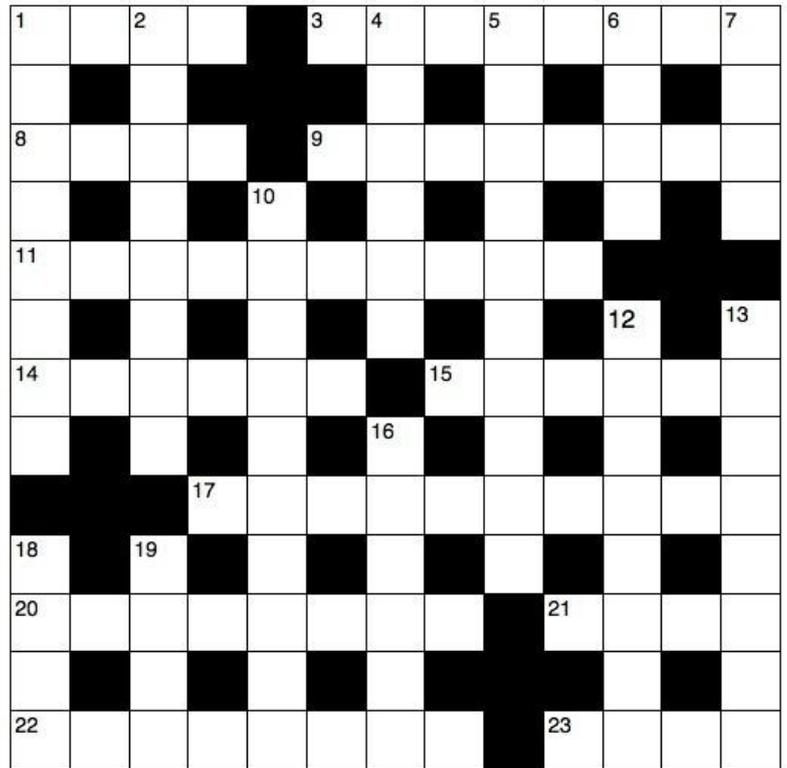
Crossword for December 2024

Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)



Barking Music and Drama presents...

BMAD does Christmas

A Christmas Cabaret

The Ripple Centre, Barking
 St. Erkenwald Rd IG11 7FN
 Thur. 5th, Fri. 6th, Sat 7th Dec 2024
 Eves. At 7.30pm / Sat. Mat. 1.00pm Eve. 5.00pm
 Adults £10.00 - Child £8.00 (16 and under)
 Group of 4 £30.00 (min 2 children)

Tickets Available online at www.BMAD.uk

Free Santa's Grotto for Children during the Interval

St. Alban's Singers Ilford Present

A Concert for Christmas

Wednesday December 18th
 At 7:30 PM

Admission: £5
 Including Seasonal Refreshments

At St. John's Church, St. John's Road
 Seven Kings, IG2 7BB

My dear Nephew Darren
On why Carol Services are so dangerous



So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as “the Curate who offended Mrs Smith.”

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on “Here endeth”, “This is the Word of the Lord”, and “Thanks be to God”, are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your favourite Uncle, Eustace

CROSSWORD ANSWERS.
(No Cheating!)

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

This Christmas, don't forget to buy enough food to last for 30 days because the shops will be shut for 12 hours.





"Does anyone have a light, please?"



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"



We don't sing carols no more... you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!



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



DO YOU NEED HELP?

We are here for you and would love to meet you! The church is open 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, 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.

URGENT - I NEED HELP NOW

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis – you can call **Mental Health Direct** 24 hours a day on **0800 995 1000**.

If you are experiencing **Suicidal thoughts**, please call **Samaritans** on **116 123** for free. Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will give you free, confidential, and non-judgmental emotional support.

If you are experiencing **Domestic abuse**, please call one of these two 24-hour helplines: **08 08 2000 247** (Refuge National Domestic Abuse Helpline) OR **08 08 16 89 111** (Victim Support).

If you are at immediate risk of **physical harm** because of mental health concern or feel like you need immediate assistance, please call **999** or visit your local **A&E**:

- 1.6 miles away: King George Hospital, Barley Lane, Ilford, Essex, IG3 8YB; tel.: 0330 400 [4333](tel:03304004333);
- 3.3 miles away: Whipps Cross Hospital, Whipps Cross Road, London, E11 1NR, tel.: 020 8539 5522.

Shout Crisis Text Line is a 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. **Text 85258**.

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 & Friday 10am - 12noon, and you are Wel-
come to Join us at our Tuesday Drop-In 9am-1pm in the Parish Hall

Vicar: Rev Dr Chris Szejnmann
priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk
07804 641931



Associate Priest: Rev Kate Szejnmann
kate.szejnmann@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Churchwarden: Chris Stoneham
chris.stoneham@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Safeguarding: Kaye Larbi—07847 324955
psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk



Tuesday-Drop In for all in Parish Hall @ 9am-1pm —
alternating fortnightly on Wednesdays @ 7:30pm: Salsa
Dancing Classes for the Community meeting new
people and having fun / Bible Study group — Thursdays: Stay & Play Group
for parents / carers and their children 0-3 years @ 8:45-10:45am (2025
start) Edge Youth Club for all 10-14 year old Thursdays 6-8pm —
Family Fun Zone monthly events.

Any questions? Want to get involved? Want to Hire the Parish
Hall? Please find us online or ring our Parish Office @ 07478
187010.

Facebook



Website



Together Diverse

MAKE NEW
FRIENDS

EDGE

FUN
ACTIVITIES AND
WORKSHOPS

YOUTH

EAT GOOD
FOOD

CLUB

FREE
OF CHARGE!

Empower Grow

Hope Joy Vision

Thursdays in term time

6pm-8pm

**Parish Hall, Mossford Green,
Barkingside, IG6 2BX**

**For info or to register scan QR
code or email**

hello@edgeyouth.co.uk



All 9-14 year olds welcome

Remembering the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004

Tim Lenton looks back to a major disaster that shocked the world...Have any of our congregation had anyone they knew who was caught up in the tsunami, or have they since been to see the results of the floods?

Twenty years ago, on 26th December 2004, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also called the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

Waves generated by the earthquake and travelling at up to 500mph were believed to have been up to 50ft high in places, and the cost in lives and damage was so extensive because detection and warning systems were relatively primitive, as this was not a prime area for such events. Scientific monitoring and warning plans, led by Australia, have since been considerably improved, but the unpredictability of tsunamis remains a major problem.

The massive surges of water in 2004 swept away buildings and people, and some effects were felt as far away as Somalia on the east coast of Africa, nearly 2,800 miles (and seven hours for the waves) west of the epicentre. Nearer coastlines were hit in as little as 15 minutes.

Aftershocks continued to shake the region daily for up to four months after the original earthquake. The raising of the seafloor reduced the capacity of the Indian Ocean, resulting in a permanent rise in sea level globally by an estimated 0.1 mm.

Since 1900, only two earthquakes have been recorded with a greater magnitude than the Sumatra Boxing Day event. One was in 1960 at Valdivia, Chile (magnitude 9.5) and the other in 1964 in Prince William Sound, Alaska (9.2). Both spawned tsunamis in the Pacific, but the death toll (1655 and 131) was sharply less, because of much lower population density where they came ashore.

28th December - Holy Innocents

The death of a very young child is perhaps the hardest grief of all to bear. So, the 28th December is a very poignant day in the church calendar. It is when the worldwide Church joins with bereaved parents to grieve the loss of babies and young children. For Holy Innocents Day recalls the massacre of the young male children of Bethlehem by Herod the Great.

Herod had been told by the Magi, or Wise Men, that a great king had been born in Bethlehem, and he felt shaken. How could a child in unimportant little Bethlehem be so powerful that the stars in the night sky honoured His birth?!

Herod took the Magi so seriously that he decided to try and kill this new young rival. He decreed that every male baby of two years and under should be killed. (Matthew 2:1-18).

Bethlehem was not a large place, and Bible commentators estimate that between six and

25 infants were slaughtered by Roman soldiers. Their mothers were inconsolable at the death of their babies, as indeed mothers have always been.

The death of these innocent baby boys of Bethlehem became a feast-day in the western Church by the 4th century. This was because the Church considered them to be martyrs because they not only died for Christ, but instead of Christ.

Down the centuries, the tragic loss of the Holy Innocents has touched the imagination and hearts of poets, preachers and artists.

Though heart-broken parents still grieve today, the Church can offer them one firm assurance: that young children who die to this world will undoubtedly "this day be with Me in Paradise."

The One who eagerly said "Suffer the little children to come unto Me" will be the last person to turn them away.

Family Nativity Service with Christingle

Children wear
Christmas costume
or nativity outfit

24 December, 3pm

Holy Trinity Church
Mossford Green
IG6 2bJ

24th December - The story of the Christingle

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar.

The Christingle orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.



This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country.

Visit: www.childrensociety.org.uk

[How to Make a Christingle | DIY Christingle](#)

We have recently returned from a short break in Sicily or, to be more precise, its capital, Palermo. As is our wont, whenever we find ourselves in a foreign city, Margaret and I make a point of consulting our guidebook(s) and visiting any listed churches which sound as if they may be of interest. Well, as may be imagined, Palermo has a plethora of interesting and attractive churches but, given the limited time available to us, there were a number that we did not get around to visit.

We devoted most of our attention to Palermo's cathedral which is spectacular [particularly its exterior, inside it is a little austere] and that of Monreale, an even more impressive edifice, a short bus ride away.

Cattedrale dei Palermo:

Founded 1185 but took centuries to complete by which time it was overshadowed by the splendours of Monreale's cathedral. Notable for its Area Monumentale which houses the tombs of some of Sicily's most famous monarchs as well as the remains of Palermo's patron saint, Santa Rosalia. Spectacular views of the city and its surrounds from the cathedral's roof.

Duomo di Monreale:

Consecrated in 1183. Renowned for its mosaics which were designed to enable worshippers to read the bible directly from the walls; the nave mosaics portray the Creation and run around the whole of the church while the aisle mosaics illustrate the life and teachings of Jesus. The cloisters, an arcaded quadrangle with 216 twin columns supporting slightly pointed arches, reflect the Arab influence on Sicilian architecture.

Bizarrely however, it was perhaps the little Anglican Church of the Holy Cross, an Anglican chaplaincy in the Diocese of Europe, which most captivated us! Ironically an establishment which we encountered purely by chance as it does not feature in the Rough Guide.

The church, consecrated in 1875, owes its origins to the Woodhouse, Ingham and Whitaker families, major players in the Marsala wine business. At the turn of the nineteenth century, British merchants and ex-pats worshipped initially in the British Embassy and then, after its closure in 1814, in the chapels of visiting Royal Navy vessels. From 1840 Anglican services were celebrated in the fresco-adorned premises of the ballroom of the British Consul but this venue was ultimately deemed unsuitable in light of the fact that the ceiling fresco celebrated the "Triumph of Venus"!

Rich in ornamentation, with its Moorish arches along the nave, the little church recalls no Anglican establishment that I have ever witnessed. The mosaics of the cupola above the apse represent Jesus with the four gospel-writers while the roof of the Choir portrays the four doctors of the Western Church [Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome and Gregory.]

The capitals of the columns above the altar represent England, Ireland, Scotland and Sicily by way of their national flowers [Rose, Shamrock, Thistle and Lily respectively] while the pilasters around the altar commemorate important historical Protestant figures viz. St. Augustine, John Wycliff, Thomas Cranmer, Edward VI, Lord Burleigh and Queen Elizabeth



The mosaics around the Sanctuary portray the Apostles while the resurrected Christ, surrounded by adoring angels, dominates the centre.

A commemorative plaque presented by Gen. Patton recalls the Americans who fell during the Sicilian campaign [2899 Americans, as well as 2376 British and 526 Canadians]. After the Allied invasion of 1943 the American forces made use of Holy Cross with Patton often in attendance.

As one leaves the little church, one may, for two euros, avail oneself of a small, and rather dog-eared portrait of our late Queen. **Kaye Larbi**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Holy Trinity Church, Barkingside

Saturday 30 November **Carol Singing** @ Tiptree Estate
at 11am

Sunday 1 December 1st Advent Service at 10:30am

Sunday 8 December 2nd Advent Service at 10:30am
Carols by Candlelight with Fairlop Brass Band at 6:30pm

Tuesday 10 December **MU Carol Service** at 2:30pm

Friday 13 December **New Essex Choir**
Christmas Bells Concert at 7:30pm

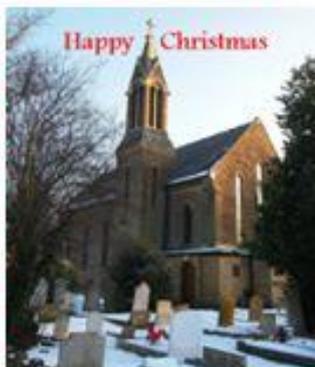
Saturday 14 December **Christmas Party**
Families & all generations—food & drinks, music & dance (Parish Hall)
4-7pm; 'booking only'; contact Kate @ 07876 318718

Sunday 15 December 3rd Advent Service at 10:30am

Sunday 22 December 4th Advent Service at 10:30am

Tuesday 24 December **Christingle Service for Families**
at 3pm; **Midnight Communion** at 11:30pm

Wednesday 25 December **Christmas Day Family Service**
at 10:30am



Mossford Green,
Barkingside, IG6 2BX
contact Chris @
07804 641931

