



in touch

50p

All Saints' Church, Springfield

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All Saints' Church,
Springfield

DECEMBER 2025

www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

**Details of all our Advent &
Christmas services inside**



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* PTO = Permission to officiate

From the Revd Sally



Dear friends

Welcome to the season of Advent – a time of waiting and of expectation. However this year I would like us to focus on an urgent topic that cannot wait, the climate emergency that faces our world.

The advent course that I am leading, *Sleepers Wake*, confronts us with the harsh realities of the climate crisis, offering bite-sized chunks that we can process through Advent as we need to be prepared dramatically to alter the way we live.

The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, commends this book saying: “The message (of this book), however, is not one of doom, for this book is shot through with hope... you are invited to participate through prayer and action in the change that will mean a flourishing life for the whole cosmos. There is surely no more beautiful message for Advent than this!”

I feel that in the excess of the build up to Christmas, it would be good to stop and focus on our impact on the environment. Christmas cards, wrapping paper, over packaged fresh food, food waste, gift waste all add to the impact that this season brings to our environment. Can we do things differently? Better?

Nicholas Holtam the author of *Sleepers Wake* says:

“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth is integral to being a Christian today... Advent calls us to wake up, pay attention, stay sober and be alert to God and to what is happening in the world around us. The behaviour of human beings is the major current cause of climate change and has the potential to become the 6th major event to result in the mass extinction of life on planet earth. We know this, yet we are still in danger of sleepwalking towards catastrophe... we are being called to live as citizens of God’s kingdom in the here and now... we are sensing an opportunity to do things differently, and an Advent-like urgency is needed in making our response... we can run headlong into disaster or we can sleepwalk into it, but we can no longer say that we do not know the impact of the way we are living. It is only in facing the reality that we can find the way forward.”

So how do we change this reality this Advent and Christmas?

How can we become better citizens and stewards of this earth?

By looking to the Christ child. God incarnate, living among us to show us how to care for each other and the environment. His narrative of care, simplicity, justice and love call us to mirror that way of being. We need to examine our impact on the world,

From the Rector continued

spiritually and environmentally, what are we doing to enhance and expand God's Kingdom here on earth. As we journey through advent ask yourself what more can I do? What can I give to God and how can I bring others into God's kingdom?

Have the most wonderful Christmas.

Welcome, all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span;
Summer in winter; day in night;
Heaven in earth, and God in man.
Great little one, whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

(Richard Crashaw, c. 1613-49)

Blessings

Jilly C

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 6th December 10.00am to 12 noon

Raffle
Cakes & refreshments
Chocolate tombola
Homemade marmalade
Children's games
Name the Father Christmas Cards and more.....
Cash preferred please



Services in December and at Christmas

**With details of the charities that we'll be supporting
by our giving – so please bring some cash!**

Sunday 7th December – Advent 2



- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Christingle Service for all ages
Collection to: The Children's Society – www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Sunday 14th December – Advent 3



- 10.30am Holy Communion
10.30am The Sunday Special Service

Sunday 21st December – Advent 4



- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sunday Special *with a telling of the nativity story*
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
Collection to: EMBRACE the Middle East – www.embraceme.org
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

- 3.00pm Children's Crib Service
Collection to: YMCA Essex (in Chelmsford) – www.ymcaessex.org.uk
4.30pm Children's Crib Service
Collection to: YMCA Essex (in Chelmsford) – www.ymcaessex.org.uk
6.30pm Carols for Christmas *carols, readings and the crib*
Collection to: Church Mission Society – www.churchmissionsociety.org
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Collection to: Chelmsford CHESS – www.chesshomeless.org

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

- 10.30am Family Communion
Collection to: Church Army – www.churcharmy.org.uk

Sunday 28th December – Christmas 1

- 10.30am Morning Prayer

'I'm dreaming of a *green* Christmas'

Joy to the world! The Lord has come. Let Earth receive her King!

The joy of Christmas is in the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ, transforming the world forever with new life and love and hope. Many will celebrate the festival with family or friends, decorating their homes, exchanging gifts and goodwill messages, sharing special meals, and spending quality time together.

How can we celebrate in ways which respect the Earth as she receives her King? Here are some ideas you may like to try for having a greener Christmas.

Looking lovely

- If you're buying a real Christmas tree, look for one which is certified as grown-in-Britain. And if you choose one with a decent root, you could keep it in a pot or garden and enjoy the same tree next year (saving money too!).
- Artificial trees are made of unrecyclable plastic so, if you have to get a new one, find one that you'll be happy to use for ten years or more. Or you may find a nice secondhand tree.
- LED lights use so much less energy that it's worth replacing any older lights that you have. Mains power is preferable to using batteries, though rechargeable batteries are an option. Solar-powered outdoor lights are available.
- Set outdoor lights on timers so that



they're only on for a few hours in the evening. Switch off indoor lights when you're not at home.

- For other decorations, it's always best to reuse last year's if you can.
- Charity shops often sell 'pre-loved' decorations, which is better than buying new.
- Avoid glitter, tinsel, and balloons, which all create plastic waste.
- If you have the time and the talent, making your own decorations from natural and recycled materials can give your home a great, unique look. You'll find lots of suggestions on the internet and in magazines. Making paper chains is still popular!

What shall I give?

- Choosing presents can be tricky, and it's such a pity if they are never much used, or get given or even thrown away – especially when the environmental

impacts of making and retailing them are taken into account.

- The general advice is to give a person one good quality present, rather than multiple presents which won't all be valued so much.
- Giving money or vouchers may lack the surprise element, but the recipient can then choose something they definitely want or need.
- Buying pre-loved items saves the resources needed to make new products. Vintage clothes and home furnishings, and refurbished technology, can make great sustainable gifts.
- Instead of buying people more and more stuff, you could give them an *experience* – a day out, adventure, activity, theatre tickets, etc.
- If you're good at cookery or craft, you could make your own very personal gifts which should go down well.
- Charity gifts are another nice option, where you give someone a record of the donation you've made on their behalf to support the charity's work with people in need, children, animals, the environment, etc.
- If you yourself receive an unwanted present, give it to someone you know will use it, or to a charity shop, or use the Chelmsford Freecycle Network.

Wrapping it up

- The UK produces 30% more waste at Christmas than during the rest of the year, and wrapping paper is a significant contributor.
- However, using present bags shouldn't create waste at all, if the



bags are kept and reused.

- Wrapping paper which has glitter or is shiny can't be recycled; but you can buy fully recyclable gift wrap made from 100% recycled paper.
- Brown paper with string or ribbon for a stylish finish has a nice vintage look: if you wish, you can decorate the paper using stencils or stamps.
- Colourful fabric is another attractive wrapping option.
- It's easy to make your own gift labels from previous years' Christmas cards, instead of buying new ones.
- Plastic sticky tape can't be recycled. Paper tape is available though it costs more, otherwise twine and ribbon are good choices.



On the cards

- About *one billion* Christmas cards are bought and given every year in the UK – and most are thrown away afterwards! But there are less wasteful alternatives.
- Use All Saints' 'One-And-All' Christmas card scheme to display a single card wishing a Happy Christmas to all your church friends (see page 15).
- Reuse the front of cards that you've received in previous years to make your own attractive cards.
- Online e-cards or e-messages can be a delightful and affordable alternative to printed cards.
- Don't be misled by 'charity cards'. Typically a direct donation of the money you spend would give the

charity 50% more than they get from selling their own cards, and ten times more than they get from charity cards sold in shops.

- Avoid buying cards wrapped in plastic, or with added decorations or glitter which make them impossible to recycle.

At the table

- The most effective way to reduce food waste at Christmas is to plan meals in advance and only buy the food you need.
- Buying local, seasonal food helps to reduce those 'food miles'. Try to buy food which has less packaging, especially plastic packaging.
- Choosing Fairtrade, organic, and eco-friendly foods is better for the planet. So is eating less meat and more veggies.
- When choosing crackers, look for ones made from recycled materials which don't contain plastic gifts. Bought or homemade reusable crackers are even better: they don't get thrown away, and you can put your own little gifts or treats inside.
- Avoid the use of disposable cups, tumblers, plates, cutlery, tablecloths etc.



To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish, Ann Salmon, Shirley Duggan.

- There are lots of good recipes for using food leftovers, e.g. on the bbcgoodfood.com website. Many leftovers can also go in the freezer.



- Non-perishable food can be donated to the Foodbank.

And when it's all over ...

- Farleigh Hospice will collect and recycle your Christmas tree in return for a donation – see the Events page on their website farleighhospice.org.
- If you need to dispose of an artificial tree, extend its life by freecycling it or giving it to a charity shop.
- Save all your decorations to use again next year.
- Save cards so you can make your own greetings cards, gift tags and decorations when the next Christmas comes round!
- If there's anything that can't be reused, separate it and recycle it. (Remove as much plastic tape as you can from paper and cardboard before recycling.)

All Saints' Eco Church Group wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas.

Roger McFarland

This month's eco suggestions

- **Plan meals ahead** so that all the food we buy will be used
- **Connect with nature** during the festive season – and remember to feed the birds!

A Christmas poem

Our former Rector, Raymond Brown, says that he still enjoys writing poems. With permission, we publish one that he wrote last Christmas:

Where might I find heaven in our anxious wounded world?
Where is love's great banner flying open and unfurled?
Where is light and life, the light and life of peace?
Where is the shining hope that all the wars might cease?

The darkness of our times made me ask, and so to wonder
Would heaven really come and split the dark asunder?

Then I recall a story, a story from afar
Of how upon the darkest night lit by a wandering star
A King was born surprisingly, a King who was a stranger
Not laid within a royal crib but laid within a manger.

Then I saw its meaning, the story of that birth
That heaven is now with us, heaven come to earth

As I live this Christmas, may heaven come to me
And come upon our wounded world that we might all be free.

Raymond Brown



Christingle Service
Sunday 7th December
at 10.30am

A wonderful beginning to the
Advent and Christmas season

Led by the Rector

Abigail's visit to Ethiopia

I recently returned to Ethiopia in association with a local Christian charity called 'Stand By Me' to visit and assist at the Bethany Project, a school and children's village that they run. I had previously visited the project in 2023, and my mum and I sponsor a boy who lives there.

This is just to share a little bit about my experience:

The children that attend the school all come from families who would not otherwise be able to access education due to the cost. Many have one or both parents who have either died, are unable to support their family due to illness, or have left the family for a variety of reasons. The local way of life is tough, and most of the homes are made from wood, mud and dung and are without electricity, water and sanitation. Many families struggle to afford sufficient food and clothing.

Bethany School, however, provides two meals a day Monday to Friday throughout the year, a uniform and an education to over 400 children. 'Stand by Me' also supports many of the families by paying rent, meeting medical costs and supplying food parcels. The charity continues to support the children throughout their high school and university education to give them an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

The Children's Village on site cares for children who would, otherwise, have no adult to care for them.



The mission trip was to support the work of the charity in a small town in Ethiopia 9,000 feet above sea level and about a 6-hour road trip south west-ish from Addis Ababa.

The travel path this time was a direct overnight flight from Heathrow to Addis Ababa and then an internal flight to a place just past our destination and then a road trip back to the town.

There is a very large luggage allowance (42kg) on Ethiopian Airlines, so I was able to take supplies for the project to use up the remaining allowance.

Once there, I lived in the school compound. There was electricity and



running water (though it is not drinkable) most of the time, and internet sometimes, within the compound, but the village community outside of the project is less likely to have any of these.

Through fundraising, the team, of which I was a part, was able to supply a pair of shoes for every child within the school, as well as a toothbrush and toothpaste. It was also able to fund one hundred food parcels for the families most in need. Between us, we took a range of sports equipment, laptops, stationery and books, craft materials, underwear, sanitary products and medical supplies.

Within the team, there was a range of professions and skills, and we were able to assist with health checks, lessons, sports, needlecraft, repairs and decorating, as well as giving lots of hugs! We also led evening Bible studies within the Children's Village.

As we had cameras, the children loved to have their photos taken and to see what they look like. We were able to take and print photos of every child and give it to



them, each within a frame that they had decorated themselves. This was really special.

Thank you

I want to thank everyone who took an interest in my trip and supported it by donating items for me to take and/or praying for me. I was amazed and touched by your generosity, and all the donations were so lovely. They all arrived safely and were very gratefully received at the Bethany Project. They will make such a difference to so many children. Thank you so much.

If you would like to find out more, give a monetary donation, or support the charity more long-term and personally by sponsoring a child, please come and talk to me, or visit their website at www.standby.me.

Abigail Clapton

Calendar for DECEMBER

A recording of the Sunday 10.30am service will be available on YouTube, accessible from the church website, soon after the service.

Mo	1		
Tu	2	10.00am	'Start the week' prayers in church
		11.00am	Sleepers Wake – Advent Course (till noon)
We	3	9.30am	Children in Church
		10.00am	Holy Communion
			<i>president & preacher:</i> The Revd Canon Keith Anderson
Th	4	2.00pm	All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering
Fr	5		
Sa	6	10.00am	Christmas Fayre (to 12 noon)

Su 7 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE JANUARY MAGAZINE

8.00am Holy Communion

president & preacher: The Rector

10.30am Worship Together Christingle Service

leader & preacher: The Rector

12.30pm Baptism

Mo	8		
Tu	9	10.00am	'Start the week' prayers in church
		11.00am	Sleepers Wake – Advent Course (till noon)
We	10	9.30am	Children in Church
		10.00am	Holy Communion
			<i>president & preacher:</i> The Rector
Th	11	2.00pm	All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship – Carol Service in church
		7.30pm	Blue Light service for those in the emergency services
			<i>preacher:</i> The Ven Jonathan Croucher
Fr	12		
Sa	13	9.30am	Family (Prayer) Breakfast at Wetherspoons
		7.30pm	Caprice "Christmas Nowell" Concert at the Cathedral

Su 14 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.30am Holy Communion

president: Canon Keith Anderson *preacher:* Peter Balls

10.30am Sunday Special Holy Communion

president: The Rector

Mo 15

Tu 16 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church

11.00am Sleepers Wake – Advent Course (till noon)

7.30pm Come and sing carols at The Tulip Public House

We 17 9.30am Children in Church

10.00am Holy Communion

president: The Rector preacher: Robin Stevens

Th 18 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering

Fr 19

Sa 20 12 noon The Orchestra invites you for refreshments and mince pies

12.30pm **All Saints' Orchestra play a short concert in the hall**

Su 21 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am Holy Communion

president & preacher: The Rector

10.30am The Sunday Special Service Nativity Play

leader: Julian Mallett

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Mo 22

Tu 23 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church

11.00am Sleepers Wake – Advent Course (till noon)

We 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

3.00pm Children's Crib Service

4.30pm Children's Crib Service

6.30pm Carols for Christmas

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Th 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Family Communion

president & preacher: The Rector

Fr 26 STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR

Sa 27 JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Su 28 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.30am Morning Prayer

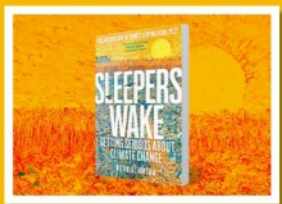
leader & preacher: Cristian Bora

10.30am There is no Sunday Special Service today

Mo 29 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Tu 30

We 31 10.00am There is no Holy Communion service today



ADVENT COURSE **SLEEPERS WAKE**

GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

**Every Tuesday from 2nd December for 4 weeks,
11am (to noon) in the Church Hall
and on Zoom at 7.30pm to 8.30pm**

Please sign up on the sheet in the Church Porch

“Easy Fundraising”

If you shop online, did you know that you can support All Saints’ by joining Easy Fundraising and choosing the church as your cause? It may only be a few pence per transaction, but the 14 current members have raised £612.98 over the years.

There are over 8,000 retailers in the scheme including eBay, most of the supermarkets, and high street names. To join use this link

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/allsaintsspringfieldpcc/WG15FQ/s2s/X4EN2Hqv/R3096/facebook/584>

Let me know now if you need help to get signed up.

Barbara Garside

New Year’s resolutions – discovered by Mary Bartlam

1. To read my bible and to say my prayers every day and to try to have a few minutes with God in the morning to help me throughout the day and always to pray when in trouble or seeking help and have faith in God in everything. To believe that I may have God’s gift to all who care to accept it.
2. To try my hardest in everything I do and not to slack. To do everything to the glory of my saviour.
3. ----- (*possibly too exhausted to continue!*)

G. F. HANDEL MESSIAH

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

Thursday 18 December, 7pm

Critically acclaimed opera company Wild Arts (★★★★ Opera Now, ★★★★★ The Guardian) return to Chelmsford with Handel's legendary telling of the Christmas story.

Performing from memory, star singers bring music and story to life, with staging devised by veteran theatre and opera director Tom Morris (*Breaking the Waves*, *Dr Semmelweis*, *War Horse*). Accompanied by an intimate ensemble of world-class musicians playing on period instruments, this enthralling production is a must see Christmas treat.

I've seen many a Messiah in my time but few as powerfully engaging as this. It held me in its grip from start to finish.

Michael White



Tickets from £15
Book Now wildarts.org.uk



TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Did you know that your old, unused tools could change someone's life? This is the simple, yet powerful, idea behind the Christian charity Tools With A Mission.

For over 40 years, TWAM has been collecting unwanted, usable tools from across the UK, refurbishing them, and sending them to communities in sub-Saharan Africa. The goal is to provide people with the means to learn a trade, start a small business, and earn a sustainable living.

In many developing countries, while people are eager to work and have the potential to learn skills, they simply do not have access to the necessary equipment. A lack of tools creates a cycle of reliance and poverty. TWAM breaks this cycle by providing a hand up, not just a handout.

The charity works with local training centres in Africa, where students receive practical skills training (such as carpentry, mechanics, or tailoring), along with essential administrative skills like bookkeeping and literacy. When they qualify, each student is given a complete, refurbished toolkit to enable them to establish their own small business.

If you feel you have some tools to offer, please speak to Barbara Gregory (01245 466370) who plans to arrange a local collection.

For more information about the charity, you can visit the TWAM website at www.twam.co.uk.

Women's Fellowship

Our November meeting was very well attended when Graham and Sue Chorley took us on a walk along the Cotswold Way. This started at Chipping Campden and just over 100 miles later finished at Bath. There were so many interesting and beautiful places, many with historical connections that they passed through.



One of these was Belas Knap Long Barrow. I had just returned a library book that morning – a murder mystery story that featured this Long Barrow, so I was delighted to learn that this was a real place!

There were charming villages built with the yellow Cotswold stone; we saw the site of the 1st Olimpick Games in 1636; Sudeley Castle and the hill where brave souls rushed down after the rolling cheese. What a wonderful part of the country this is.

Thank you, Graham and Sue, for sharing this with us. We look forward to your next walk!

Our final meeting this year will be the Carol Service on Thursday 11th December, which will be held in church.

Mary Bartlam



Don't forget the opportunity to use our "One-And-All" Christmas Card displays at church

You can send Christmas wishes to your friends at All Saints' by pinning your card on our display boards and, at the same time,

- helping your pocket so you have more for other important things;
- helping charities if you make a money donation rather than buying their cards;
- helping the planet by reducing the environmental impact.

So Happy Christmas One-And-All!



Christmas Carols at The Tulip

Come and enjoy an evening of Christmas carols and other Christmas favourites at The Tulip on Tuesday 16th December from 7.30pm



Prayers we remember

This is one of a monthly series of 'prayers we remember' which I'm sharing with you through *in touch* magazine, in the hope that you will find them as helpful as I do. They are well-known or special prayers which, I feel, capture what we want to say to God in a way which touches the heart.

Henri J.M. Nouwen (1932-1996) is one of my favourite Christian writers. He was a Catholic priest, professor and theologian who, after two decades teaching at academic institutions, went to work instead at the L'Arche Daybreak Community for people with disabilities in Ontario.

It's an annual struggle for me and, I suspect, for many people, to make enough time in the busy run-up to Christmas to pause and reflect on the reality of Christ's coming and everything it means. This prayer by Henri Nouwen can be a big help.

Roger McFarland

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say,

"Come Lord Jesus!"



*An Invitation from members of
All Saints' Springfield Orchestra*

*Come and hear your Orchestra playing a
short concert in the Church Hall
on Saturday 20th December
from 12.30 to 1.15pm.*

*Join us from 12.00pm
for tea/coffee and mince pies
and we will bring you into Christmas
with some seasonal music.*

A warm welcome awaits you.

Christmas wishes

Gina Shadrack would like to send Christmas greetings to friends at All Saints' together with very best wishes for a New Year full of joy and happiness.



You are never too old to sow!

I was recently asked to share my thoughts on two passages of Scripture.

- The first was the account of Daniel and the lions' den – in Daniel chapter 6.
- The second was the parable of the sower in Matthew chapter 13.

We know well the account of Daniel who was well liked by Darius because of his skills and integrity. The appointed Satraps however, had such a grudge against Daniel that they set a trap so that Darius had no option but to throw Daniel into the lions' den.

God was with His servant Daniel so that when the king went to see what had happened, Darius was found to be safe and well. Praise God.

Switching to the parable of the sower, we learn that not all the seed that was scattered fell on good soil to grow and develop and produce a crop.

I had a couple of thoughts about these passages.

The first was that I often thought of Daniel as being a young man in the faithful flush of youth. I was wrong. Daniel was in his early 80s which is the similar age to Moses when he was confronted by the burning bush in the wilderness.

This got me thinking that surely we are never too old to be used and equipped by God for works of service that He has prepared in advance for us to do. So, by definition, we never retire as a Christian!

The parable of the sower gave me another insight that I had previously been ignorant

of. Scattering seed is something that any of us can do. We simply grab a handful of seed and toss it out to our right or left. I realised that we are not responsible for where the seed lands. God will determine the future of the seed and He will make it grow. It's not for us to decide. Our job is to hand out the seed in the first place.

Where is this going? I believe that there are many people, some of whom we know, who would come to church if we invited them. They may have fallen away because of some reason or another. They might come back if they were invited. Especially at this time of year.

So how about it? Would you accept the challenge and invite, or hand out invitations to the many Christmas services that are coming up!

I want to close with some words from a Christian group. You may never have heard this song, but I believe it carries some truth for our friends and neighbours.

"There was a time that I swore I would never go back. I was blind to the truth, didn't know what I had. I was running, I was searching, but every place I turned for healing left me more broken than the last.

Take me back to the place that feels like home, to the people I can depend on, to the faith that's in my bones. Take me back to a preacher and a verse. Where they've seen me at my worst. To the love I had at first. Oh, I want to go to church".

Please try!

Peter and Linda Balls.



CHRISTMAS NOWELL



Saturday 13th December
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7.30pm

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SCAN ME

Peter and Linda Balls
are introducing a

Family (Prayer) Breakfast

**on Saturday 13th
December**

at 9.30am

**at the Ivory Peg
(Wetherspoons)
in New London Road.**

Hope to see you there.



Churchyard

It was a glorious autumn day on 1st November for the gardening team to finish off another year of work to maintain our churchyard. We were very busy with more of the laurel, trimmed and shredded, lots of leaves collected and composted, roses pruned, and flower beds tidied. The planters in the courtyard were also replenished with some winter colour.

We won't be meeting in December so we can support the Christmas Fayre. The next dates will be 3rd January and 7th February (weather permitting). Do come along and join the team, there are jobs available for all abilities. Any time you can spare between 9.30am and noon is so very much appreciated.

My thanks to everyone who has helped to keep the grounds looking so good in 2025.

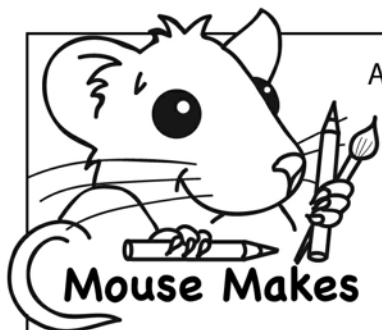
Happy Christmas wishes!

Barbara Garside

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At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snugly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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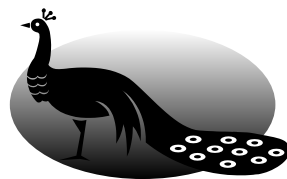
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