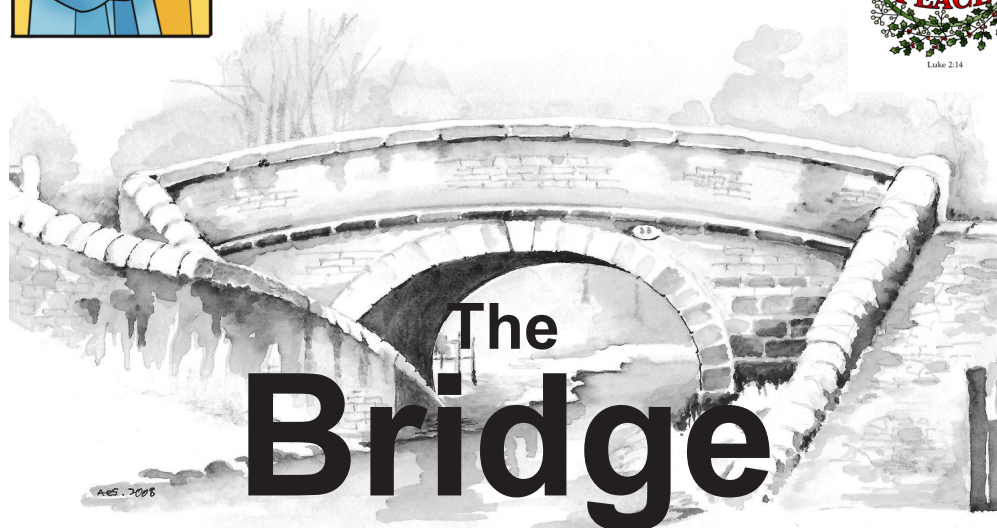




50p



December 2022

**Parish magazine serving the communities
around the churches of
The Sibsey and Carrington Group
and
The Brothertoft Group**



Serving Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington. New Bolingbroke, Westville, Sibsey Northlands, Wildmore, New York, Brothertoft, Langrick, Kirton Holme, Hubbert's Bridge, Amber Hill, Holland Fen, Gipsy Bridge, Langrville, Anton's Gowt and those with connections to the area.

ISSN 0273-2475



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Websites
www.achurchnearyou.co.uk
www.kirtonholmechurch.co.uk

Twitter
[@TheBrid05277267](https://twitter.com/TheBrid05277267)



The Sibsey Group of Churches can be found on Facebook. Search for 'Sibseygroupofchurches'.

Welcome to December 2022 edition

Seasonal Greetings to all our readers, contributors and advertisers. May you all enjoy the festive season with your families and friends and welcome in a New Year that brings new hope and happiness to you all.

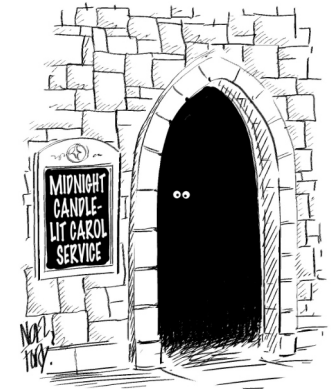
The next printed edition will be issued in February. An online January edition will be published by 12th January 2023 on the local 'A Church Near You' website. There was no November 2022 printed edition but the printed edition has more pages this month. Printing costs have risen a lot. Subscribers will be asked if they wish to renew their subscription in February 2023 but a price rise is not expected.

Anyone wishing to advertise their events, businesses or services in The Bridge should email thebridgemag@outlook.com

The Editor

Some Special Dates in December

- 1 December: Christmas Tree Dressing Day
- 2 December: Abolition of Slavery Day
- 8 December: Christmas Jumper Day Save the Children
- 20 December: Festival of Winter Walks
- 25 December: Christmas Day
- 26 December: Boxing Day
- 28 December: Holy Innocents Day



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



More than 25 years experience

Fully insured

THE CUTTING CORNER

Hair Salon in Sibsey

Specialises in modern and traditional hairdressing. Professional and friendly 1-2-1 service. Daytime and evening appointments and home visits possible.

New waxing service offered, please enquire.

Phone
07796822607






What's on Locally?

Regeneration Sibsey Village Hall 10.30am-11.30am	Every Monday
Amwes Archery Club Carrington Village Hall 6pm-7.30pm. Samantha & Alan, Phone: 07551 968962	Every Monday
Community Coffee Morning Kirton Holme Churchroom 10.00am – 11.30am	2 nd Monday
Coffee Morning 10am Sibsey Northlands Hall Tel 01205 750197.	3 rd Monday
Indoor Bowling Sibsey Village Hall 2-4pm	Every Tuesday
Indoor Bowls New York Village Hall 2-4pm Contact Ron 07951 313782	Every Tuesday
Coffee Morning Carrington Village Hall 10am-12noon	1 st Tuesday
Coffee Morning Holland Fen Hall 10.30am-12noon	2 nd Tuesday
Country Roads Quilters Sibsey Northlands Hall 9.30am - 4.30pm	3 rd Tuesday
Jive Class Hubberts Bridge Comm. Centre 7.30pm-8.30pm	Every Wednesday
Pilates Sibsey Village Hall 10-11am	Every Wednesday
Slimming World Sibsey Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm	Every Wednesday
Auctions Carrington Village Hall	Every Wednesday
Indoor Bowls New York Village Hall 2pm-4pm Contact Ron 07951 313782	Every Wednesday
Sibsey WI Sibsey Northlands Hall 7.15pm	2 nd Wednesday
Friendship Group/Coffee Afternoon Sibsey Village Hall 2-4pm	2 nd Thursday
Indoor Bowling Sibsey Village Hall 6-8pm	Every Thursday
Cinema@The Beonna , Benington 7pm	2 nd Thursday
Amber Hill WI 7.15pm	2 nd Thursday
Quiz@The Beonna , Benington 7pm - 11pm	1 st Thursday
Bike Night/Social Night New York Village Hall 5pm-8pm	1 st Thursday
Archery New York Village Hall 7-8pm Steve 07896 534578. All ages and abilities welcome.	Every Friday
Craft Afternoon 1.30pm-4.30pm Holland Fen Vill.Hall	Every Friday
Cash Bingo Sibsey Village Hall (see local adverts for times)	Last Friday of the month
Dog Training New York Village Hall 10am-12noon	Every Saturday
Dog Training New York Village Hall 10am-12noon	Every Sunday

Last posting dates

Within the United Kingdom

2nd Class delivery including signed-for:
Monday 12th December.
First class and Royal Mail Tracked 48
mail: Friday 16th December.
Royal Mail Tracked 24:
Monday 19th December
Special Delivery Guaranteed:
Wednesday 21st December
<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/last-posting-dates>

Strike Days

Unions plan to take strike action on
9th, 11th, 14th and 15th December. Royal
Mail advises that on days when national
strike action is taking place; they will
deliver as many Special Delivery and
Tracked 24 parcels as possible; they will
prioritise the delivery of COVID test kits
and medical prescriptions wherever
possible; they will not be delivering
letters (with the exception of Special
Delivery).

What you can do:

Post your items as early as possible in
advance of the strike dates and continue
to post your items at Postboxes or Post
Offices. Collections will be less frequent
on strike days.



Sibsey Church needs your help!

*Saturday 17th December major clean to
prepare for Christmas, everyone welcome,
come anytime between 10am and 4pm.*

Contributions to The Bridge

Thank you to all our contributors and
advertisers. If you have any material
to go into the next edition please send
it to thebridgemag@outlook.com as
early as you can. Deadlines are 17th of
the month before publication for the
printed edition and 25th of the month
for the online edition.

Cost of Living & Warm Spaces Info

East Lindsey District Council is
maintaining a community and wellbeing
webpage with links to further information
to help with the cost of living and also
warm spaces at [www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/
article/6955/Community-Wellbeing](http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/6955/Community-Wellbeing)
Boston Borough Council's own webpage
is at [www.boston.gov.uk/article/20652/
Community-and-Wellbeing](http://www.boston.gov.uk/article/20652/Community-and-Wellbeing)
Lincolnshire County Council's webpage
is at [https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/
council-councillors/cost-of-living](https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-councillors/cost-of-living)
HM Government webpage is at
<https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

80 years ago

On 1st December 1942 the British
Government published the Beveridge
Report, which formed the basis of the
welfare state.

100 years ago

On 8th December 1922, Lucian Freud,
German-born British figurative artist and
draughtsman was born. A leading
portrait artist of the 20th century.

CARRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE
MORNING**

DECEMBER 6TH 10-12

**XMAS JUMPERS/WEAR
WELCOME**

RAFFLE, MUSIC, PRIZES.

Christmas Quiz 2022

- How did No Vac Novak become No Match Novak?
- 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. What did they choose?
- Which rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that?
- What unexpected occurrence at the Winter Olympics caused problems in the icy setting?
- He would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote The hippopotamus song mud, mud, glorious mud
- What was the career of the President of Ukraine before he entered politics?
- At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock, What film did Smith go on to get an Oscar for?
- What were the following "gates"? Why are they called "gates"? Partygate - Tractorgate - Beergate
- In May a footballer's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million. Whose was it?
- What were two places outside the UK that gained city status?
- There was a television series this year called *Infamy*. Which film features the line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me."?
- A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the Platinum Jubilee was Paddington Bear. Who voiced Paddington in the Ukrainian language version of the film?
- The actor who played the Revd Timothy Farthing passed away this year. What comedy series did he appear in?

- At the age of nearly 90, he published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years Of Doing Absolutely Everything* - and its advice was simple. "Do your best and be grateful for every single job". Who was he?
- Which actress was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King?
- Where did Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge?

Answers on page 28.

The Herbert Protocol

Do you care for someone with dementia and worry they may go missing?

The Herbert Protocol is a national scheme which encourages carers and families to record vital information on a form, which Lincolnshire Police can use to help find the person missing.

For more information visit: bit.ly/3sP73jr



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

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

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

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

His achievements were many and varied, though after his death some doubt was cast on his methods and his failure sometimes to attribute the work of other scientists. He is best

known for the now familiar process of pasteurising milk, removing harmful bacteria, but he also developed vaccinations for anthrax, TB and rabies. He also created, in 1865, a method of eliminating microbes that attacked silkworm eggs and was said to have helped save the silk industry as a result.

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

100 years ago

On 14th December 1922 John Reith (later Lord Reith) was appointed as General Manager of the BBC.



HOLLAND FEN VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER

DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR 7.30PM START

£6 PER PERSON BUFFET INCLUDED

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

PLEASE REMEMBER THE HALL IS AVAILABLE TO HIRE
ALL ENQUIRES SHOULD BE MADE TO KATIE ON 01205
280404

**Warm up to Christmas
with
Boston Ukelele Group
Kirton Holme Church Hall
Monday 19th December
7.30pm
£6 includes refreshments**

Mary's Christmas

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

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

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

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

Canon Paul Hardingham

Why naps for children are good

Short naps in the daytime are very good for your young child. They can be key to allowing their young brain to fully develop.

According to a recent study, the part of the brain that processes memories, the hippocampus, is underdeveloped in children. Taking a nap will help them, as their immature hippocampus quickly reaches its limit of memory storage. Taking a nap will ensure that nothing is forgotten, and free up more brainpower for learning.

As one scientist explained: "they have a massive amount of information that must be learned," yet "the neural systems that support learning are still under construction." So naps help children to deal with the information coming in, and to store it properly. Naps also help a child to consolidate their emotions from the day. As one scientist observed: "This provides a potential explanation of the oft observed phenomena that habitually napping children are emotionally dysregulated at the end of the day if they do not nap (the 'witching hour')."



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

90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 8 December, millions of people up and down the country will come together – at their workplace, school or with friends – to make the world better with a sweater.

This year will be TWICE as good as before. Every time you donate £2, the UK government has totally promised to give £2 to Save the Children too*. That means double the funds, double the fun! With all that extra cash, Save the Children has big plans to help mums and babies in Kenya.

www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day

80 years ago

On 17th December 1942 British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons about the mass executions of Jews by the Nazis in occupied Europe. Ministers and Members of Parliament condemned the massacres and held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

The First Christmas

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE VERY SPECIAL BABY

...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY - 'JESUS'



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE BY THE CENSUS.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL... THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...


SORRY.. I'VE NO ROOM!



...WHICH IS WHERE THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY. AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAS BEEN BORN.



THEY WERE THRILLED TO SEE THE MOST WONDERFUL GIFT IN THE WORLD!



The special gift of Christmas for people living with dementia

Christmas time, with its music and traditions, offers “a special gift” to people living with dementia. Christmas can act as a powerful reminiscence therapy, especially for Christian believers, who will have long term memories of past Christmases, even though their short-term memory (working memory) has faded.

So says Louise Morse, a cognitive behavioural therapist and author of several books about dementia (Lion Monarch and SPCK) and old age. So, this Christmas she is urging families who have someone with dementia to use those long-term memories and help a loved one who is suffering memory loss.

Louise Morse explains: “Reminiscence therapy helps us recall the past as a means of owning it, and strengthens a sense of self. Grandma may have only a tenuous grasp of herself in the present, but in the past, she knew who she was – and therefore, still is.”

The effect of music on the brain is well known, and so Louise Morse urges that traditional Christmas music can play a big part here. She quotes a line from the hymn ‘O Holy Night’, when ‘the soul knows its worth.’ She says: “And bound up in Grandma’s memories of Christmas will be worship. Worship unites us with God, and we enter into His peace.”

Louise Morse also advises other music. “There are also the popular songs Grandma would have heard in

her day, like Bing Crosby’s ‘White Christmas’. Perhaps record a selection and play them through wearable earphones. Also, don’t be surprised if she ‘time-travels’ temporarily to a familiar place in the past!

If this happens, “don’t ask them, ‘do you remember?’ or even say, ‘I remember when,’ because it will challenge and disturb your loved one. Instead, when showing family photographs or memorabilia to them, simply frame the memory with enthusiasm and warmth by saying, ‘that was the day our Kevin’ Or ‘this came from Aunt Mabel when ...’

“Let the rhythms and music of Christmas do their work.”

Louise Morse is a writer and speaker for Pilgrims’ Friend Society (www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk)

COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR OUR **‘WARM UP FOR CHRISTMAS’**

NEW YORK VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR CHRISTMAS CHEESE AND WINE SOCIAL ON SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM.



TICKETS ARE £10 PER PERSON, INCLUDING A FREE GLASS OF WINE, SOFT DRINK OR BEER.



A BUFFET SUPPER IS INCLUDED WITH WINE AND BEER AVAILABLE TO BUY ON THE NIGHT.



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MARILYN CASEY ON 01526 342039 OR JENNY LAWS ON 07769880403.



Make sure your valuations are up-to-date

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.." (Matthew 6:18)

We once had a break in just before Christmas, the thief stole presents from under the Christmas tree and my laptop. This was some years ago, but I can still remember the trauma of it. We got off lightly as there was not much damage and the items stolen had little sentimental value. I have recently heard of an issue with insurance which could make matters worse.

Supposing you claim for the cost of your belongings which were stolen. The insurance company appoints an investigator who then assesses the value of your claim. The person adds up the figures which come to say £30,000. Some of the jewellery has gone up a lot in value over the years. But wait a minute, your cover was only up to £10,000.00. The insurance company refuses to pay anything, not even the £10,000.

The insurers are doing nothing wrong as you, the insured, have a duty to give up-to-date accurate valuations. The insurance company is within its rights not to pay anything at all, not even the cover amount. You can complain and the Financial Services Ombudsman who will investigate. They have a very helpful section on insurance problems. It is not only contents this relates to, but any insurance could be 'voided' for under-valuation. It seems a hard rule. The word 'voided' means it is as though it

never existed at all. Even previous claims might have to be refunded.

Here are some things you can do:

If you have valuables, make sure they are accurately valued. Have a record of what valuables you have, when you got it and how much you paid. Think about security. When did you last check window locks, doors? Do the other people in your house know about safety? Do your family members have insurance? Young people often do not think about this.

David Pickup, a solicitor.

Safe driving this winter

The temperatures are dropping now, and if you are going away for Christmas, it is a good idea to nurture your car battery. Cold, damp weather can cause problems for it. The RAC recommends the following to take best care of your battery:

Before you switch off your engine at the end of a journey, turn off the lights, wipers, and heaters. This prevents any unnecessary drain on the battery next time you start the car. Check that everything is switched off before you turn on the ignition.

Avoid using the heater longer than necessary, as it puts high demands on the vehicle's battery. Check that you don't leave interior lights, satnavs or phone chargers connected. If possible, park in a garage.

Time for a Smile

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

Richard, my husband, and I had a hectic Christmas holiday schedule involving work, care of parents, driving of teenagers, shopping, and all the required doings of the season. Running out of time, I asked a local printer to simply print our name on our Christmas cards, to save me signing each one.

Soon we started getting cards from friends signed 'The Modest Morrisons', 'The Clever Clarks', and 'The Successful Smiths'. This baffled me until I looked again at our card. I had posted out a hundred cards neatly imprinted with 'Happy Holidays from the Rich Armstrongs'.

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you."

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer.

For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?" The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "*Didn't you get my email?!*"

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.

- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta

- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"

"What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"

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

The 'wonder' of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem

Shepherds in first century Palestine would have been attuned to the wonders and ravages of nature: star-lit nights, cold and heat, storm and calm, and the unwelcome attention of predators, both animal and human. They would have been more aware than we of human dependency on the seasons, and more respectful than us of the precarious nature of existence. Fear, as well as appreciation, would have shaped their religious sensitivities.

Some think the shepherds near Bethlehem may have been guarding sheep for the Jerusalem Temple, which used them as part of the sacrificial ritual of Judaism in those days. Yet the kind of work shepherds did and the hours they had to keep barred them from orthodox religious observance; they were regarded as uncouth and untrustworthy and were not allowed to give testimony in law courts.

It was typical of St Luke (the only New Testament writer to refer to the shepherds) to put them in the forefront of his narrative. Luke is the writer who favours the underdog: tax collectors, sinners, women, old and poor people and non-Jews all figure favourably in his account. Deliberately he sets before us shepherds as the first Christmas worshippers. They already knew how to *wonder*.

William of St Thierry wrote: "A man who has lost his sense of wonder is a man dead." The 19th Century scientist Michael Faraday wrote: "Let us consider... how wonderfully we stand upon this world. Here it is that we are born, bred and live, and yet we view these things with an almost entire absence of wonder..." This is no plea for anti-intellectual faith, but rather for the discovery of an extra dimension. Wonder is the prime

ingredient of worship, and we need to recover it and use it. It takes practice.

William Blake encouraged us to look into the ordinary and see the extraordinary:

"To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower:
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour..."

The late Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster wrote, "A sense of the sublime leads to a sense of awe, which is I suppose that combination of wonder and fearfulness you may feel in the presence of what takes your breath away. It is not afraid in the sense of feeling scared, but rather an awe-struck sense of amazement that the ordinary is rather more extraordinary than the extraordinary... it is not the rabbit out of the hat but the rabbit out of the rabbit that is so surprising..."

So, in the astonishing story of heaven-come-to-earth in Bethlehem, of divinity in a cowshed, it is *shepherds* who receive the revelation. Not priests, not presidents, not philosophers. "An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." For all they knew it might have been bad news. "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord'."

The response of the shepherds was to go and see. Not to question or even to reason. The main constituent of their belief was already *wonder*. They were accustomed to marvelling, for they were surrounded by a world of marvels. So, they went to look. And as they looked, they marvelled. Later, they were to return "glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard."

The story behind the hymn: Good King Wenceslas

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

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

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

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

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia. For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

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

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

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

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

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

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Christmas Day

Carols sound throughout the land

Heralding a special birth

Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm

Immanuel comes to bless the earth.

So in the town of Bethlehem

The Saviour Jesus gently lies,

Mary rocks the tiny child

As angels serenade the skies.

Shepherds told the awesome story

Divinity will now reside

As He who ruled in Heaven above

Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

By Megan Carter

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Also known as Childermas or Innocents' Day is a Christian feast in remembrance of the massacre of young children in Bethlehem by King Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:16–18). The feast is observed by Western churches on December 28 and in the Eastern churches on December 29. The slain children were regarded by the early church as the first martyrs, but it is uncertain when the day was first kept as a saint's day. It may have been celebrated with Epiphany, but by the 5th century it was kept as a separate festival. In Rome it was a day of fasting and mourning.

In medieval England children were reminded of the mournfulness of the day by being whipped in bed in the morning; this custom survived into the 17th century.

New Bolingbroke Christmas market
December 11th
11am - 2pm
Free entry in the Town Hall
No dogs allowed in the hall
Stalls include:
Preloved furniture, jewellery, sewing, paintings by local artist, Body shop, Mama Chilli delights, Wax melts, bags and scarfs, Samantha K Crafts (as seen on TV Create and craft), Porkywright meat, The Cornish daughter cakes and pies, fruit and veg.
Come and get those last minute gifts (and a treat for yourself)
Santa will be coming, he will be happy to have a photo taken with you. 12 -1pm. Stalls judging taken place 2pm
Christmas refreshments will be available.
All information correct at time of printing

New York Village Hall

5th January / 2nd February

5pm-7.30pm approx.

(First Thursday every month)

**Bike Night,
Vintage Vehicles,
Social Night**

Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments
See the Village Hall Facebook page for more details.

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Call us on 01526 344226 to pre-order your fruit,
baskets, flowers, 25kg bags of potatoes and
vegetable orders or contact us on Facebook.

Seasonal orders taken for pumpkins, Christmas trees and holly wreaths.

Dean of Lincoln announces retirement

The Dean of Lincoln, the Very Reverend Christine Wilson will retire at the end of March 2023 but will take two months 'end of ministry' leave so her last service will take place on 2nd February, the Feast of Candlemas. Revd Christine will have served 25years in ordained ministry and issued a statement saying

"It has been a great honour to serve amongst you at Lincoln Cathedral. "

Brothertoft Group Friendship Club

October 2022 Draw
£25 Holland Fen Church
£15 Marie Rodgers
£10 Paul King
November 2022 Draw
£25 June Davy
£15 Joy Benton
£10 Ann Hendy

Are you dreading some Christmas presents?

Do you expect to like all the presents you will receive this year? Not if last year was anything to go by! In fact, it seems that more than two-thirds of us expect that we will unwrap at least one item that we do not like this Christmas.

What do you do with those weird gifts? One in four of us admit to dumping them – straight into the bin. Yet we are very polite about it - two in five of us pretend delight so that we do not hurt anyone's feelings. Only one in ten of us is ruthlessly honest and express our disappointment.

A better way of getting rid of unwanted presents is to donate them to charity. Charity shops will welcome almost any kind of unwanted Christmas present.



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your favourite carols and
songs

Sunday 4th
December
2.30pm

New York Village Hall

Light refreshments
Free Entry

Your Countdown to Christmas – 25 ideas

1. Find the perfect cards.... But hurry! If you don't already have a favourite charity, try the Combined Charities Christmas Shop at <http://www.christmas-cards.org.uk/> for ideas.
2. Your Count-down dates to Christmas might include:
 - 30th Nov – 4th Dec: Write your Christmas cards. Start with the 'must-sends' first, so the pressure eases off. Draw up your Christmas present list.
 - 5th & 6th Dec: A good time for the children to make home decorations. Also, start shopping for presents...
 - 12th & 13th Dec: Unless your family tradition dictates otherwise, this would be a good weekend to bring the tree home
 - Week of 14th – 18th Dec: A good time for a cleaning day to get the house ready for decorating... and finish shopping for presents.
 - 19th/20th Dec: Time to pull things together - decorate the tree and the house and finish wrapping the presents you will give out personally.
3. Choose a colour theme for this Christmas. Red? Gold? Purple? Silver? Then use it on everything - from your candles, tree baubles and wrapping paper, to table napkins and Christmas cards and lights.
4. Plan your Christmas lunch. Try and think of everything that you will need on the day – and make sure you have it ordered or bought in good time.
5. Set aside enough time for those shopping trips – and prepare a list so that you don't waste time.
6. Plan your budget – don't let Christmas 'fever' make you reckless. Be careful you don't go over any

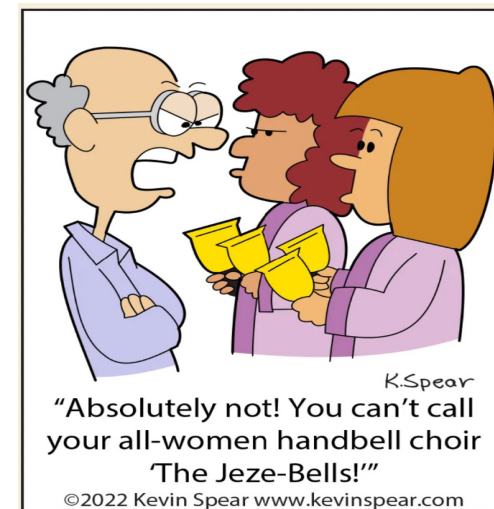
overdraft with your bank – the penalties are expensive! Also, really and truly, beware using credit cards if you can't pay them off quickly.

7. Pick the perfect tree. Bear in mind that an artificial tree is not just for Christmas, but for life.... all that non-renewable plastic will spend eternity in some landfill site. So why not branch out and look for the real thing. For more options, visit The British Christmas Tree Growers Association www.christmastree.org.uk
8. Learn some party games. For games that are easy, slightly harder and fiendishly hard, visit: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/puzzles-and-games>
9. Hang a wreath. You can buy one or get creative with a mixture of foliage from your garden.
10. Practical details: Make sure you have in a good stock of coal and logs, Christmas tree lights that work, a clean oven, a stock of candles and matches, and spare batteries.
11. Fill those Christmas stockings - a must for Christmas mornings. Cleverly planned, they might even delay the time when exhausted parents are awoken from slumbers....
12. Wrap those presents - what you get and how you wrap it will say a lot about your attitude towards the person you are giving to! So select your presents and wrapping materials with care, use only sharp scissors, and put your Sellotape on neatly. Adding some ribbon is well worth the effort.
13. Enjoy those Christmas markets and fayres - is there a house-bound neighbour or friend you could take along?
14. Display your cards with style. The simple ideas are often the most

stylish. So have fun with wooden clothes pegs, sprayed gold, and peg your cards along ribbon that can be looped from one end of a curtain pole to the other.

15. Deck the halls - especially yours. Would your front entrance hall take a small tree, wreath, or maybe just a bowl of pretty sweets? Run a garland up the bannister. Add some ivy and some fairy lights.
16. Donate to charities who help the homeless and the migrants.
17. Sing carols – and play carols at home. Remind your family what it is really all about.
18. The trip to Bethlehem. Dig out your nativity set, and start Mary and Joseph and the donkey at the top of your stairs – moving them a bit closer to the manger downstairs each day. And don't forget to start the wise men on their way, from another part of the house. (Beware your dog eating anyone on the way!)
19. Think about decorating your table - you could use holly and ivy and narcissi and snowdrops... and lots of red ribbon. But if you use poisonous plants, be very careful around the children and pets.
20. Give your pets some extra care. If you have a curious dog or cat, avoid tinsel on the tree – your pets could choke on it. Keep a watchful eye on the turkey bones on Christmas Day – and dispose of them safely. If they splinter in your pet's throat on Christmas Day, you could easily double the cost of your Christmas with just one visit to the vet.... Don't leave scraps of wrapping paper around if they might be eaten. Finally, ensure your pets can find a quiet place to rest if all the family is there.

21. Go crackers. In 1847 the confectioner Tom Smith invented the Christmas cracker. Legend says that he spotted a beautifully wrapped French bon-bon and had a 'eureka moment'. In effect, he said to himself: 'What that bon-bon really needs is a tiny plastic key-ring, a groan-inducing pun on a piece of paper, a tissue paper parody of royal headgear, all wrapped up inside an exploding toilet roll.' The rest is history.
22. Plan the Boxing Day walk. By then tempers will be frayed and thankyou letters will be looming. A good long walk that includes some lovely scenery will do you all good.
23. Read your children the Christmas story. There are any number of excellent children's books which tell it with wonderful illustrations.
24. Make sure your neighbours are all right - is there anyone who could use a helping hand? Anyone needing a lift to church?
25. On Christmas Eve/Christmas, make time to have a family reading of the Nativity stories in Matthew and Luke. As a family, make time to praise God for the gift of Jesus!



Church Services and Events

Sunday 4th December

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship
10.45am Wildmore Holy Communion

Sunday 11th December

10.30am Sibsey Christingle
10.45am Brothertoft Morning Worship

Sunday 18th December

10.30am Sibsey Holy Communion
10.45am Holland Fen Morning Worship

Wednesday 21st December

7.30pm Sibsey Carol Service

Thursday 22nd December

6.30pm Carrington Nine Lessons & Carols

Saturday 24th December

8.00pm Sibsey Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 25th December

9.30am Langrick Christmas Day Service

Sunday 1st January 2023

10.45am Wildmore Holy Communion

All services will be conducted to be Covid-safe. Face coverings optional but welcome. Hand sanitiser will be available. Refreshments may be served if volunteers available. Anyone not taking communion may receive a blessing from the priest.

2023 Services at St Margaret's Church, Sibsey

Whilst staffing levels remain the same, the Monthly Service Pattern at St. Margaret's will continue, with Services beginning at 10.30am - First Sunday, Morning Worship led by the Holy Trinity Lay Team, and followed by refreshment, Second Sunday, Morning Worship led by our Reader, Nicola Bradbury, Third Sunday, Holy Communion led by a Priest, Fourth Sunday, Holy Communion with the Brothertoft Group (10.45am), and any Fifth Sunday, Holy Communion at Sibsey. **The services are varied and you are cordially invited to attend. Please watch the Church Notice Board for any changes.** *Ann W.*



This month sees the first anniversary of the death or funeral of the following **parishioners**. We remember them and their families and friends at this time.

Alan Bond

Joseph Elmitt

Maureen Cawthorn

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday 25th December



Holy Communion

9.30am

**St. Margaret's
Langrick**

Prayer Requests

If you would like prayers said in church for you at a time of illness or upheaval this can be arranged. If the request is for another person the prayers will not be said in public for confidentiality reasons. Contact the clergy or lay ministers listed inside the front cover.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December

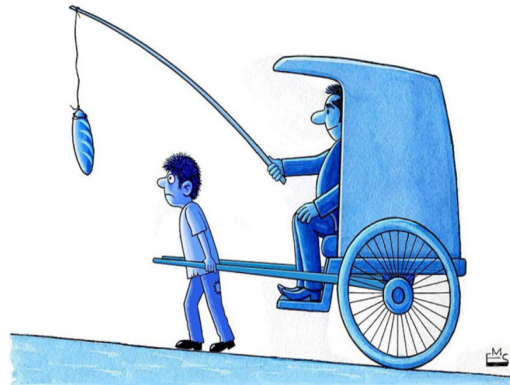
Slavery has been with the world for thousands of years but in recent centuries it has taken on an increasingly inhuman and sinister nature that the United Nations calls 'modern slavery'. This prompted the UN to create, in 1949, an 'International Day for the Abolition of Slavery' which has to be held each year on 2 December.

In Biblical times there were two common ways someone became a slave – they were either taken into captivity as prisoners of war, or people could choose to become one, usually by selling themselves to a wealthy person in exchange for shelter and food. Such slaves could be likened to live-in servants in more modern times, although this does not mean that all slaves were treated fairly.

In the 1600s, slavery took a serious downturn with traders transporting an estimated 12.5 million Africans to the Americas in such dreadful conditions that only 10.7 million survived the journey. It took about 50 years to bring the trade to an end during the 1800s and the repercussions are still rumbling on today.

'Modern Slavery' as recognised by the United Nations in December 1949 is a different, but equally serious issue, and it is this that prompted the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery with its focus on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking people, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and

the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.



Cartooning for Peace's prize-winner - Eshonkulov Makhmudjon (Uzbekistan)

It is estimated that 40.3 million people are in modern slavery, including 24.9 in forced labour and 15.4 million in forced marriages. There are 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people in the world with one in four being children. Some 16 million people are exploited in the private sector such as domestic work, construction, or agriculture; 4.8 million people in forced sexual exploitation, and 4 million people in forced labour imposed by state authorities. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors.

According to the UN, the international day on 2 December 'seeks to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity'. Find out more <https://www.un.org/en/observances/slavery-abolition-day>

Get walking again during the Christmas break

During the Covid lockdown many people rediscovered the joy of walking for pleasure, but how many of these have returned to their armchairs as we have returned to our previously 'normal' lives? If you are one these, or if you are looking for new walks, then the Festival of Winter Walks organised by The Ramblers could get you walking again. The festival has been running for over 30 years and is designed 'to provide an opportunity to get more people walking'. This year, it runs from Tuesday 20 December 2022 to Thursday 5 January 2023.

The Ramblers is a charitable organization that aims to protect the ability of people to enjoy 'a sense of freedom and the benefits that come from being outdoors on foot.' Its initial objective was to ensure access to the countryside for the general public. By law, The Ramblers in England and Wales needs to be consulted before there are any changes to walking paths. They have hundreds of volunteers looking after thousands of miles of walking paths.

The festival walks are being held throughout the UK – to find one near you search online for Festival of Winter Walks 2022.

Could you volunteer or donate money to help homeless people this Christmas?

After fire destroyed her home, Sammy needed somewhere to live. She was living with her grandfather when their home was burnt down. Sammy was sent to a hostel and her

grandfather went into dementia care where he still is. They lost everything in the fire. At the hostel Sammy found out about Crisis, the charity formed in 1967 to help homeless people, and she moved into a Crisis hotel in December for a month where she was looked after by the volunteers working there. Crisis volunteers arranged specialist medical help and a coach to help her find more permanent accommodation in a women's home where she now lives in safety and where she can stay as long as she needs.

This is just one of many examples of the help that Crisis provides for homeless people through its Crisis Skylight Centres in East London, Newcastle, Oxford, Edinburgh, South Yorkshire, South Wales, Croydon, Brent and Merseyside.

The registered charity offers year-round education, employment, housing and well-being services, and lobbies Government for greater protection for the homeless. For example, Crisis campaigning led to the 1977 Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which included the first legal definition of homelessness. The UK is the only country where homeless people have a legal entitlement to settled housing enforced by the courts.

Christmas is always extremely busy for Crisis volunteers throughout the country as they seek to help homeless people living on the streets by offering them food, shelter and Christmas cheer at Crisis centres. As well donations to help them through the Christmas period, Crisis also

My favourite Christmas Carol

What's your favourite Christmas Carol? This is something I have been asking people recently with very mixed results. It is fully understandable when the choice is so large — it is thought that there are about 10,000 songs that can be classed as 'Christmas Carols' although most people's choice is much more limited, and they struggle to name more than a handful until they hear it being sung when, subconsciously, they know all the words.

Add to this Christmas hymns and the choice gets even more complicated. Most church historians agree that the oldest Christmas hymn we still sing regularly in church has its roots in The Gloria that was first sang by the angels in heaven on the night that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The words and tune used today have been traced back to the 3rd Century.

A contender for the oldest 'carol' is The Friendly Beast which is believed to have originated in France in the 12th Century. The words are about some of the animals that today are often seen in a Nativity — a donkey, cow, sheep, camel, and a dove. Modern Nativity sets also often include goats, although in some South American countries these are replaced by lamas to reflect the local culture.

Goats were certainly common in Biblical times and are mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. One of the goat's spiritual symbolisms is 'faith'.

According to Wikipedia, the English language words to The Friendly Beasts were written in the 1920s by Robert Davis and they were used in The Coming of the Prince of Peace: A Nativity Play with Ancient Christmas Carols.

It is generally agreed that the term, 'Christmas Carol', became popular worldwide in Victorian times after Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol, a title he is said to have chosen because he expected his story to be retold and in doing so bring people together just as singing Christmas Carols bring people together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

In recent years, a number of 'favourite carol' polls, for example the BBC's Songs of Praise poll, has named O Holy Night as the nation's first choice. However, from my own, very unscientific, survey, the favourite in my church seems to be Silent Night.

My personal favourite, however, is Away in a Manger. The reason for this is that during Advent for several years before Covid I would take my collection of 170 Nativity sets into local schools and talk to the children about their history, and their meaning, and why every home should have one. I always ended with the children gathering around the collection of Nativities, dimming the lights because some of the sets include lights and candles, and singing Away in a Manger. Their obvious joy and wonder reflected in their singing always moved me and made it a very special, favourite, Christmas moment.

I'm sure that you know the lyrics for 'Away in the Manger' but in case you are not familiar with those of the 1920's 'Friendly Beasts' here they are:

Jesus our brother, strong and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around Him stood,
Jesus our brother, strong and good.

I, said the donkey shaggy and brown,
I carried His mother up hill and down
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town;
I, said the donkey shaggy and brown.

I, said the cow all white and red,
I gave Him my manger for His bed,
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head;
I, said the cow all white and red.

I, said the sheep with curly horn,
I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I, said the sheep with curly horn.

I, said the dove, from the rafters high,
Cooed Him to sleep that He should not cry.
We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I;
I, said the dove, from the rafters high.

And every beast, by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Immanuel;
The gift he gave Immanuel.

Bob Peters

Which is correct, Xmas or Christmas?

Well, the answer is both really. Surprisingly, the shortened version of 'Christmas', ie the word 'Xmas' began as an abbreviation for church records and charts. X is the Greek symbol 'chi', which is the first letter of the word 'Christ'. Therefore, X stands for Christ. For the early Christians, most of whom spoke and wrote Greek, the word 'Xmas' signified 'Christ's Mass'. The shortening of 'Christmas' to 'Xmas' has been a common practice since at least the 16th Century. The correct pronunciation for the word 'Xmas' is 'Christmas', the same as if the word was written out in full. Xmas is not ex-mas!

Some people are unhappy with the abbreviation, thinking that the letter X is a secular replacement and is crossing Christ out. However, this is not the case if it is used in the original context. Although there is increasing secularization of Christmas, knowing the above, the X in Xmas can still remind us of the real reason for celebrating Christmas.





Boston Community Transport are a small charity based in Boston who provide a transport alternative to the residents of the Borough.

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SIBSEY WI

November saw the 88th Anniversary of the formation of Sibsey WI in 1934 which members and guests marked by singing Jerusalem.

The Harvest Supper and sale last month was a great success and President Fenella thanked everyone who helped, baked and donated items for sale. A total of £151.20 was raised.

Jayne was thanked for organising the walk at Woodhall Spa which was damp but good and followed by refreshments at The Dower House. We heard that next year's National Annual Meeting will be at the Cardiff Arena on 25th May and that there is to be more flexibility in fund-raising activities at WI. As long as a cause complies in some way with our ethos, we will be free to support a much wider range of charities.

Looking forward to our December meeting - we will have the usual 'Secret Santa' of a wrapped gift and in this year's collection of new toiletries for Boston Women's Aid we can also include crayons and colouring books for children. Eight member volunteers were sought to take part in 'Desert Island Discs' in January and there will be tuition for a Christmas decoration at our next Craft meeting. The hall has been booked for a Coffee Morning on 23rd March 2023. Unfortunately, our speaker was unwell and a social/games evening was planned instead. This entertainment began with a Lincolnshire dialect version of 'Call My Bluff' including some amusing alternative explanations of the chosen words! A Beetle Drive - an old WI favourite, followed and the overall winner was Sue Winslow. Whilst enjoying homemade

refreshments, members completed a picture quiz and there was a tie break to determine the winners. Both Bloom of the Month and the Competition for a children's book attracted many entries and two 'Birthday' bursaries were drawn. The committee had rallied round at the last minute to provide a most enjoyable evening.

You can find out more about us by visiting the Sibsey WI page on Facebook or by speaking with Sally Grant on 01205 750486. Guests are always most welcome and in December we will be shown how to make a festive wreath from natural foliage.

Ann Mitchell



CHRISTMAS BINGO

SATURDAY

17th DECEMBER 2022

7.00 pm start

KIRTON HOLME

CHURCH HALL

GOOD PRIZES

Refreshments

Proceeds for

Refurbishment of Phone Box

Donation Welcome

Christmas Quiz 2022 answers

- No Vac Novak became No Match Novak because Novak Djokovic was due to play at the Australian Open but prevented because he had declined a covid vaccination.
- 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. They choose to the Morse stories.
- Meatloaf was the rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that.
- It snowed at the Winter Olympics caused problems as the organisers had not expected it.
- Actor and singer Michael Flanders would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote the hippopotamus song *Mud, mud, and glorious mud*.
- Before he entered politics the President of Ukraine was a comedian.
- At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock. Smith go on to get an Oscar for the film called *King Richard*
- Partygate was the furore about parties held in Downing Street.
 - Tractorgate was the alleged incident when an MP looked at inappropriate material online during a session of the House of Commons.
 - Beergate was a political controversy concerning allegations that an event in Durham in April 2021 could have been in breach of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The police, after investigating, cleared the attendees.
 - Controversies are often named "gates" after the Watergate scandal.

- In May footballer Diego Maradona's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million.
- The two places outside the UK that gained city status this year were Ramsey on the Isle of Man and Stanley in the Falklands. Before you google it the Isle of Man is not part of the UK.
- There was a television series this year called *Infamy*. The line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me!" comes from *Carry on Cleo* 1964 and was spoken by Kenneth Williams.
- A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the jubilee was Paddington Bear. Paddington was played by Ukrainian President in the Ukrainian language version of the film.
- The actor who played Rev Timothy Farthing passed away this year. He was Frank Williams in the BBC television sitcom *Dad's Army*. He became a prominent lay leader in the Church of England.
- At the age of nearly 90, Bernard Cribbins published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years of Doing Absolutely Everything*.
- Nichelle Nichols who played Uhura in the Star Trek franchise was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King.
- Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit Durham instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge.

Hope you enjoyed the quiz and remembered some of these events and people from 2022

Where has Old New Year's Day gone?

For many people, New Year's Day heralds the end of their Christmas celebrations which seem to begin earlier and earlier every year – Christmas goodies have been on sale in many shops and online since August, although there are some that sell Christmas goods all year round!

For Christians, of course, the last day of Christmas - which begins on 25 December - is The Epiphany on 6 January and the Church's 'New Year's Day' is four weeks before Christmas on Advent Sunday. This year, Advent Sunday fell on Sunday 27 November, so we are already well into the Church New Year!

Today, all countries in the world except Iran, recognise New Year's Day on 1 January as being a public holiday when we recover from the New Year's Eve celebrations. China, as well as having a public holiday on 1 January also celebrates the 'Chinese New Year' - in 2023 it is on 22 January.

So, you may be thinking, is Iran, where the official state religion is Twelver Ja'afari Shia Islam, just being difficult? But strangely the answer is 'not really'. The Iranians have chosen to stick with the world's traditional New Year which predates the modern calendar and celebrate it on 25 March, which is known today as 'Old New Year's Day' and which was originally a religious celebration.

The confusion stems from the Gregorian calendar that was established in 1582. Before the Gregorian calendar was introduced March was the first month of the year and the vernal equinox was around 25 March, which was the first day of the 'Old New Year'. This had been celebrated in Mesopotamia for about 2,000 years.

Several countries did not recognise the Gregorian calendar for hundreds of years and chose to keep to the traditional New Year's date of 25 March. This is also the date of the Annunciation Feast that celebrates the day that Jesus was conceived, nine months before Christmas Day. It seems a little ironic that the Islamic State of Iran is the only country that today chooses to keep to this Christian tradition – or perhaps it's not?

Rome began celebrating the New Year on the first day of January in the year that Numa Pontilius, Rome's second ruler, added two months to the calendar in about 700 BC. In 46 BC, Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar that all the world, except Iran, uses today. This has January – named after him - as the first of 12 months of the year.

Whenever you choose to celebrate the New Year, may it be a happy and peaceful one!

65 years ago

On 25th December 1957 Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas message was televised for the first time.

Looking for the Christmas present that will be perfect for every day of the year?

Here is a great Christmas present idea that comes in a huge variety of options, colours, and sizes that will suit your budget however large or small. Indeed, it can cost as little as nothing, or up to tens of thousands of pounds – I recently found a single piece of a large set on sale for £11,699.99, needless to say, I did not buy one!



This present comes in a huge range of different materials to suit any décor or lifestyle – paper, cardboard, plaster of Paris, all types of wood, plastic, glass, almost every type of metal from aluminium and steel to silver and gold, pottery, china and porcelain, and you can even find them made of flour, stones, rocks, volcanic lava, seashells, knitted in wool, and made out of Lego. And there are also outdoor versions to adorn your garden.

Typically, they have from one to 21 pieces although you can find some with many more. This means you can give your loved one one or more pieces at a time and so build it up over time – it's a good way of easing

the stress in the years to come of having to think of Christmas, birthday, and anniversary gifts!



And, if you can't think of anyone to give this special present to, then give it to yourself, which is how I discovered it. But, beware, they can become addictive! Since I bought my first one about 20 years ago, I now have over 170 which, during Advent, I take into schools, local clubs, and churches, to illustrate a talk about my addiction. The world's largest collection, according to the Guinness Book of Records, has over 2,150 so I have some way to go yet! My talk explains how they vary around the world and how they reflect the culture of the country from which they come.

I also get them all out of storage to display them in every room of my house at Christmas. My wife likes to tell people we are the only house in the neighbourhood that has five of them in the downstairs loo!

I rarely buy them these days because friends and family who know about this unusual addiction give them to me, often as souvenirs of their holidays abroad – and my wife also thinks that I have more than enough!

This ideal Christmas present comes in a many different sizes – I have one that fits in a match box and another which stands 75cms high.

The most important aspect is that you can also use it all the year round. I have about a dozen of them that I keep on permanent display around the house. You have probably worked out by now what my ideal Christmas, birthday or anniversary present is from the picture above. Yes, it is the Nativity set, but, as I said previously, it is not just for Christmas. Jesus was born for every moment of our lives, hence it's why I keep some on show all year round.

Whether your Nativity costs tens of thousands of pounds, or you made it for free, having one on show in your home in a prominent position all the year round is a permanent reminder of God's greatest gift to us, and catching a glimpse of it during the busyness of Christmas and everyday life is a reassuring reminder that he is always with us. Every home should have at least one!

Bob Peters

How long should you sleep when you are over-50?

The amount of sleep you get each night can have a huge impact on your health.

A recent study has found that middle-aged people need at least seven hours a night. This reduces their risk of developing various serious health conditions including cancer, diabetes, and arthritis.

This contrasts with the effect of having only five hours of sleep a night. People over 50 who slept for five hours were found to be 30 per cent more likely to have chronic diseases, including depression, liver disease, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and Parkinson's. The researchers were based at University College London (UCL).

What is your cat doing?

If you live with a cat, you will know the scenario: it is late at night and you want to go to bed, but the cat is sitting maddeningly just out of reach on the garden path. You keep calling 'kitty kitty' in your sweetest tones, and in response the cat twitches an ear - and just goes on sitting there. *WHY?*

Now researchers in France have discovered that your worst suspicions are right – cats *do indeed* know their names, and they are fully aware when you are talking to them.

In tests, veterinary students found that cats definitely do know their owner's voice. Cats can even differentiate between when you are talking to them or when you are talking to your friends. They *know*.

So why don't they always respond? Sadly, no researcher has yet discovered the reason for feline impudence.

The mysterious ways of mistletoe

Mistletoe has long been used as part of our Christmas decorations. It is not your usual kind of plant. Instead, it is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients.

Mistletoe loves living in apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak trees. You may spot it high up, as a large globe, on the bare trees in winter. There is one spectacular example in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the Thames.

Mistletoe's berries are almost translucent, fleshy and sticky. They form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds, who wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch, which of course helps the plant to spread.

For some reason, Romans thought mistletoe represented Peace, Love and Understanding. Perhaps that is how it got into our Christmas celebrations? The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century, but we don't know who got kissed first.

Protect our birds

This Christmas why not give the birds in your garden a Christmas present by joining the RSPB? More and more of our wild birds are disappearing, making the RSPB's work vital, to make sure that the birds we have grown up

with and love remain a familiar sight for our children and future generations. More than 200 different kinds of wild bird live within our shores – why not help the RSPB to help them? Visit: www.rspb.org.uk

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

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

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

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

Upcoming Events at Sibsey Village Hall

Events are subject to change at Committee's discretion. Keep up to date on our Facebook page!

Monthly Cash Bingo

Doors open 6.30pm

£8 for Main Event Book

& £100 Jackpot Flyer

Friday 28 October

Friday 25 November

(£200 Jackpot in November)

Friday 27 January

Friday 24 February

Friday 31 March

Friday 28 April



Monthly Farmers Market

9am - 1pm

Saturday 5 November

No market December

Saturday 7 January

Saturday 4 February

Saturday 4 March

Saturday 1 April

Friday 18 November.....80s & ABBA Night with The Dreambelles
Adults £5 Under 16s £2. 7.30pm - midnight

Sunday 20 November.....Christmas Craft & Gift Fair
Free entry. 10am - 4pm

Sunday 11 December.....Christmas Prize Bingo
Doors 1.30pm Eyes Down 2pm. Families welcome.
£1 per book of 12 games. Flyer £1 for 3. Raffle.

Sunday 18 December.....Children's Christmas Party
2pm - 4pm. £5 per child includes a present

Saturday 21 January 2023.....Soul & Motown Night
DJs Martin Topley & Mick Jay. £5 OTD. 7.30pm - midnight

Saturday 4 February.....50s Rock'n'Roll Night with Boston Jive
Live band Rockin Em. DJ Mr Big Feet. Tickets £10. 7.30pm - 11.30pm

Friday 17 February.....Spiritualist Evening
£10 entry. 7pm - 10pm

Friday 10 March.....Quiz Night
Teams up to 6. £2 per person. 7.30pm - 10pm.

Saturday 18 March.....Revolver
Tickets £5. 7.30pm - midnight

Saturday 15 April.....Northern Soul & Motown Night
DJs Martin & Elaine Topley. £5 OTD. 7.30pm - midnight

Licensed Bar at all evening events.

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Sudoku Challenge

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 without repeats.

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

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Wordsearch

Find the words hidden in this wordsearch puzzle. Clues can be found in the parable of the weeds below. There are 20 words.

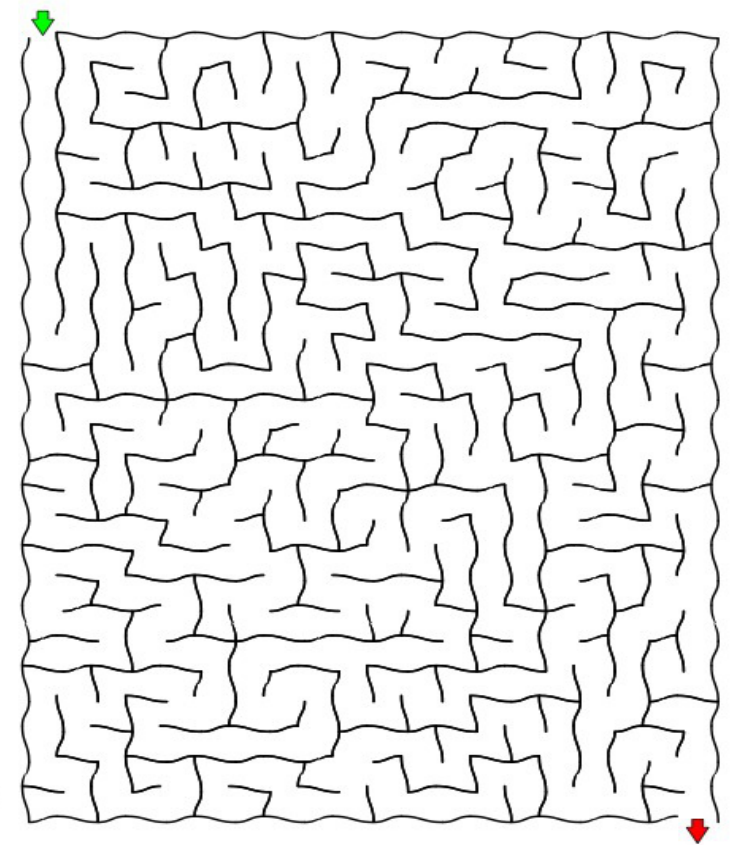
Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

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

Maze
Find your way from the top to the bottom.



"The vicar's still miffed that one of the parents got £250 from You've Been Framed for their video of last year's nativity play."



Solutions for October edition

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

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

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Recipe of the month: Turkey and Apricot Crumble

A delicious way to enjoy that excess Christmas turkey!

For the filling

- 2 teaspoons sunflower oil
- 350g (12oz) cooked turkey, cubed
- 2 large leeks, sliced
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 300ml (½ pint) chicken stock
- 150 ml (¼ pint) cider
- 8-10 ready to eat moist packed apricots (halved)
- ½ teaspoon dried, thyme
- salt & freshly ground black pepper

For the crumble

- 140g (5oz) plain flour
- 2½ tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted
- 70g (2½oz) butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon dried sage
- 1½ teaspoons snipped fresh chives

Method

Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 5/190C/375F.

Heat the oil in a saucepan, add the leeks and fry gently for 10 minutes until softened. Stir in the turkey, sprinkle on the flour, and cook gently for one minute. Gradually blend in the stock and the cider, stirring continuously until the sauce thickens. Stir in the apricots and thyme, season with salt and pepper. Put into a 1.2 litre (2 pint) casserole dish. To make the crumble sift the flour into a large mixing bowl, stir in the toasted sesame seeds and add a pinch of salt. Rub in the butter/margarine until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in the herbs. Sprinkle the crumble topping over

the turkey and cook for 25-30 minutes until golden brown. Serve with carrots and green beans.

Never Forgotten Club

The October meeting was held on Thursday 13th. Members enjoyed a Lincolnshire lunch and apple pie. The Chairman welcomed 3 new members. Roger gave us a talk of Lincolnshire in the past. The October meeting closed at 4.00pm

Members met on Thursday 10th November at the Church Hall, where they enjoyed a meal of cheese and potato bake with sausage and vegetables followed by apple pie and cream. Thanks were expressed to Mark and all members who helped in any way. Final arrangements were made for our Christmas lunch on December 8th. A couple of games of cards were played before Roger continued reminiscing. The meeting closed at 4.00pm. New members welcome.

Hilary

Brothertoft Village Hall

Christmas Quiz with Sausage & Mash supper

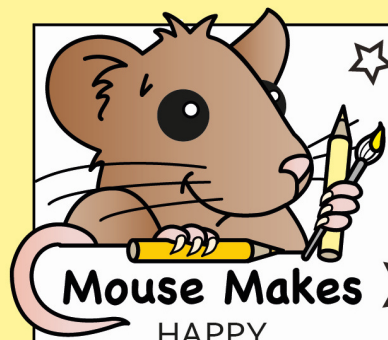
Saturday, December 3rd,

7.30pm start.

£10 per person

Tickets available from Kate.

07932 618390 or 317990



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-21.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born? Why were Joseph and Mary there?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why? What did Mary dress her baby in?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

G

L

J O Y

M R C

S A Y G P

O N V O J

G B A B Y N G O O D A B L F

V O S H E P H E R D S A V I O U R

D A Y T M A R Y N E N F R R O

S C H R I S T E P G L T D

A L A I D R W H E O H

E P R A I S E L C

H E I V A L L S K

E E A N I G H T O L D

S M C N D E C R E E B

E A E I S I G N

E T D E

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?



ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

160 years of healing in Nazareth

Jesus brought healing to Galilee, and nowadays the Nazareth Trust carries on this work through running one of the oldest hospitals in the Middle East.

The Nazareth Trust traces its roots back to 1861 and is now one of the largest Christian organisations in Israel. Located in Nazareth, the Trust engages with around 400,000 people a year, including patients and their families, nursing students, international volunteers, pilgrims, and tourists, as well as their staff.

In fact, the Nazareth Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in the Middle East, and the largest in Nazareth. The hospital is run by the Nazareth Trust and began in 1861, when a young Christian doctor, Dr Kaloost Vartan, made the journey from Edinburgh to Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, to establish a small four-bed clinic.

At the time, it was the only medical facility in the town, and as far as Damascus and Beirut in the north, and Jerusalem in the south. Dr Vartan carried out pioneering medical work, reaching out to a population with a very low life expectancy.

Today the Nazareth Hospital is a general hospital with Nazareth's main Emergency Room that works 24/7, ICU, a recently refurbished Path Lab, Orthopaedic Surgical department, General Surgical department, a Paediatric surgical unit, Urology Unit and Esthetic Clinic. There is also an extensive Medical department and Psychiatry department.

The Nazareth Hospital is one of the area's biggest employers. It is affiliated with Bar-Ilan University and is committed to developing medical education and research. Each year it welcomes many students of medicine, nursing and other medical fields from universities and colleges around the world. The Trust would welcome your support. Please visit: <https://nazarethtrust.org>

A heart for helping the people of the Middle East

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

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

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

10 years ago

On 9th December 2012 Patrick Moore, British astronomer, television presenter and musician died. Known for hosting the astronomy series The Sky at Night (1957-2013).

St James the Least of All

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



On giving the after-dinner speech

My dear Nephew Darren,
I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying – several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but no thank you. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

Your loving uncle, *Eustace*

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Details can be usually found elsewhere in The Bridge.

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