

December 2024/January 2025

# OPEN DOOR



**W**  
The Thurstable  
& Winstree  
Team Ministry

£1.00

**For Churches in Tiptree, Tolleshunt Knights,  
Great Braxted, Messing & Inworth**

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www.thurstablewinstree.org

**Deadline for the next edition: February/March 2025  
Sunday 5th January 2025.**

**Items for the magazine:** can be emailed to thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com or  
delivered to St Luke's Parish Office or sent to m.borgartz@btinternet.com

## FROM THE TEAM RECTOR



At last I have some news to bring you about the plan for finding a new Team Vicar to work in our churches. There are currently three vacancies in the Witham deanery: one full-time and two half-time. This gives us a good opportunity to rethink the way parishes are grouped together and to try to make clergy workloads a little more evenly balanced. It makes sense to combine the two half-time posts into a full-time post, but this isn't straightforward as the two posts are not in neighbouring parishes. The deanery is now consulting on a proposal to combine the eighteen parishes in the middle of the deanery, which includes our group of villages, into a single large Team Ministry with four full-time clergy posts. Our current Team Ministry has eight parishes (nine churches) and 1.5 clergy posts, so this would be a big change.

There will be an open meeting to discuss the proposals on Saturday 11 January at 10 am in St Luke's Church Extension, Tiptree. You are welcome to come along to this if you would like to. Our church councils will also be looking at the options for grouping parishes together. We will need to let the deanery know our views and which is our preferred option by the end of January.

Alongside this, we will be working towards advertising the two new posts (Simon Garwood and I are already occupying two of the proposed four) so that we can have people in place as soon as possible.

It has been a huge privilege to lead our ministry team through another year and I am tremendously grateful to my colleagues – clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens – for all that they do to keep our churches open and functioning. I am grateful too to the many people who support our churches either practically through volunteering or financially. We need everyone's support to be able to keep going.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas, and I look forward to continuing to work with you into another new year.

***Anne-Marie Renshaw***

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The proposed Deanery Plan detailed in Anne-Marie's piece above can be found on pages 4-6. There will be an open meeting to discuss the proposals on **Saturday 11 January at 10 am** in St Luke's Church Extension, Tiptree.



# **Witham Deanery – Future structure**

## **WHAT WE'VE HEARD**

In our conversations over the past few years, both with parishes that are recruiting or when we came out to talk to parishes in 2022, some themes have been consistent and clear:

- All parishes want to grow and flourish but struggle to keep going.
- Parishes worry that Clergy have too many parishes to look after and are isolated.
- Almost all parishes rely on a small number of aging volunteers. They often feel isolated.

## **CURRENT POSITION**

Clergy Deployment (Stipendiary):

Witham and Villages – 3

Hatfield Peverel & Ulting – 1 (until November 2024)

Tiptree – 1.5 (0.5 vacant)

Blackwater – 1 (Vacant)

Kelvedon & Feering – 1

Wickham Bishops – 0.5 (Vacant)

Mersea – 1

Witham and Villages Team is beginning to thrive: having three clergy working together has seen increased attendance, higher visibility and a restart to nurture for those seeking faith.

The Tiptree and Blackwater Benefices are more problematic. There is too much for one priest to be responsible for, so the danger is simply managed decline; Mission is very difficult to get off the ground, let alone sustain. We have not been able to recruit to the Blackwater Benefice.

Mersea and the Donyland parishes are OK at the moment.

Wickham Bishops is not viable alone.

Kelvedon & Feering is in an MMU with Tiptree. It currently operates separately yet remains vulnerable on its own.

## **AIMS**

In response to what we've heard, we want to-

1. Create a framework which aims to give continuity for 10-20 years.
2. Create units which have resilience so that they do not cease to develop when a priest moves on. Keeping services going is usually possible, but the growth of a benefice can be hindered during a vacancy, since the lead is often seen to come from the ordained clergy, in particular stipendiary clergy. Growth and leadership

need to come from the laity too. We want and need to encourage lay leadership though we recognise this is a matter of long-term culture change rather than quick fixes.

3. Create units which can adapt to change, whether that is growth or reduction. Parishes may revive, particularly given the central funding being planned for the diocese. But equally, if there is no revival, many parishes face an uncertain future.

## **PROPOSED POSITION**

We think to meet our aims we need to make changes in Benefices. That this is harder than it should be reflects the unfit-for-purpose arrangements of the C of E. However, this should not stop us doing what we think is right.

We don't propose to make any changes to Mersea, or the Donylands. Nor do we propose to make changes to Witham and the Villages beyond it incorporating Hatfield Peverel and Ulting, which we are already discussing with those involved.

### **We envisage the rest of the deanery becoming a new large 'Central Benefice', with 4 Stipendiary Clergy:**

We recognise fully that this is a very large benefice with a lot of ground to cover, but it has clear advantages in flexibility plus teamwork, since the biggest danger for rural clergy is isolation and overwork.

We have a preferred option for clergy allocation in this benefice, which we believe will address the concerns parishes have expressed, and which will achieve our aims. However, we have also identified two other options. We will be visiting parishes over the coming weeks to consult on these options and to consider any other options suggested.

### **OPTION 1 *[our preferred option – we believe it has more balanced workloads]***

- TR\*: Tiptree, Messing, Inworth & Layer Marney/Layer Breton
- TV\*: Kelvedon & Feering, Copford & Easthorpe
- TV: Wickham Bishops, Gt & Lt Totham & Goldhanger
- TV: Tolleshunt D'Arcy/Major, Tollesbury, Salcott, Layer de la Haye

### **OPTION 2**

- TV: Kelvedon & Feering, Messing & Inworth
- TR & TV: Tiptree, Wickham Bishops, Gt & Lt Totham & Goldhanger, Tolleshunt D'Arcy/Major, Tollesbury, Salcott
- TV: Copford & Easthorpe, Layer de la Haye, Layer Marney, Layer Breton

\* (TR = Team Rector, TV =Team Vicar)

### **OPTION 3 – Two separate benefices, each with 2 stipendiaries:**

Benefice 1: Wickham Bishops, the whole of the Blackwater Benefice & Layer de la Haye  
Benefice 2: Tiptree, Messing & Inworth, Kelvedon & Feering, Copford & Easthorpe, & Layer Marney/Layer Breton



## Witham Deanery – Future structure (continued)

### GETTING THERE

- Combine the 0.5 post at Wickham Bishops with the 0.5 post in Tiptree now.
- Appoint a Full time stipendiary to this post to live in the Wickham Bishops House.
- Cross licence the new person and current stipendiary clergy in Tiptree and Kelvedon, so that they can all work across all parishes.
- Recruit to the Blackwater Benefice on the same basis, so that all clergy can work across all parishes.
- Establish a shadow Benefice Council to be set up as soon as possible. This will allow Lay Leadership and Ministry to work hand-in-glove with ordained ministers. It will also facilitate and encourage working between and amongst the parishes involved and help create the Benefice.
- Start the moves towards legally creating this Benefice.

This will all need very active guidance over the next 5-7 years at a Deanery/ Archdeaconry/Episcopal level to co-ordinate work across current benefice boundaries, especially in encouraging genuinely mutually supportive collaboration in all the parishes.  
*SFG/AMR/SDM 15/10/2024*

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## Thank Dickens for Christmas as you know it!

Ever wonder where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount of our modern Christmas celebrations can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens.

When you read 'A Christmas Carol', you discover almost a template of the 'ideal Christmas' which we still hold dear today. Dickens seems to have selected the best of the Christmas celebrations of his day (he ignored some of the odd excesses) and packaged them in such a way as to give us traditions that we could accommodate and treasure – more than a century later.

So, for instance, in A Christmas Carol, Christmas is a family day, with a family-centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents. Scrooge even gives donations to charity (!).

And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas – in the shape of Christmas Present. Only the Christmas tree itself came later, when Prince Albert imported 'a pretty German toy' that won the heart of the English court, and hence the rest of Victorian society.

*Parish Pump*

# ST BOTOLPH'S COLCHESTER



**AN EVENING OF BELTING OUT THE CHRISTMAS POP SONGS  
LED BY THE AWARD WINNING MUSICIAN CHRIS READ  
...ALL IN SUPPORT OF CHRISTIAN AID**

**SCAN HERE  
FOR TICKETS**



**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**



**7.30 PM**





# **Diary Dates for 2025**

## **FRIENDS OF ST LUKE'S**

Events to be held in St Luke's Church Hall



**1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30 pm**

**Quiz Night on behalf of TYPO**

**15<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm**

**Valentine's 80's Night with DJ Mike Boot**

**1<sup>st</sup> March 5pm**

**Pancakes & Puddings Hosted by Rev. Anne-Marie Renshaw**

**15<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 pm**

**Quiz Night hosted by Steve Scruton from BBC Essex Radio**

**26<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm**

**Jazz @ St Luke's featuring The Andy Brush Quintet**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm**

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day Singalong hosted by Tom Carradine**

**13<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 pm**

**Barn Dance hosted by John Dorsett**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm**

**Quiz Night hosted by Friends of St Luke's**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 7.30 pm**

**90's & Christmas Music Night**

**Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday throughout 2025 (2pm to 4pm)**

**Games Afternoons**

**\*For further information on any of the above events\*  
please contact [foslbookings@gmail.com](mailto:foslbookings@gmail.com)**



# The “cheek and chic, pose and poise” of Noel Coward

Just 125 years ago, on 16th December 1899, Noël Coward, British playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, was born. His plays include *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives* and *Blithe Spirit*.

Coward was a supremely talented individual, starting as a child dancer who made his professional debut at the age of 11 and progressing to become a success in many areas of show business. He published more than 50 plays and hundreds of songs, most of them set in the kind of high society that he himself soon inhabited, despite his unpretentious upbringing in Teddington. His acting and directing career lasted six decades.

He received some education at the Chapel Royal Choir School, but he later described his spiritual attitude as “unregenerate” and became agnostic. He said: “I have a selfless absorption in the well-being and achievements of Noël Coward... I am jolly kind to everybody and still attentive and devoted to my dear old mother.”

He found it easy to make friends and possessed what *Time* magazine called “a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise”.

His many successes, including those in cabaret from the 1950s, led to a knighthood in 1970. Much earlier, by 1930, he had become one of the world’s highest-earning writers, with an annual income of £50,000 – equivalent to more than £4 million today.

During the Second World War he worked for British Intelligence and ran the British propaganda office in Paris. It is reported that Churchill preferred his role in entertaining the troops.

Towards the end of the 1960s Coward developed arteriosclerosis and suffered from bouts of memory loss. He received many other awards, including an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Sussex University.

*Parish Pump*

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## Keep a close eye on your phone and bag

It is something we all dread on holiday – that someone will rush by us, grabbing our phone or bag on the way.

But now it is time to beware of thieves at home, as robberies here have recently hit a 10-year high. More than 200 people a day are falling victim to phone or bag snatch thefts in England and Wales. That is double the rate of even last year.

Police say that the dramatic increase in snatching phones is fuelled by the money that can be made in repurposing and selling them in the UK and overseas.

The problem has prompted government action. Diana Johnson, the policing minister, is calling on tech and phone firms to ensure that any stolen phones can be quickly, easily and permanently disabled. That would prevent them from ever being re-registered for sale on the second-hand market.

# The man who married Mary

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance.

After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise Men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. 12 years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, only to find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named, and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry, it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of His father's responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please Him in all that we do.

# Last Posting Dates

Wednesday 18 December

2nd Class

Friday 20 December

1st Class

## Tuesday, 3 December

Africa, Asia, Australia, Caribbean, Central and South America, China (People's Republic), Far and Middle East and New Zealand

## Wednesday 4 December

Cyprus, Malta, Portugal and Spain

## Thursday 5 December

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic and Poland), France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland and Turkey

## Friday, 6 December

Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden and USA

## Parent & Toddlers at St Luke's

Meet here every  
**MONDAY** morning  
9.15am - 11.15am

(includes holidays, but not bank holidays) photo by Marcus Spicke Unsplash



Everyone welcome! Parents  
or carers, grandparents,  
friends and childminders.



Meet up, have a chat, relax and play!



There is a small charge of  
£2.00 per family - drinks &  
biscuits are included



Further information from Margaret Peek 01621 810804  
or Maureen Horn 01621 817497

# **SURVEY RUN BY WENDY BORGARTZ AS PART OF LLM TRAINING**

## **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

40 responses were received and collated, 22 identified as belonging to one of the small groups mentioned, 18 did not.

- 6 people usually felt welcome with everyone else always feeling welcome and 36 always felt they were a member of the church, the remaining 4 usually felt they were a member. There was very little difference in the splits between those belonging to small groups and those not.
- While 27 always felt they understood what was going on during a service, 13 only usually felt they understood.
- Habits of bible reading and prayer varied much more widely. Those in small groups were overall more likely to regularly read the Bible and pray than those not in small groups. For example, 61% in small groups always pray every day compared to only 27% of those not in small groups.
- 94% of those in small groups usually or always felt able to answer a non-Christian about their faith but only 68% of those not in small groups usually or always felt confident of this.
- Everybody in a small group said fellowship with other Christians was one of the things they gained, with high scores for the other options provided also.
- The reasons for not belonging to small groups were much more of a level, although there is a lack of confidence by some people with 23% feeling they don't know enough, 18% being too shy, 32% not enjoying discussion, and 27% being too busy and another 27% finding the times inconvenient.

## **Conclusion**

Actions to consider are:

- To recognize and celebrate the work of both the welcome team and the people leading house groups.
- Consider holding a 'teaching' Eucharist service explaining the liturgy and reasons behind the various parts of the service.
- Look for volunteers to lead new house groups and provide training for them and the support of existing group leaders to build their confidence. Only then can we look to expand the number of people able to attend small groups by having a session where volunteers from each group can talk about the group and try to build up confidence about attending a group. We should also think about the times of groups and how to get people there. But we need to accept that small groups are not for everyone.
- Have a session at a café church looking at what we believe and encouraging people to summarize it in a few sentences to build confidence in our ability to explain the Gospel to others.



# The most beautiful story

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

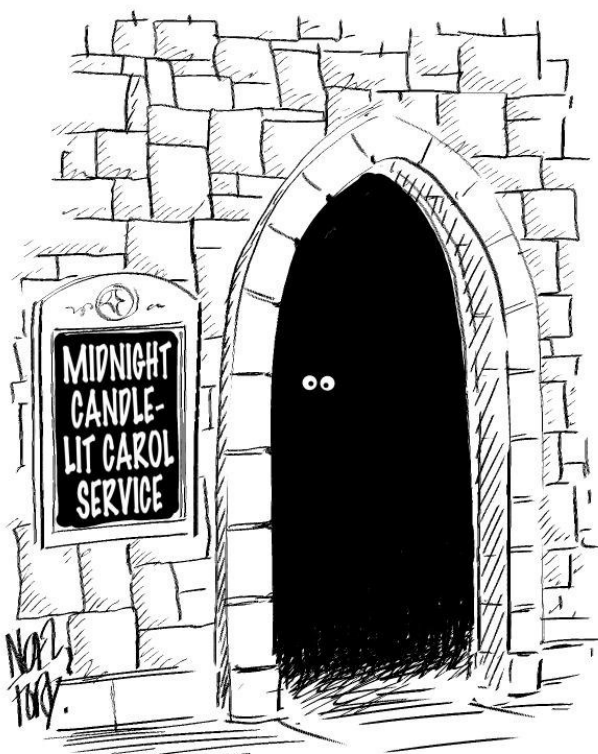
That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number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

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

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

His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, it is 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.

*Parish Pump*



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



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

# Book the Hall

## for your meeting, group or event

we are in St Luke's Church Extension, St Luke's Church,  
Church Road, Tiptree, CO5 0SU



**Good rates and  
improved facilities!**



**Hourly Rate:**

**£20 - regular bookings**

**£23 - one-off bookings**

***both including use of all facilities & kitchen***

**Wi-fi available for group leaders or speakers**

***(discuss your needs when making your booking)***



**Bookings & Enquiries to:**

**Gareth Williams: 01621 818069**

**Email: [hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com](mailto:hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com)**

**Why not give us a call?**

We now have a Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/tiptreechurchhall/](http://www.facebook.com/tiptreechurchhall/)

## Regular Hall Bookings, at St Luke's:

For all hall bookings call Gareth Williams

01621 818069

Email: [hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com](mailto:hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com)

Weekly	Morning:	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Parent & Toddlers	JIKO RYU Karate Club	
Tuesday	Tiptree Volunteers Coffee Morning, (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues)	Pilates, Up in Lights Dance Academy	
Wednesday	Slimming World, WEA* (autumn/winter)	U3A Line Dance (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed)	regular private booking*
Thursday	Sound Collective Coffee Morning & Choir	U3A Choir (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs)	
Friday	Tiptree Art Club	Pilates	
Sunday	Coffee after Service	KYDS Youth Drama Society	

\*term time only

### Monthly

Sunday	Sunday Club (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning)
Tuesday	Little City (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday morning)
Wednesday	Tiptree Tipplers (3 <sup>rd</sup> evening in month)
Thursday	U3A History (1 <sup>st</sup> afternoon), Tiptree Garden Club (1 <sup>st</sup> evening), Flower Club (2 <sup>nd</sup> evening), St Luke's Ladies Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> evening)
Friday	Messy Church (1 <sup>st</sup> Friday afternoon), Priory Heath WI (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday afternoon in the month)

If you are interested in making contact with any of the groups listed, please contact the Hall Bookings Administrator on [hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com](mailto:hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com)

Find us on Facebook:  /tiptreechurchhall

March 2024

## That coin in your Christmas pudding

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

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

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

Parish Pump

## Iconic Bethlehem Carol Sheet celebrates 70 years in print

It was back in 1954 when the charity, BibleLands Mission Aid Society, first tentatively decided to print a colourful compilation of popular Christmas carols, alongside images of some of the people BibleLands served.

From the start, the scheme was an immense success. The carol sheets were so popular that even that first year, 100,000 copies were insufficient to meet the demand of schools, churches, British army bases at home and abroad and Royal Navy ships across the world. The donations appeal towards the BibleLands projects in the carol sheet also raised hundreds of pounds.

When 500,000 copies were quickly sold in 1955, BibleLands knew it had a winner on its hands.

So it was that, in 1956, with 1.5 million carol sheets sales as the target, an accompanying catalogue of Christmas cards and gifts and prayers for God's favour was also launched. The plan was overwhelmingly successful – much needed funds were raised for the work of BibleLands.

Since then, many millions of carol sheets have been sold, until this year the charity, now renamed Embrace the Middle East, has produced a new-look Edition with 27 popular carols, including three new additions for this year: O Holy Night, See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw (Calypso Carol) and The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came.

For more information or to purchase your copy, visit <https://shop.embraceme.org/collections/bethlehem-carols>

*Parish Pump*

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## What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying..

However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!

*Parish Pump*



# A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS

A festive musical celebration of  
traditional carols and classical favourites

## Maldon Orchestra

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

2:30pm at

**St Luke's Church, Tiptree**

**Tickets: £10 adults, £5 under 16s**

available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/maldon-orchestra](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/maldon-orchestra)

[mlbaker@sky.com](mailto:mlbaker@sky.com) & [www.maldonorchestra.co.uk](http://www.maldonorchestra.co.uk)



# Christmas Quiz 2024

1. This year was a Leap Year. Were 1900 and 2000 Leap Years?
2. What is Whamaggedon?
3. Alan Bates hit the headlines in January? He shares his name with a famous actor but why is he well known?
4. HRH Duke of Edinburgh met a special resident at St Helena in January who had also met his grandparents. Who is he?
5. A young actor, fresh out of drama school, was told by Arthur Lowe, “don’t worry if there’s not a lot of lines. They’ll come. In the meantime get yourself a funny costume and stand near me”. Who was the actor who passed away this year and starred in this classic sitcom?
6. Why did a family photo taken for Mothering Sunday lead to a lot of media speculation?
7. Why did North Korean television object to Alan Titchmarsh and his trousers?
8. How did a black cat called Matins get into trouble on 2nd June 1953 at Westminster Abbey
9. Where was the Carnation Revolution fifty years ago?
10. What product manufacturer (a byword in usefulness) announced in 2024 they would introduce the first bladeless version?
11. Which Oxford Don applied unsuccessfully to be a code breaker in the 1940s? there was a note by his name “keen”
12. Where is the Elephant and Bear Line?
13. What is Election purdah?
14. What was Gamblegate?
15. 17th July was National Emoji Day. One of the most popular is known as ROTFL. What does that mean?
16. In this year’s Olympics the Philippines gold medallist Carlos Yulo got an unusual reward as well as the medal. What was it?
17. In August a north Italian city advertised for people to learn an ancient skill. The job requirements include being 18 or over, having a high school-level education, knowing how to swim, and possessing a medical certificate that proves “a healthy and robust constitution”. What job was this for?
18. What music celebrated its 200th anniversary? Liked by many and Karl Marx thought “it a solemn mass of earthly joy”?
19. Why might you be looking forward to not looking back in anger?
20. What types of special judges were cancelled after 147 years’ service and replaced electronically?





# Messy Church !

Join us here at St Luke's Church:



after school  
from 3 pm to 5.30 pm On

**Friday 7th February,**

**Friday 7th March**

**& on Good Friday, 18th April (at 1pm)**

**For:**

**A simple  
meal**

**Songs**

**Friends**

**Games**



**Activities**

**Stories**

**Crafts**

**a short service**

Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw: 01621 815260

St Luke's Church, Church Road Tiptree, CO5 0SU



Find us on Facebook: /tiptreestlukes

# My Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me  
"I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree."

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
as we tucked into turkey - a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people from next door.  
The turkey tasted just as good as on the day before.

Day four: relations came to stay; poor Gran is looking old.  
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes flurried,  
but we were nice and warm inside, for we had our turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit, the Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered. We ate turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince  
when he sat down to dinner and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight, and nerves were getting frayed. The dog had run for shelter.  
I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day our cat left home. By lunchtime Dad was blotto.  
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day our booze was gone (except the homemade brew).  
As if that wasn't bad enough we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting.  
The mince pies were as hard as rock and the turkey soup revolting.

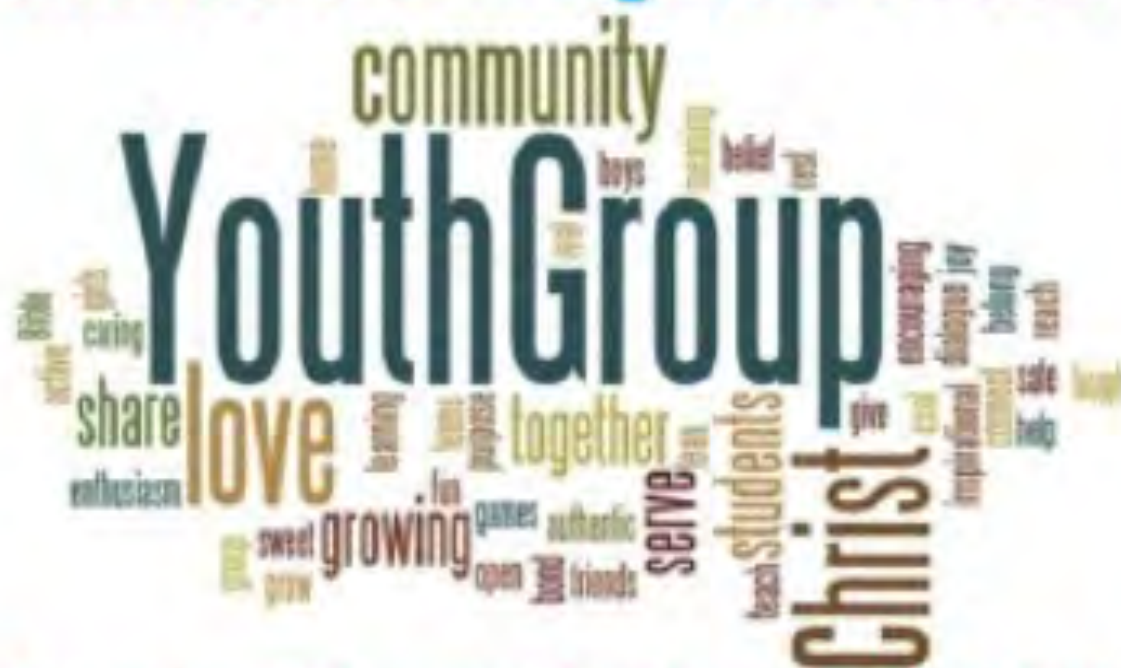
On the twelfth day my true love had a smile upon his lips -  
the guests had gone, the turkey too, and we dined on fish and chips.

Anon



# CITY

**Churches In Tiptree Youth**



**An inclusive Christian faith based Youth Club  
for young people in school years 7\* – 11 (ages  
11 – 16) \* open to year 6 from Easter**

**Fridays, Term Time, 7pm – 8:45pm**

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**Fun, games, sports, cooking,  
lifeskills, snacks, conversation  
£1 per week, first session FREE**

**Want to know more?**

**Contact: [andy@typo.uk.net](mailto:andy@typo.uk.net)**



**CITY CITY CITY CITY**

**Churches In Tiptree Youth**

# Messing Church - Funerary Hatchments



The five Funerary Hatchments in our Church are not merely decorations; they are vital connections to our history, capturing the essence of life and death in the late 1600s in our village. These exquisite pieces, four of which are linked to the Luckyn family, tell stories of noble standing and lineage that shaped our community. From 1678 to 1742, these hatchments have endured the test of time, but they require urgent restoration,

and are at risk of further irreversible deterioration.

It is sad to see these historical pieces, rich in heritage and artistry, falling into disrepair.



The fifth hatchment is a fascinating puzzle that could reveal much about our past, yet its condition worsens daily. It records heraldic symbols known nowhere else in England. The Georgian Society have pledged financial aid to try and save it, but we need much more help.

We have engaged an expert restorer alongside our Diocese Art Historian to ensure these artefacts are lovingly



preserved. We have an expert in heraldry trying to decipher the messages and meanings within the hatchments. Both the PCC and FoMC have pledged financial support, as has the current Earl of Verulam. The Luckyn family changed their name to Grimston as they married into that noble house.

We need your help to cover the costs of this essential work. Your donations will not only help restore the hatchments but will also safeguard our village's legacy for future generations. I invite you to join us in this endeavor by donating to our GoFundMe campaign.

Every contribution brings us closer to our goal, and your support means a very great deal. Thank you for considering this important cause.

<https://gofund.me/0cd82e08>

Andrew Harding, Assistant Churchwarden, All Saints Messing

Email; [aharding1956@outlook.com](mailto:aharding1956@outlook.com)





# Essex Police Community Choir

With Guests

## Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir



**A bumper evening of Christmas  
music and carols**

## **Saturday 14th December 2024**

**St Lukes Church, Tiptree CO5 0SU**

**7.00pm start - tickets £10 to include a drink and a mince pie**

**Tickets can be purchased via -**

**<https://wegottickets.com/EssexPoliceChoir>**





# The story behind ‘To God be the Glory!’

Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915), the American singer and musician, was blind from the age of six weeks. She married her music teacher, Alexander Van Alstyne, who was also blind. She was a prolific song-writer, and once signed a contract with a publisher to write three songs every week throughout the year. But in fact, she wrote thousands during her lifetime.

Although American evangelists Moody and Sankey used this hymn on their missions, it did not become an immediate favourite. But after Billy Graham featured it in his Harringay crusade in 1954, Londoners were soon singing it on their way home, in streets and busy queues and underground trains.

When Dr Graham took it back to the United States and introduced it at his crusade in Nashville, Tennessee, it soon took its place in the group of top favourites hymns.

## To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice;  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

By Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915)

# ***Smile***

## **What bishops do**

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, "Does anyone know what the bishop does?"

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "He's the one you can move diagonally."

\*\*\*

## **Tractors**

A little girl was watching her daddy repair his tractor. She asked her mother, "What happens to old tractors when they finally stop working?"

Sighing, her mother answered: "Someone sells them to your father, dear."

\*\*\*

## **Cabinet**

My granddad always said, "When one door closes, another door opens." Lovely man. Terrible cabinet maker.

\*\*\*

## **What would you like for Christmas?**

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

\*\*\*

## **What do you get Dad?**

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

\*\*\*

## **Christmas gifts**

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy.

"Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

\*\*\*

## **Christmas shopping**

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

\*\*\*

## **You can tell**

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.



### **Baptisms**

14 July	Alfie Warrick	Tiptree
21 July	Tobias Canning	Tiptree
28 July	Isla McCulloch	Tiptree
1 September	Max Duffill	Great Braxted
1 September	Rocco McDonald	Great Braxted
15 September	Mariella Fyfe	Great Braxted

### **Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child**

3 November	Clifford Caporale	Great Braxted
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### **Confirmation**

15 July	Paul Buckingham, Bethany Lewis, India Coates, Mandy Cooper	Tiptree
---------	--	---------

### **Weddings**

2 August	Daniel Brown & Molly Holt	Great Braxted
11 October	Ryan Thomas & Amy Thomas	Great Braxted

### **Blessing after Civil Marriage**

7 September	Christopher Halls & Penelope Baxter	Messing
-------------	-------------------------------------	---------

### **Funerals**

9 September	George Judd	Tiptree
11 September	Alan Butt	Tiptree
20 September	Neville Fenner	Messing
21 October	Patricia Cottee	Tiptree
25 October	Janice Harvey	Tiptree
28 October	Betty Prime	Colchester Crematorium
5 November	Margaret Ager	Tiptree
11 November	Irene Manners	Tiptree

## **For anyone with relatives coming to stay this Christmas...**

An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly. - Gene Perret

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. - Anon

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone. - Anon

Nothing is often a good thing to say. - Will Durant

Our children await Christmas presents like a politician getting election returns. - Marceline Cox

The best baby-sitters, of course, are the baby's grandparents. You feel completely comfortable entrusting your baby to them for long periods, which is why most grandparents flee to the south coast. - Dave Barry

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild. - Welsh proverb

# Books of the Bible

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

## The Gospel of Luke

Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); His ministry (mainly teaching) on the road to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27) and His final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53).

For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day. This includes women, the poor and sinners (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

A key verse which reflects this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost' (19:10). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into His kingdom.

## The Gospel of John

'John's Gospel is like a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim. It is for the beginner in the faith and for the mature Christian.' (Leon Morris).

The Apostle John is usually credited with the authorship of this Gospel, writing in Ephesus at the end of the First Century. His purpose is 'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.' (20:31). Throughout he stresses the deity of Christ and presents Jesus as the Son of God.

In the prologue (1:1-14) Jesus is presented as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God revealed by the Father. It also highlights how He has come as light into the world, so that those who believe in Him will not remain in darkness (cf 12:46).



The heart of John's narrative contains 7 signs or miracles, which demonstrate who Jesus is and demonstrating His transforming power over creation and people: turning water into wine (2:1-11); healing the royal official's son (4:46-54); healing the paralytic (5:1-18); feeding the 5000 (6:1-14); walking on the water (6:16-21); healing of the man born blind (9:1-41) and raising Lazarus (11:1-44).

After these signs, the story moves into the upper room discourses followed by the story of His death and resurrection. The whole Gospel is a revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father. It can be well summed up in the famous verse: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16).

---

## Support Colchester Foodbank This Winter

Colchester Foodbank is calling on the community to help local families in need during the cold months ahead. We are currently seeking donations of winter coats and school uniforms (new or gently used). Items can be dropped off at our Tollgate location, open Monday to Saturday, 10 AM to 2PM. Your generosity can make a real difference in keeping children warm and ready for school. For more information, visit <https://colchester.foodbank.org.uk/> or contact us directly 01206 621998

---



# Eustace King

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# On why Carol Services are so dangerous

The Rectory  
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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INTERIORS

BY RUTH HOLDING

## **All in the month of December**

It was

50 years ago, on 5th Dec 1974 that the last episode of the TV comedy series Monty Python's Flying Circus was broadcast in the UK. It had begun in October 1969.

\*\*\*

75 years ago, on 13th Dec 1949 that Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, replacing Tel Aviv.

\*\*\*

125 years ago, on 16th Dec 1899 that Noel Coward, British playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, was born. His plays include Hay Fever, Private Lives, and Blithe Spirit.

\*\*\*

60 years ago, on 31st Dec 1964 that Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record, and became the only person to break both the land speed record and the water speed record in the same year.

\*\*\*

40 years ago, on 31st Dec 1984 that the Bank of England stopped producing one pound notes. They remained legal tender until 1988.

\*\*\*

25 years ago, on 31st Dec 1999 that the London Eye – the world's tallest Ferris wheel at the time, was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. It opened to passengers in March 2000.

## **All in the month of January**

It was

365 years ago, on 1st January 1660 that Samuel Pepys began his famous diary.

\*\*\*

235 years ago, on 4th January 1790 that George Washington delivered the first state of the Union address.

\*\*\*

55 years ago, on 12th January 1970 that the first Boeing 747 Jumbo jet arrived at Heathrow Airport.

\*\*\*

540 years ago, on 18th January 1485 that the Royal Houses of Lancaster and York were united by the wedding of Henry VII to Elizabeth of York.

\*\*\*

60 years ago, on 24th January 1965 that Winston Churchill died at the age of 90.

\*\*\*

190 years ago, on 30th January 1835 that President Andrew Jackson survived the first assassination attempt on a US President

\*\*\*



# Wordsearch

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.



Father  
Christmas  
Nicholas  
Born  
Third

Century  
Greek  
Village  
Devout  
Wealthy

Needy  
Sick  
Suffering  
Prison  
Emperor

Poor  
Family  
Three  
Daughters  
Stockings

Money  
Stockings

**WEA** Jan 5th-  
Jan 22nd

**Tiptree and  
Tollesbury**

# The Role of Political Cartoons in the 20th Century

3 weekly sessions Wednesday 11am-1pm St Lukes Hall,  
Tiptree CO5 0SU

Tutor: Ted Woodgate Cost : £25.20

Further information: 01621 735817

Book: 0300 303 3464 Quote Course Code Q00018064



Empower your knowledge. Interactive learning  
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# St Luke's Ladies Group

**19 December** Christmas Meal + Entertainment

**16 January 2025** Storytelling Through Textiles - Tabatha Mitchel-Simons

\* Note date change to  
4th Thursday

Various local charities are supported every year.  
Look out for details about outings on the noticeboards.

**MEETING IN THE CHURCH EXTENSION**  
**3rd THURSDAY IN THE MONTH**  
**at 7.30pm**  
**ADMISSION £4.00**  
**INCLUDES RAFFLE**  
**& REFRESHMENTS**



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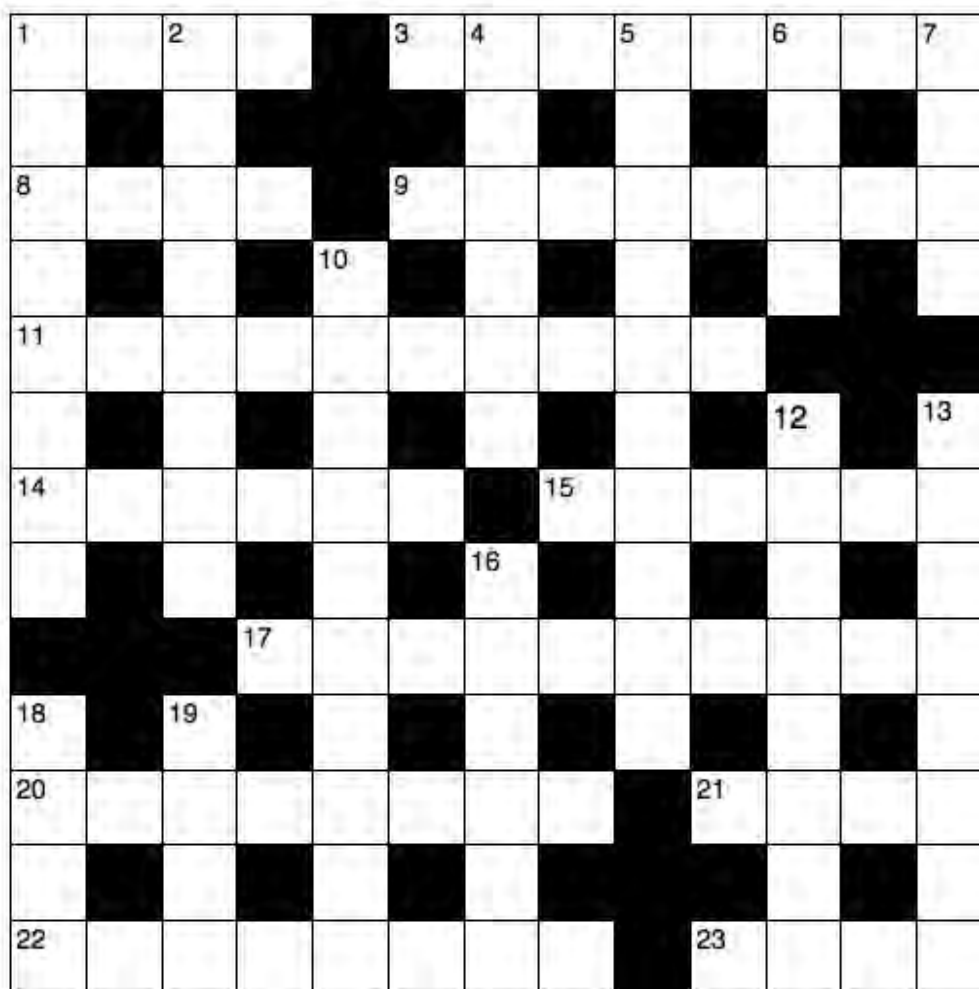


**Tiptree Choral Society** would like to invite you to attend their Christmas concert on  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7:30pm at St Luke's Church in Tiptree.**

In addition to a selection of Christmas music, the choir will perform 'City of Light', a retelling of the Christmas story in words and music. This musical was created and produced by Tom Fettke, a singing teacher, church choir director and minister of music in California for 30 years. It offers a lovely variety of music that we are sure everyone will enjoy, so do come along and listen. We look forward to seeing you!

Tickets are available online now – contact our website **tiptreechoral.uk** - and on the door on the night. £15 adults /£5 students 16+ / accompanied children under 16 free. If you are not online and you wish to reserve tickets, please contact 01206 734625 for more details.

## Crossword





## Across

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

## Down

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

## **TIPTREE BEER & WINE MAKERS GUILD (Otherwise known as the TIPTREE TIPLERS)**

New to the village or simply wish to do something different? We started in 1970 as a wine and beer making guild and although some members still brew their own and compete in our annual competitions, we are now more of a social club, meeting monthly.

You do not have to make your own wine or beer or be knowledgeable about wine or beer making. The only requirement is to have fun and meet great people.

We have an event or theme each month, sometimes with a guest speaker. There are usually nibbles & cheese provided & sometimes additional food at a small cost.

**We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at St Luke's Church Hall, 7.30pm for 8.00pm.**

You are most welcome to come and try out a night for free. Just turn up and make yourself known to Bill or Sonia and bring a drink for yourself. There is no admission fee & our yearly membership is just £35, if you wish to join..

See the church notice board for our events in 2024

For more information contact Bill Bradbury [billhbradbury@gmail.com](mailto:billhbradbury@gmail.com) or Sonia Stirling [sonia.stirling@btinternet.com](mailto:sonia.stirling@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 819087



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The Roman Empire charged the countries it had invaded taxes, based on the number of people and what they earned.

Emperor Augustus gave orders that all people in the Empire were to be registered so they could be taxed.



This census was before Quirinius became Governor of Syria\* (\*whose own census started riots - Acts 5:37)



When the order came, Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth.

But Joseph was descended from King David, who had been born in Bethlehem...



so Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to stay with his family.



Come and meet everyone!

A normal home in Bethlehem.



While they were staying there, Mary's baby was born.



There was no space in the guest room to put a new baby!

So they made a snug bed for Jesus in one of the mangers.



## Quiz solutions *(see page 18)*

1. The year 2000 was a leap year. But 1900 was not.
2. Whamageddon is a game played during the 24 days before Christmas in which players try to go from 1 December to the end of Christmas Eve (24 December) without hearing "Last Christmas" by Wham!.
3. Sir Alan Bates has been very active in trying to address the Post Office scandal.
4. A giant tortoise.
5. Ian Lavender, who played Pike.
6. The photo taken by HRH Princess of Wales had been not very successfully altered.
7. He was wearing American style jeans.
8. The cat fell asleep on the Coronation throne.
9. Portugal.
10. Swiss Army knife.
11. JRR Tolkein. The word "keen" may have been a misspelling of his surname.
12. Near Coventry from Nuneaton down to Royal Leamington Spa.
13. The rule that civil servants and others will normally observe discretion about making new announcements or decisions that could influence voters during the election period.
14. The allegations that some politicians took bets on when the general election would be when they had insider information.
15. Roll on the floor laughing.
16. A lifetime of free colonoscopies.
17. Gondolier.
18. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.
19. The news that the group Oasis are performing again.
20. Line judges at Wimbledon.

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All Saints' Great Braxted,

All Saints' Inworth

and

All Saints' Messing

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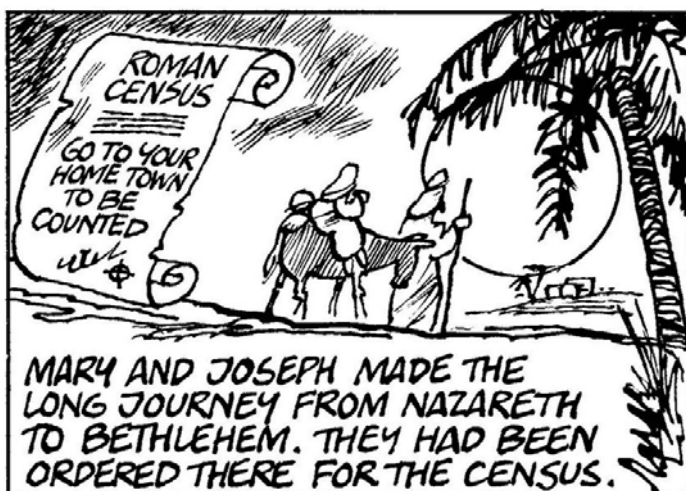


# A Very Special Baby

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



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



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

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

# Solutions:

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

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



# Christmas Services 2024

## Great Braxted, Inworth, Messing & Tiptree



### Christingle Services

**Sunday 1st December**

**4.00pm Christingle Service, at St Luke's, Tiptree**



### Messy Church

**Friday, 29th November,**

**from 3.00pm Messy Church after school until 5.30pm, at St Luke's Church, Tiptree** *Christmas crafts, a story, songs, prayers & a simple meal*



### Christmas Tree Lighting

**Sunday 1st December, 5.30pm at All Saints, Messing**



### Carol Services

**Saturday 21st December,**

**4.00pm, All Saints, Messing**

**Sunday 22nd December,**

**11.15am, Carol Service, All Saints, Great Braxted**

**4.00pm, Carol Service, St Luke's Church, Tiptree**

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.30pm, Carol Service, All Saints Church, Inworth**



### Crib Service

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**4.00pm Crib Service at St Luke's Church, Tiptree**

*Collection in aid of Little Havens Children's Hospice*



### Midnight Communion Services

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00pm, Midnight Communion, All Saints, Great Braxted**

**11.30pm, Midnight Communion, St Luke's, Tiptree**



### Christmas Day Services

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Join us for Family Communion in one of our churches:**

**9.00am All Saints, Messing**

**10.00am St Luke's, Tiptree**

**11.15am All Saints, Inworth**

***We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas***

The opinions expressed in Open Door are not necessarily those of the Ministry Team, Team Council or Parochial Church Councils of the Thurstable and Winstree Team Ministry. Open Door is not responsible for errors or omissions, accuracy of the content, nor the failure of any published event to go ahead.