

And the word has become flesh.

Given that the Birth of Jesus was not on the 25th December 0001, it has for centuries become one of the major festivals of the Christian Church surpassed only by Easter. But if there had been no Christmas there could not have been Easter. The message the church has to share is not about the date of Christmas when God sent Jesus, but in the absolute truth that God sent Jesus into the world.

Such is the garbled message of secularism that Easter Eggs are now being sold, pandering to human greed, both by seller and purchaser alike. September in our major stores heralds the coming of Christmas as they all attempt to secure our business with two for the price of one and half price goods all designed to make us want more. City centres and towns join in the rush to pre-empt Christmas and, in their words, get us in the mood. Life becomes more frenetic as the magical day nears, parents are rushing around seeking out that 'must have' toy, but alas all is sold out and Christmas is ruined before it starts. New gimmicks are unfolded to make shoppers search the hidden corners of their purses, they succumb but only with the use of the plastic friend who will become a burden for months. Shops stay open longer making people spend more than they have, whilst in the background preparations are being made for the Boxing Day sales.

By mid December, perhaps maybe as you read this letter, the lights on the Christmas tree twinkle in your bay window and other houses are ablaze with thousands of bulbs and Santa moves across roofs trying to catch his reindeer. It is a time to be chastened as a card is delivered from someone you

forgot, a need now to grovel with belated wishes in the form of an e-mail. Whilst on the subject of cards last year we only had two cards attempting to be about Christmas, whilst a plethora of robins flew around leaving droppings on the mantel shelf. A visitor from another planet may well deduce that the God of Christmas is money and greed.

Churches on main roads and side roads will all try to inform the world of the truth of Christmas, but, like two men in the parable of the Good Samaritan, most will pass by with not a glance at the truth, and Jesus lies heartbroken at the selfishness of human kind. Vicars will go to bed at night with minds reeling from yet more carols and even more to come. Apart from the infirm, for whom the carol service is much more than that, should we not encourage other groups to attend church?

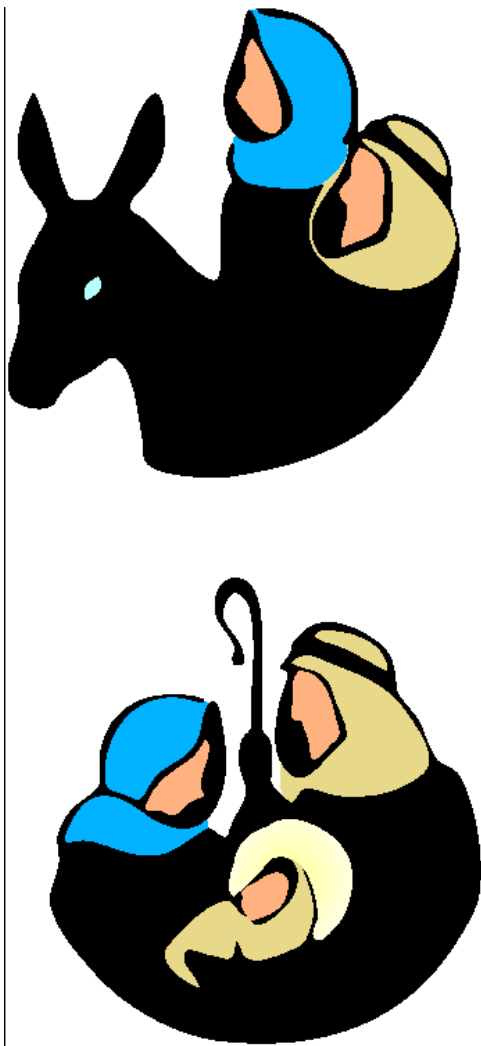
Father Christmas or Santa as he is affectionately known, has unfortunately become the face of Christmas, a face that many Christians also acknowledge, albeit by default rather than choice. The old men in red suits and false beards will weave their magic through schools and stores trying to convince the sceptical children of their authenticity (of course he is! Who dares say otherwise?) On Christmas Eve he will arrive on all rooftops to deliver the presents children have asked for, eating the mince pie and downing the glass of whisky before leaving. Children are now much more aware than in my time, they even leave out a carrots for Rudolph. I would stoutly defend the rights of children to experience this magic and wonder, but why must adults get lost in it too?

The time spent in preparation for Christmas is over, presents have been opened and Dad, trying to sleep in his chair, is willing the children to be lost in their toys. The mountain of cardboard and wrapping paper lies in the corner of the room reminding us of our carbon footprint. I fondly remember my childhood when after Christmas my aunt carefully folded and ironed all the Christmas wrapping paper for use next year. It was just one of the savings, I doubt if anyone suggested recycling, it was a way of life.

While all this has been happening a frail old man wearing a white cassock and skull cap is kneeling in his chapel and if you look closely there are tears in his eyes as he constantly prays for God's world that is being eaten alive by the constant encroachment of secularism. God so loved the world that he sent His Son Jesus (John 3: 16) and the price of that divine act is incalculable.

Will you please all try to spend a little more time putting Christ back into Christmas and also at the core of your lives?

Love Harry.



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Churchwarden	Rhodri James	357607
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Sacristan		
Servers	Bill Elsey	357622
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Terry Barringer	424584
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Rhodri James	357607
Social Events Co-ordinator	Bertha Wilson-Njenou	571948
Sound System	John Lamont	565559

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Sundays and holy days

- 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Through the prophet Isaiah God promises a new king and a kingdom of peace and justice for all.
Isaiah 11: 1-10
Matthew 3: 1-12
- 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 35: 1-10
Matthew 11: 2-11
- 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 11: 10-16
Matthew 1: 18 – end
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE (MIDNIGHT)
Isaiah 52: 7-10
John 1: 1-14
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
Titus 3: 4-7
Luke 2: 8-20
- 26 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Hebrews 2: 10 - end
Matthew 2: 13 - end

Wednesdays

- 1 Isaiah 25: 6-10a
Matthew 15: 29-37
- 8 Isaiah 40: 25 - end
Matthew 11: 28 - end
- 15 Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 21b - end
Luke 7: 18b-23
- 22 1 Samuel 1: 24 - end
Luke 1: 48-56
- 29 NO SERVICE



REGULAR SERVICES IN DECEMBER

- Sundays 8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
(first Sunday in the month is an All-Age service)
- Mondays 9.30am Morning Prayer
- Tuesdays 9.30am Morning Prayer
- Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion
- Thursdays 9.30am Morning Prayer
- Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayer

Family Worship at Orchard Park will be on Sunday December 5 and 12 at 4pm in the Orchard Park Community Centre on Central Avenue. Light refreshments. All welcome. For further details see the weekly bulletin. Services will resume in January after the Christmas break.

Apart from Sunday services the Church will close after the Christmas morning services. It will re-open on Wednesday January 5. Services at 10am ONLY on December 26 and January 2

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Sunday December 5 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall. This is the Sunday Lunch Club's Christmas Party

SPECIAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday December 19 Community Carol service. Procession starts from the Community Centre at 6pm and Good Shepherd service starts at 6.30pm. Mulled wine and mince pies after the service.



We believe!

Our Autumn project this year – in a series of sermons and in our House Groups – has been to study the Creed (specifically the Nicene creed), and what a wealth of riches we have found in our studies. Here are the reports from the various groups, starting with Orchard Park where there has never been a group before.

Orchard Park Group

This was the first time that the Orchard Park House Group has followed the same course as the other Good Shepherd House Groups. Unlike the other House Groups, the Orchard Park group continues to meet weekly throughout the term to pray specifically for the neighbourhood and the new church. The group is made up of a number of people from different church backgrounds (or none) which also gives the group a distinctive flavour and made studying the creed particularly interesting. Everybody felt they learned something, and a really good discussion was had the week we were thinking about the ‘one, holy, catholic and apostolic church’. Over the weeks, we explored our different understandings of baptism, we shared amazing testimonies of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and thought long and hard about suffering and healing. Our conversations have brought the group closer together and opened a huge number of avenues for us to explore in future meetings! It was a revelation to some to find that the creeds of the church were rooted in scripture and an encouragement for us all to find common ground in such a firm foundation of faith. The challenge for us now is to share that faith with the community in which we find ourselves.

Anthony Lees-Smith

Monday Night Group

Well most of you know me as the person at the front of church who has a lot to say for herself.

I have been attending The Good Shepherd for about the last two and half years and always heard about the house groups but never been brave enough to attend, thinking I would not know enough to participate and maybe even be laughed at! Finally I ran out of excuses when I was invited by several people.

My first attendance was the last series, “The Creed” (trust me to start with a hard one). I arrived, sat down and watched everyone arriving, thinking to myself I’m in trouble here. Was I going to make a fool of myself? I was actually quiet for about fifteen minutes as I was listening to the questions and the discussions, which for me was a small miracle in itself, people will agree who know me and will laugh out loud. I then felt something from within me to saying “Linda, put your own point of view forward”, which I did and then I realised that people were actually listening and respecting my views.

I never looked back from that first visit and attended all the sessions and it also made me listen more intently and evaluate the sermons on a Sunday. Even when I felt ill and tired I knew that I needed to attend Church and the house groups in case I missed anything.

This experience had made my faith and my commitment to our Lord and our Church much stronger; I can’t wait for the next house groups to start.

Therefore I say to you all, please come. You will be made welcome and all opinions are respected. Once you attend I sure you will be hooked just like me.

I thank every single person who invited me and feel blessed by my attending the groups.

Linda Fiagbedzi

Tuesday Evening Group

We believe in one God... along with the other homegroups the Tuesday night group that meets at the Lovells' also spent the past couple of months looking at, and discussing, the Nicene Creed.

We were lead by Nathan, this was his first time of leading, so therefore it encouraging for him to have Dave in attendance to help assist and give feedback.

We had a look at the history of The Creed from when it was first compiled at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325; "the Council was the first effort to attain consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom". We then noted that there were further 'gatherings' to produce the version that is in common usage today.

The discussions raised almost as many questions as were answered, and gave us lots to think about. A couple of things that came out of it were: that although there are many denominations, Christians should be united through their common belief, and, that we have a promise of eternal life through Christ.

During this term we bid farewell to Rutendo, but were able to welcome three new members: Tom, Emily and 'Bump'. (Apologies to Tom and Emily if 'Bump' now has a name!)

Lois and Phil Morris

Wednesday Morning Group

Eight of us joined the group which met with Linda after the mid-week Communion service. We felt eight was a good number, enabling everyone to speak if they wished, to ask questions and challenge ideas. We felt that what was said was received and heard and some thought that studying the Creed led to the best discussions we have had. The session on the Holy Spirit and Heaven was especially helpful. However, what we studied could also be bewildering and discomfoting, leaving questions unanswered.

We were glad of the notes provided by Anthony and the references quoted gave us a chance to become more adept at finding our way round the Bible.

We were faced with how easy it is to stand Sunday by Sunday and affirm our faith without necessarily giving it much thought. We wondered how we would fare if we lived in a country under religious persecution when to declare our faith might lead to punishment or death.

Pat Givan

Wednesday Evening Group (Cambridge)

The Creed has been used for generations since AD30 and different versions have been issued over the centuries, trying to accommodate the needs of that particular era.

When we were analysing the Creed to-day it still presented us with a couple of challenges to our individual perceptions. But while working as a team we managed to temper our different opinions and learned more through each other's personal life experience. This made the House Group more welcoming, united, friendly, encouraging and caring. As we came to the end of the series we all agreed that, much as we can try to look at the Creed from different angles, it is still the best treasure for every Christian soul.

Brian Kambasha

Wednesday Evening Group (Impington)

The Wednesday ‘ex-pat’ group who meet at Impington have commissioned me to write this report – i.e. no one else felt able in the short time available! For a variety of reasons our last meeting was not until yesterday, November 10, so as I write this my head is full of *I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come*. We are all agreed that it has been a really good series and has made us think hard about what we believe. Special thanks to Anthony for the excellent short sheets of questions which really opened up the subject each week, and to all who preached so eloquently on their portions of the Creed.

If you haven’t joined a House Group, I can recommend it. I’m not a great joiner of things, but the friends in our Group mean a lot to me, and to sit in silence over Communion with those friends at the end of this series was a very special experience. We, I think, would all agree that we have got to know each other in such a different way through the group. Rex tried hard to define this last night and we finally all gave up and just said we knew one another “better”! There have been so many seemingly chance remarks (or a new translation) which have opened up whole fresh avenues of thought, and the support we get from one another is incalculable. We know we are a maverick group and love having Harry as our leader. He stops us getting too wildly astray but is wise enough to let us roam a bit at times. Hopefully we can help Harry, as he certainly helps us.

As I went to bed after last night’s meeting I suppose I must have been thinking about Linda’s comment about us fashioning our ideas of heaven out of what we know on earth and I suddenly thought of a hymn my father loved – I haven’t heard it in years and I hope I can quote it correctly! For me (and for my Dad) heaven would not be heaven without singing. My favourite hymn is *How can I sing that majesty* but Dad frequently sang:

There is singing up in heaven
such as we have never known,
where the angels sing the praises
of the Lamb upon the throne.
Their sweet harps are always tuneful
and their voices always clear –
O that we might be more like them
while we serve the Master here.

We are so blessed that we can have this confidence, that we can look for the resurrection of the dead (although we may argue fiercely over what exactly that means!) and that we will share the life of the world to come.

We believe!

Ruth Banger



So what are we doing next?



The Letter of James

Sermons and house groups in the New Year

Sometimes the period immediately after Christmas and Epiphany can be a little bit dull in the church, but not this year! Following the successful recent series of sermons and house groups focussing on different aspects of the Creed, preparations are well underway for an exciting series in the New Year which will look at the Letter of James.

The Letter of James, like many of the epistles, is packed full of interesting and sometimes difficult issues. In the house groups and sermons we'll be tackling notions of wisdom, wealth, faith, doubt and suffering; as well as many other interesting topics along the way. Crucially, we'll be looking at how the messages included within the Letter of James might be relevant for us as we live our lives in 21st century Cambridge.

The series will include 5 sermons and 6 house groups, which will cover the full 5 chapters of the book. Further details about the dates are given below, and if you'd like more information about joining one of the house groups, please speak to David or Anthony, or any of the people who have been involved in house groups previously. We hope that you'll enjoy the sermons and house groups as much as we have enjoyed planning them.

Tom [Robson] and Andrew [Whitehead]

Dates for your diary

Week commencing

16th January	Introductory house group - sermon will follow the lectionary
23rd January	James Chapter 1
30th January	James Chapter 2
7th February	Christingle All Age service - social week or break for house groups
13th February	James Chapter 3
20th February	James Chapter 4
27th February	James Chapter 5

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

October 17

Bree Rufaro Tariro Kambasha

October 24

Cari-Ann Fay Chamberlin

Stephanie Chungkrathok Starr

Holy Matrimony

November 7

Ko Minnaar and Lillian Ferguson

Women's Breakfast 6th Nov. 2010, Arbury Rd Baptist Church

I would highly recommend the WOMEN'S BREAKFAST! I have been 4 times and have thoroughly enjoyed each experience.

It is lovely to be part of a welcoming, friendly, loving group of women, many of whom I do not know. We are spoiled with lovely food, everything set out already, no expectation to do anything other than to be and be there! There are many churches represented.

Ruth Harding, the wife of the Baptist Minister on Arbury Road, where the Breakfast is held, and Sonja Peloe from Arbury Community Church organise all the food and preparations. We have a continental style breakfast with a wonderful variety of cereal and fruit. There is plenty of time to meet people and chat, it is all very relaxed and informal. This is followed by a time of sharing, praise and prayer. Recently someone has shared a meaningful experience in her life. Ros spoke about her time with 'Operation Mobilisation', on a ship that sails around the world reaching and discipling people from many nations. In 24 months she visited 26 countries! Her story was inspirational, a testament to the way God guides us in our lives when we are open to ask for help and to listen.

If you would like to find out more about the Women's Breakfast, the next one is sometime in March 2011, please contact me, Caroline Bordoni 01223 311660 or caroline.bordoni@sky.com or Ruth Harding at henne2105@hotmail.co.uk.

If you would like some information about Operation Mobilisation I have a DVD and some leaflets or visit www.uk.om.org

Caroline Bordoni

Singing carols!

On the next page is a list of all the Christmas services in various venues around the parish. Do come and support whenever you can. One word of warning! *Budgens* have requested that the maximum number of carol singers in the store should be 10. This is for safety reasons – any more and we could cause a dangerous blockage! There will be list up in church and it will be a question of first come, first served. Of course you can always be in *Budgens* when we are there, (we'd love that), it's just not possible for more than 10 to stand and sing together there. How about coming to the carols in Arbury Court instead? The more the merrier there!

Advent and Christmas Events throughout the parish

DATE	VENUE	TIME	EVENT
Sunday November 28	in Church	4pm	The trail of the knitted nativity starts
Sunday December 5	in Church Hall	12 noon	Sunday Lunch Club Christmas Lunch with carols
Monday December 6	in Church Hall	2.00-4.30pm	Monday Club Christmas Party
Tuesday December 7	at Arbury Court	4-5pm	Community Carol singing round the Christmas tree
Thursday December 9	at Buchan Street	2.00pm	Carol service
Saturday December 11	at Budgens in Arbury Court	11.00	Carol singing
Monday December 13	in Church	2.00pm	Come and sing carols plus tea
Monday December 13	in Church	7.30pm	Manor School Carol service
Wednesday December 15	at Havenfield	11.00am	Carol service
Friday December 17	at Orchard Park	7.30pm	Carol service
Saturday December 18	in Lion Yard, Cambridge	10.00-11.00	Choir sing carols in aid of <i>CamMind</i>
Sunday December 19	at Community Centre and in Church	6.00pm and 6.30pm	Community Carol service plus mulled wine and mince pies
Friday December 24	in Church	3.00pm	Crib service and end of the trail of the knitted nativity
Friday December 24	in Church	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Saturday December 25	in Church	8.00am 10am	Said Holy Communion All Age Communion service
Sunday December 26	in Church	10am	Communion service

What can I give him?

A couple of years ago *BBC Music Magazine* carried out a survey to find the 'greatest Christmas carol of all time' and the winner was *In the bleak midwinter*. Not to the tune we regularly sing but to a beautiful setting by Harold Darke which was composed just 100 years ago this month. You will certainly recognise it as it features regularly in carol services on the Radio and TV and you can come and hear it at our carol service on December 19 as the choir will be singing it then.

Beautiful tunes alone, however, are not enough. I was reminded of the words of this carol recently when I was reading a book called *Dragonspell*. I confess I enjoy reading well-written fantasy – and this is really good. Needless to say it features dragons and the heroine, Kale, is a mysterious character who has just met up with Paladin who is clearly Christ. This is a conversation between them.

“Would you like to give me something?”

Cautiously, she looked up, wondering if he was mocking her. What did she have to give to someone like him? His face reassured her. She nodded.

He released her hand and sat back.

A fiddle appeared in Kale's lap.

“Ah, a beautiful instrument”, said Paladin. “Will you give it to me?”

Kale felt tears behind her eyes. Would she ever understand what he tried to tell her? She jerked her head up and down and handed over the fiddle.

A ring appeared on her finger. Paladin asked for it, and she gave it. A hat upon her head. A bag of coins. A flower. A bottle of perfume. Each appeared, and she willingly gave each to the mysterious man who sat before her. The last item, a picture in a frame, she held limply in one hand.

“What is it, Kale? Why are you distressed?” he asked. “Don't you enjoy giving me gifts?”

She shrugged, fighting the sadness in her heart.

“They don't mean anything to me,” she answered. “They aren't mine.”

“What would make this painting yours?”

“If I painted it, or if I earned the money to buy it.”

“But isn't it easier for me just to give it to you without the struggles?”

Kale watched the painting in its frame dissolve into nothing, leaving her hand empty. As the gift disappeared, a feeling of hope filled her soul.

She lifted expectant eyes to Paladin. He was going to answer her question.

“What is it that I can give you?”

“You've already given me all that I want, Kale. You've pledged to be in my service. You've given yourself. It's what you are and who you are, what you do and what you think and feel. That is your gift to me.”

**What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him:
give my heart.**

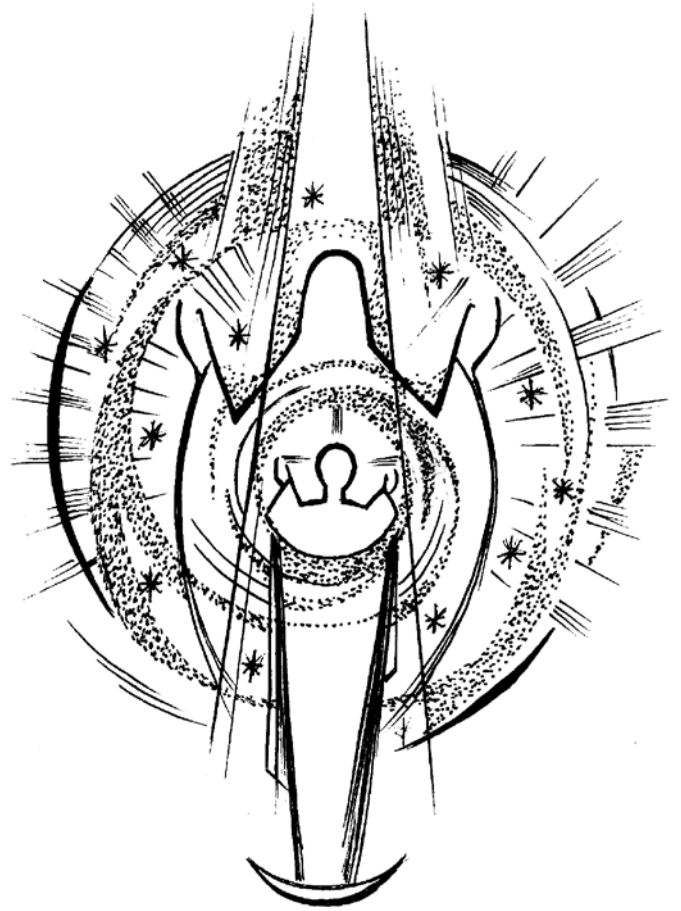
ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

Sometimes it's so easy:
You go by any road
And there is the stable,
The child and his mother,
Joseph, the awestruck animals,
And the kings and shepherds
Reverentially kneeling
And you are overwhelmed with joy,
With hope and comfort
And the light and wonder
Of it all.

But other times
When you open any door
There's no road, no stable,
Just darkness,
The thick skeins of night
And the echo
Of your own loneliness.

Then all you can do
Is turn eyes to heaven
And pray that somehow, somewhere
You will find a star.

Rex Collinson



Word Search Puzzle

from www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/
free to distribute for free with this notice
words in a straight line left to right or top to bottom

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

(Luke 2:10-12) 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: (11) to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (12) This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Word List

BRINGING WRAPPED MESSIAH SAVIOR PEOPLE MANGER
AFRAID LYING GREAT DAVID CLOTH CHILD BANDS ANGEL
WILL THIS THEM SIGN SAID NEWS LUKE LORD GOOD FIND
CITY BORN YOU WHO SEE NOT JOY FOR DAY BUT ALL
BE

SEASONAL REFLECTIONS

The Rocking Song

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;

We will lend a coat of fur,

We will rock you, rock you, rock you,

We will rock you, rock you, rock you:

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, both due to risk of allergy to animal fur, and for ethical reasons. Therefore faux fur, a nice cellular blanket or perhaps micro-fleece material should be considered a suitable alternative.

Please note only persons who have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their CRB disclosure with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow

In a one horse open sleigh

O'er the fields we go

Laughing all the way

A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. Please note, permission must be gained from landowners before entering their fields. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched

Their flocks by night

All seated on the ground

The angel of the Lord came down

And glory shone around

The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided, therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year they should watch their flocks via CCTV cameras from centrally heated shepherd observation huts.

Please note, the angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her glory all around she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road

Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load

The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry, also included in the guidelines is guidance regarding how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required over a four hour plodding period. Please

note that due to the increased risk of pollution from the dusty road, Mary and Joseph are required to wear face masks to prevent inhalation of any airborne particles. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled 'little' and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr. Donkey. To comment upon his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are

Bearing gifts we traverse afar

Field and fountain, moor and mountain

Following yonder star

Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable - as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as 'cash for gold' etc, gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipients name or perhaps give a gift voucher.

We would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest the use of RAC routefinder or satellite navigation, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption. Please note as per the guidelines from the RSPCA for Mr Donkey, the camels carrying the three kings of Orient will require regular food and rest breaks. Facemasks for the three kings are also advisable due to the likelihood of dust from the camels hooves.

Rudolph the red nosed reindeer

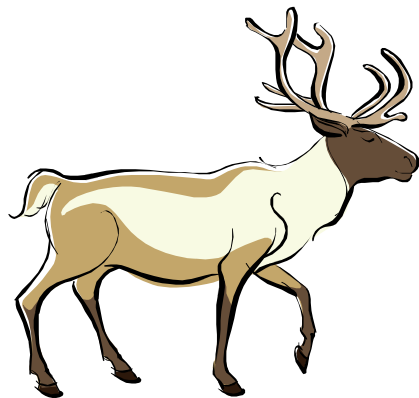
Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer

had a very shiny nose.

And if you ever saw him,

you would even say it glows.

You are advised that under the Equal Opportunities for All policy, it is inappropriate for persons to make comment with regard to the ruddiness of any part of Mr. R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from the Reindeer Games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence. A full investigation will be implemented and sanctions—including suspension on full pay—will be considered whilst this investigation takes place.



EMERGENCE RULES

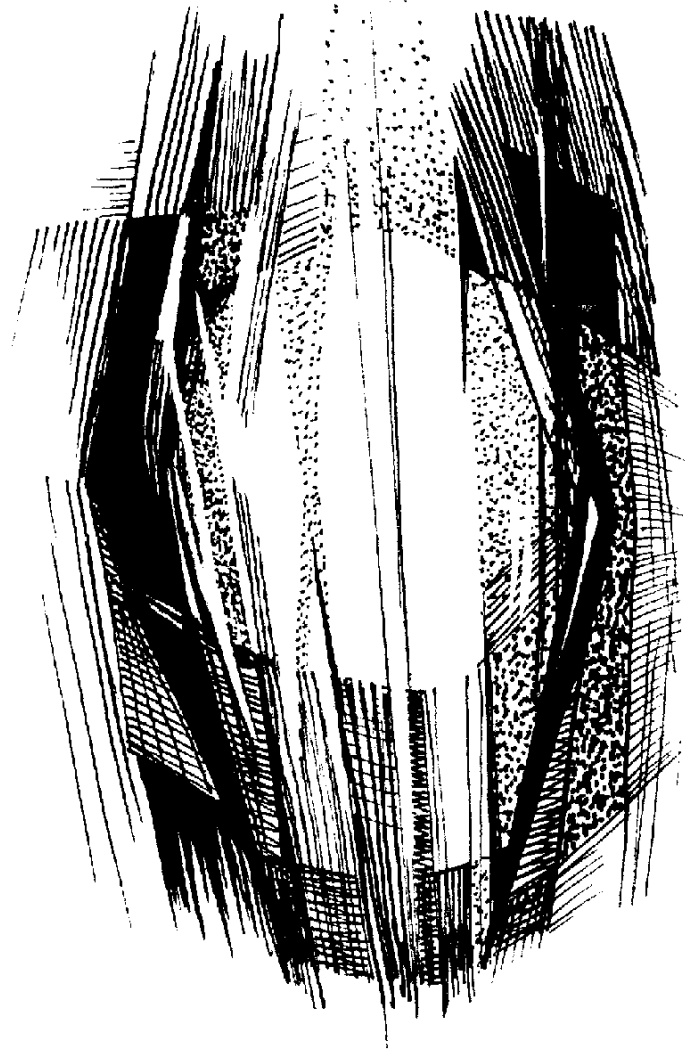
For Frank we're complex crumbling
flesh

With brains beyond the rest of beasts.
He scorns all talk of souls. He blames
Platonic notions, Descartes' yeasts
Fermenting thoughts until they seem
They're gifts of gods. And yet each
day

His laptop's software yields, beyond
The hardware maker's smart display,
Evolving files. Thus novel truths
Revealed as graphs, or graphic means
Of beauty not foreseen, adorn
Our latest, smart computer screens.
Perhaps emergent souls are formed
As grace of Holy Spirit's gifts
Engage with brains whose basic drives
Derive from ancient fish. It lifts
Our thoughts and feelings way beyond
Our wildest hopes until we leave
Decaying flesh to rise to life
We find it hard to now believe
Exists except in myths and dreams
As worthless as an adman's hype.
Perhaps as pilgrims called by Christ
Is way emerging souls will ripe.
Embracing such a faith it's claimed
Produces inner peace and joy,
Whatever ills befall, despite
Attempts by sceptics who'd destroy
Beliefs they shun. It seems they're
blind

To grants of grace believers claim
Derive from fruit of Paraclete,
As lives of faithful folk proclaim.
Besides I know for sure apart
From stumbling walk of faith I'd long
Ago have been consumed by black
Despair in place of swelling song.

Henry Disney



To all of my friends and fellow-worshippers and also to all of our readers, wishing you a Very Happy Christmas.
Margaret Handley.

*We hope that you will have a very joyful and blessed Christmas and New Year,
Merry Christmas
Dave, Hazel, Jude, Zoe & Rosey*

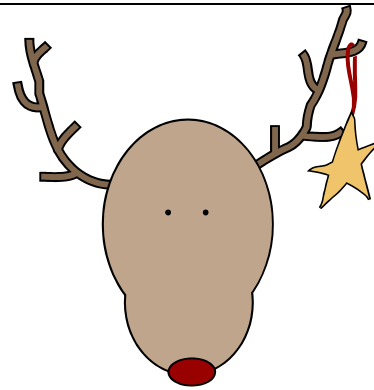
Christmas Greetings to all our friends at the Church of the Good Shepherd from Terry and Phyl.

Alison, John, Eleanor and Zoe wish all at the Church of the Good Shepherd a Joyful Christmas and every blessing for 2011

**We would like to wish all our friends at the Good Shepherd a peaceful and blessed Christmas.
from Linda and Neville**



To all our Good Shepherd friends,
May the Christmas season fill your home with joy
your heart with love
and your life with laughter.
Festive wishes from Anthony,
Wendy, Erica, Hilary and Kipper
the Dog!
Xxxxx



Harry, Ginni and Toby wish all their friends at The Good Shepherd a very happy Christmas.

*A very happy & peaceful Christmas to all my friends at The Good Shepherd
from Jeanette*

Wishing our clergy and their families and all who worship at The Good Shepherd a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.
With all good wishes,
Ann Callear



Tom and Monica wish all their friends at The Good Shepherd a joyous Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year. We take this opportunity to thank you all for your good wishes, words and, most important of all, your prayers which truly sustained me throughout my illness

Ruth and Dorothy wish all their friends at The Good Shepherd a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year



Time flies, with the Festive Season soon to be upon us with its sincere but enjoyable Church Services, as well as the lighter services with carols with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

So at this time of year we send our very best wishes to all our friends at Church for a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Jeanne and Bill



“Card money” donations

This year members of the Church have made donations to the following charities with the money they would otherwise have spent on cards:

- Mercy Ships
- Jimmy’s
- Jessie’s Fund
- Toybox
- Age Concern
- Zipper Club

As promised, there will be information about these charities in next month’s GS News.

Thank you all.

Memo to all staff at North Pole branch

The global economic downturn requires the North Pole branch of S. Claus (International) Ltd. to look for improved, more competitive, operating procedures. With immediate effect, the following economic measures are to be implemented in the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' Dept.:

1. The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree, which never produced the forecast cash crop, will be replaced by a plastic decorative plant providing considerable savings in maintenance.
2. Two turtle doves are a duplication of resource, and simply cannot be justified. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. One position is, therefore, eliminated.
3. The French hens will be replaced by English beef.
4. The four calling birds will be replaced by an automated calling system, with a 'call waiting' option. An analysis is under way to determine whom the birds have been calling, how often, and how long they talked.
5. The five golden rings have been put on hold by our Investment Management Advisers. Maintaining a profile based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals and gilts appear to be the way forward.
6. Higher numbers are generally considered excessive. Three geese will be released, and two token swans retained. The milking operation will be automated, freeing eight maids to join the e-milking team. The high cost of maintaining hereditary peers, plus the expense of international air travel and its impact on the environment, has prompted the Job Evaluation Unit to suggest replacing this group with ten pogo sticks. To maximise the brand value of the dancing subsidiary, we shall bring Pan's People out of retirement.
7. Availing ourselves of operational synergies, the pipers and drummers will be replaced by an i-pod.

Though as yet incomplete, early studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is grossly inefficient. Optimum efficiency and improved service levels can be achieved by making all deliveries on the same day.

In order to remain competitive in a difficult working environment, further cuts cannot be ruled out. If this should prove necessary, the Board will request Management to scrutinise the 'Snow White Division' to establish whether seven dwarfs are actually required.



Jimmy's Christmas

As the thoughtful and generous gifts from our congregation and Orchard Park made such a difference to Jimmy's stores for winter meals, perhaps it is now time for the Christmas wish list. These items from the Good Shepherd and other Cambridge churches really do help keep Jimmy's going and they are always so grateful, especially if it enables every guest to receive a Christmas stocking and so feel they are not forgotten by society.

Thank you for your kindness.

Ann Callear

Food

Donations of food will always be accepted. The most useful items are; Coffee, Drinking Chocolate, Squash, Sugar, Milk, Butter/Margarine, Cooking Oil, Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, tinned Soup and Meats, Biscuits, Jellies, Quick Whips, Christmas Puddings/Cakes, Turkey fresh and Frozen and Gravy Granules. Christmas crackers and anything that is Christmas related.

Bedding

We no longer accept donations of Sheets, Pillowcases, Pillows or Duvets. We have sufficient supplies of these.

We will continue to accept blankets.

Clothing

We accept clothing in good quality and freshly washed and have limited clothing items to the following;

Jeans or Casual Trousers, T-Shirts, Jumpers and Fleece, Warm Coats, Shoes, Trainers and Boots.

We only accept new items of underwear and socks. Men's underwear should be boxer style as we do not find jockey/Y fronts popular.

We no longer accept ladies' or Children's clothing.

Furniture, Crockery and Electrical Items

We no longer accept these items as few of our guests now move from Jimmy's into their own accommodation, most moving into hostels where they do not require such.

Gifts

Any boxed/wrapped gifts would be most welcomed. We try to make Christmas as enjoyable as possible for guests that may be with us during the festive season.

Besides the traditional Christmas dinner and trimmings we also fill pillowcases with presents for each guest.

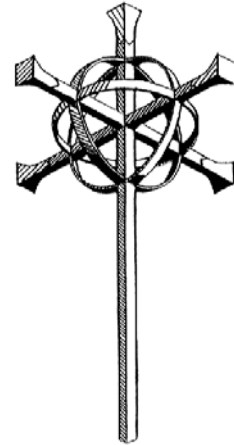
IN THE CHURCH HALL

THE MONDAY CLUB Monday 2.30 - 4pm	Eva Hutson	574070
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
LINE DANCING Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Mrs B Wright	426517
KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Mrs V Ford	870711
THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS Tuesday 6.15 - 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
CARERS & SUFFERERS OF DEMENTIA Wednesday 10 - 12 noon	The Manager	884031
THE 18th & 25th GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
THE CAMERA CLUB Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Anthony Tyler	01954 719315
GUILDHALL RETIRED MEMBERS CLUB 2 nd Wednesday of the month 2 - 4pm	Yvonne Wisbey	523549
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm March to November		
T G W U 4 th Wednesday of the month 2 - 4pm	Evelyn Hunnyball	364293
CAMBRIDGE INSTRUMENTS PENSION FELLOWSHIP 3 rd Thursday of the month 10am - noon	Mr Richard Luff	424027
THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS Thursday 7.30 - 9.00pm	Alan Leader	563233
CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB Friday 9.15 - 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
TAI CHI Friday 2 - 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 1 st Sunday of the month noon - 1.30pm	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559

TO BOOK THE CHURCH HALL

Please phone 352151 (evenings)

**Submission date for
January Newsletter:
December 5
(Publication date December 19)**



Church Office 01223 312933

Church Hall bookings
(evenings) 01223 352151

Newsletter Ruth Banger 07764 613862
OR ruthbanger51@gmail.com

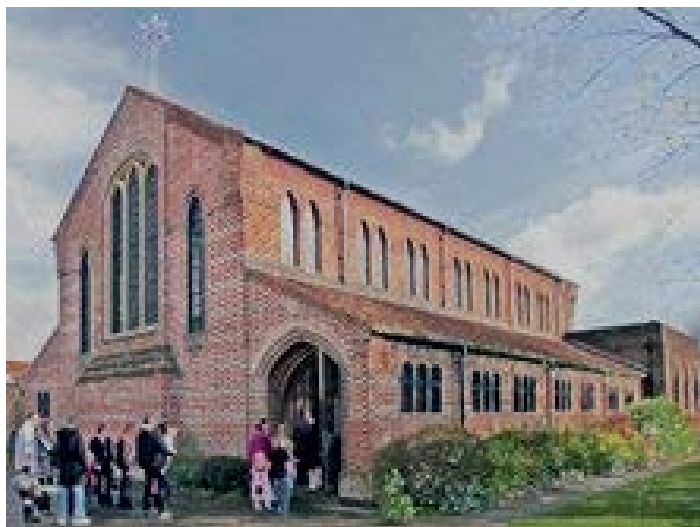
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Here at the Good Shepherd we like to help you to celebrate and commemorate many of the milestones on the journey through life; these include weddings, anniversaries, funerals, and baptism services.

If you wish to find out more about these, the first step is to contact the Vicar, the Reverend David Maher. He will be able to tell you what is involved and arrange for a meeting with you if you then wish to take things further.

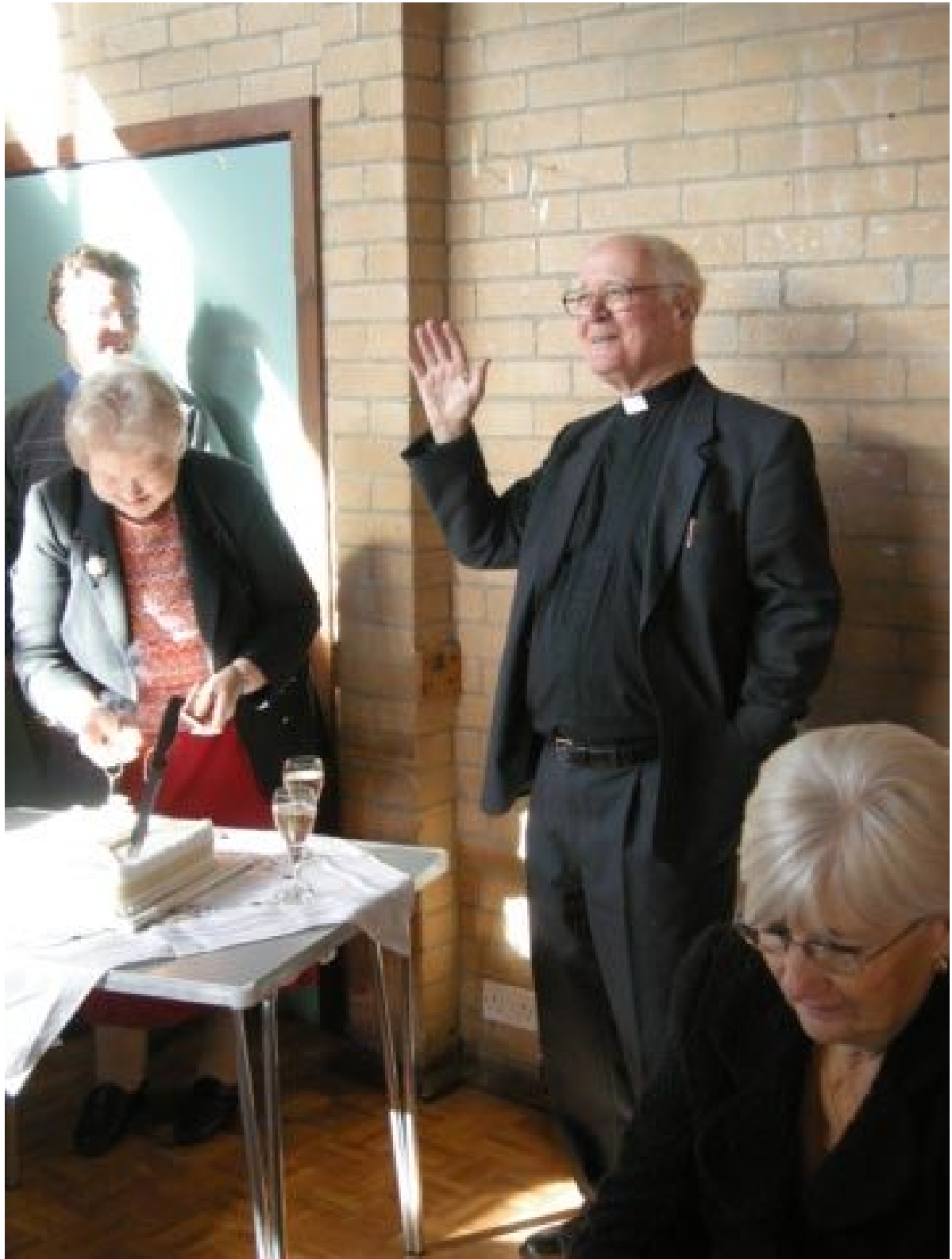
He can be contacted on 01223 351844

Church website: www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk



John Polkinghorne's 80th Birthday celebrations





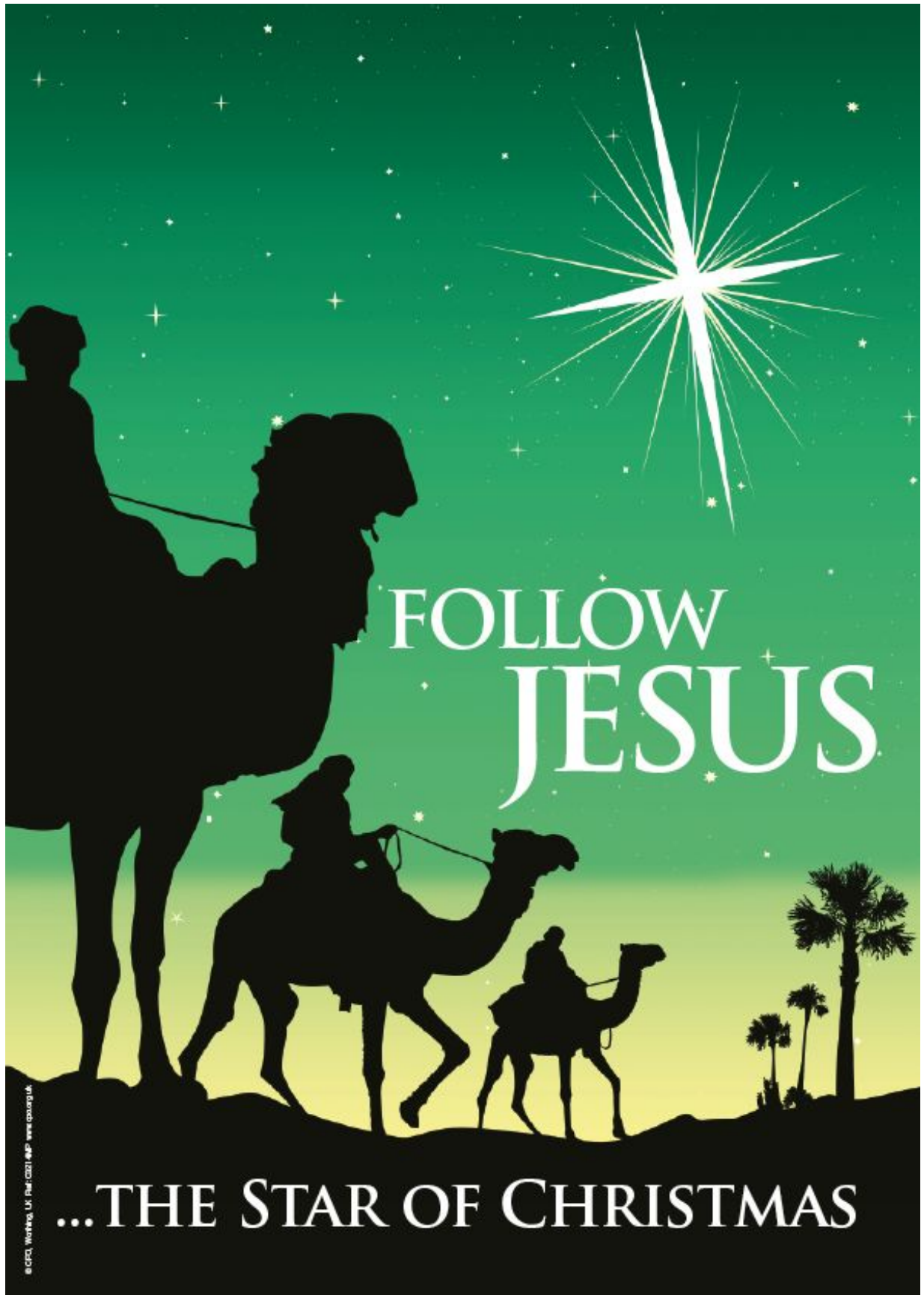
Thank you to Stuart for the pictures of John's birthday celebrations and thank you to Maureen for the lovely cake we all enjoyed. In the photograph of the cake you can see a picture of John taken at the launch of his latest book earlier in the year – thank you to Tom for that photo!



This is the picture I foolishly missed from the last issue of *GS News*. It shows Maanya being blessed by the Bishop during the celebrations at Orchard Park. Maanya's father, Amit Gupta, took the photograph and it is reproduced with his permission.



As if you didn't know – during Advent the knitted Nativity will be travelling around from home to home. Don't miss out – we had great fun last year.



This is the picture used on all our Christmas publicity this year. The image is reproduced under licence from CPO but it's the message which is really important.