



New Year, New You? In terms of the church calendar, New Year was at the beginning of advent – the Christian calendar begins with waiting each year. As Christians, we are always waiting, waiting expectantly and with hope, for God’s promised new heaven and new earth; a state of creation where there will be justice and peace and joy.

Sometimes, in the darkness of winter, it can be difficult to believe and hope and wait for spring to come. In the same way, as Christians, we can struggle some times in dark days, with the news sounding awful and making us feel scared. We can struggle to believe and hope and wait for God’s promises to be fulfilled. Yet, this new year, as we pack up after Christmas, it’s worth remembering that in the church calendar,

Christmas continues long after the world has stopped remembering it – the end of Christmas is not until the beginning of February – we still celebrate the potential of all that Christmas promises – and then we only have a few days to take stock and we then begin the walk through Lent to the cross – another period of waiting, as we remember God’s amazing plan of

salvation, revealed in the cross – and which will be brought to completion in the new heaven and new earth. In the midst of our call to wait, we are also called to be working towards the new kingdom.

How could your new year help bring in the kingdom? Small things add up – if you are someone who makes New year’s resolutions, how about us choosing those that will serve God, not just ourselves - Every time we treat someone kindly, every time we let someone in front of us in traffic or at the supermarket, every time we count to 10 rather than shouting when we are cross, every time we buy something which has seen its producers paid a fair price, we are working towards that which we are waiting for. For me, I am going to resolve to try to be more open to seeing signs of God’s kingdom breaking through, and seeing how I can help, in and through the people I talk to each day – how about you

Judith



PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Assistant Curate	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	750013
Assistant Curate	Rev. Rachel Blanchflower	523066
Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Assistant Curate	Rev. Harry Rose	01954 211553
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	328658
Licensed Lay Minister	Terry Barringer	424584
Authorised Lay Minister (Admin & Music)	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care)	Lilas Davison	354300
Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness)	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Churchwarden	Philip Morris	352698
Churchwarden		
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Philip Morris	352698
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
PCC Treasurer	Jinty Keir	572303
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	354300
Administrator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Convenor PCC Buildings and Grounds Team	David Wilson	720097
Convenor PCC Children and Families Team	Hazel Maher	351844
Convenor PCC Discipleship and Teaching Team	David Maher	351844
Convenor PCC Pastoral Team	Linda Dean	328658
Convenor PCC Social Awareness Team	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Convenor PCC Worship and Music Team	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Altar Linen	Margaret Handley	357970
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Coffee Makers	Guido Barzini	300497
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Evelyn Walker	364067
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Paula Carter	07952919701
Food Bank	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Lesson Readers	Rhodri James	357607
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Guido Barzini	300497
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Council of Churches	David Maher	351844
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Lilas Davison	354300
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	359396
Sacristan	Stuart Keir	572303
Safeguarding Officer	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Servers	Bill Elsey	357622
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Fiona Blows	329822
Sound System	David Wilson	07899 917831
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir	572303

READINGS FOR JANUARY

Sundays and holy days

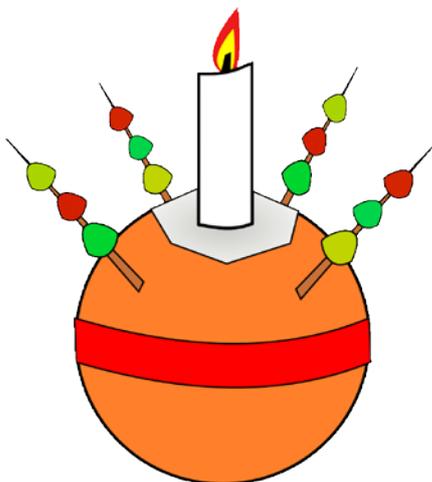
- 7 EPIPHANY
Genesis 1: 1-5
Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11
- 14 SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
1 Samuel 3: 1-10
Revelation 5: 1-10
John 1: 43 - end
- 21 THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
Genesis 14: 17-20
Revelation 19: 6-10
John 2: 1-11
- 28 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
Deuteronomy 18: 15-20
Revelation 12: 1-5
Mark 1: 21-28

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 10 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20
Mark 1: 29-39
- 17 1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51
Mark 3: 1-6
- 24 2 Samuel 7: 4-17
Mark 4: 1-20
- 31 2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17
Mark 6: 1-6

FIRST CALL

- 7 7-8pm in the Chapel



REGULAR SERVICES IN JANUARY

- Sundays 8.30am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
- Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
Morning Prayer, when said in church, will be at 9.15.
Second Monday of each month will be set aside for Staff Prayer.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Church will close after the 10am service on Christmas Day and re-open on Sunday January 7 at 8.30am. During this period there will be no midweek services and only a 10am service on Sunday December 31.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN JANUARY

Sunday January 28 All Age Service for Christingle

EVENTS IN JANUARY

Sunday January 28 Bring and Share Lunch in aid of the Children's Society



If the birth of Jesus was covered by today's tabloids:

ILLEGAL ALIEN HAS ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH - BABY EXPECTED TO BE CHARGED WITH TREASON

BETHLEHEM -- It was rumored today that an unmarried couple from Nazareth stopped for the use of a manger owned by Alfredo Pinchi, a notorious local slumlord, and a baby was born.

"There was no running water, and the place was filled with straw," commented local public health authorities. "We even found a donkey inside."

"The mother gave birth under extremely questionable circumstances," offered Pontius Pilate, Judean candidate for District Attorney. "She claims to have been a virgin."

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Roman authorities are investigating the baby on charges of sedition and treason. "There are a bunch of people running around alleging that the baby is the son of God," explained Pilate, "and that he will have some radical ideas about religion in the future."

Three Kings from the Orient were caught on the outskirts of Bethlehem by the Roman Border Patrol carrying illegal contraband. "We caught them red-handed with frankincense and myrrh," explained an official with the Border Patrol. "And they didn't have any papers." The Kings were promptly arrested and deported.

At virtually the same time as the baby was born, a bright star was sighted over Bethlehem. "This is an omen that things are about to radically change in the Empire due to global warming," the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency commented.

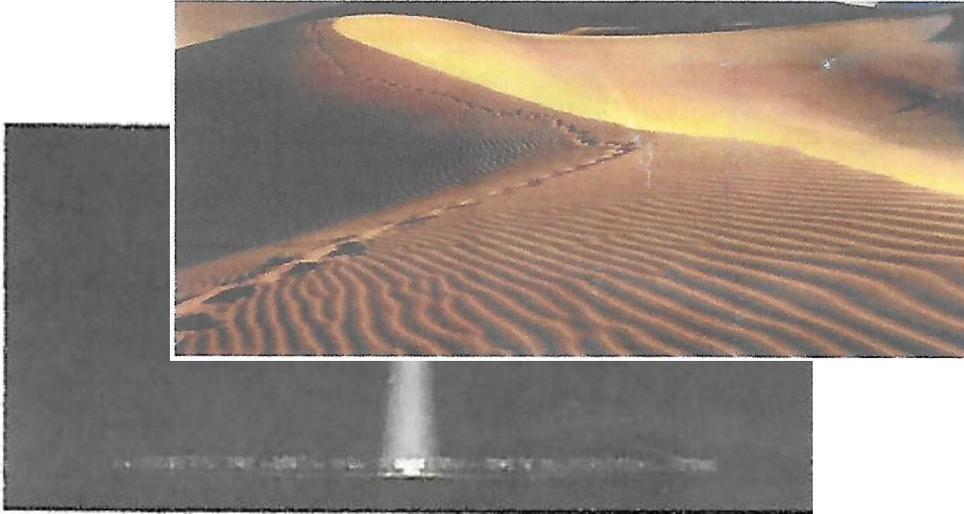


The story on the next pages was written by Gwen Green's grandson when he was only 10

Three Wise Men

Light heat ongoing; desert sands scorching the travellers, slowly
tasting the barren landscape,

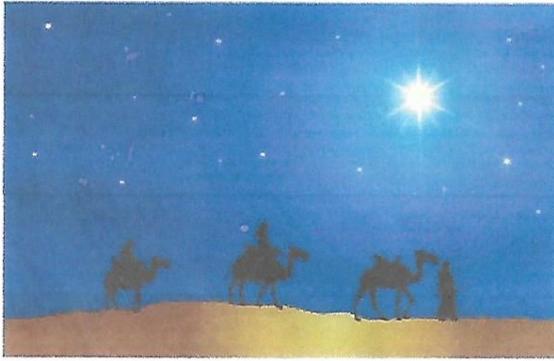
Water thinning out between the three; the camels also getting thirsty.
Trading with villages; able to afford most things,



Telescopes being used here and there; bright stars beaming down on thee.

A droning sound; Herod is a chatterbox, talking and demanding, "Set out
on a hunt for all the new-born!"

Wise men obeyed and set off to Bethlehem.



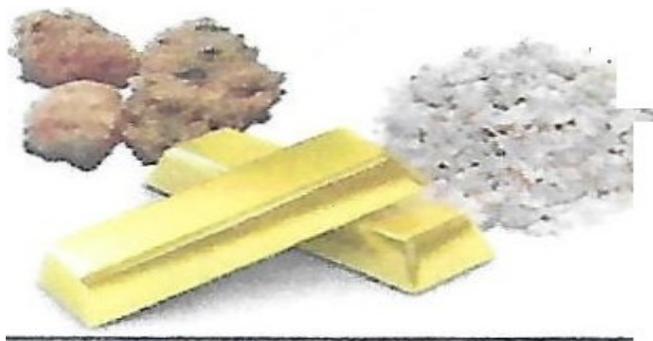
Wooden manger full of hay, like a diamond in the sky; pollen exhaustingly high,
the walls are dry upon feeling,

A magical feeling in the air, something like a fairy tale; enveloping and
finding the good in people who enter its possessive powers.



Gifts the wise men had; Frankincense, Myrrh and gold,

Baby Jesus, given these gifts of symbol; sweet smelling, medicinal, and
valuable, entering Lord *in* all its glory, or do they?



Pray for Lord is word the wise men did; others joining in.

A smell of beer and rum entered the air, Drinking

goblets outside the stable, empty, still!

A small, glinting white light, a starlight, like pure heaven; radiant
light coming from an angel, guiding the way,

People brushing past the stable; looking for a place to stay, laughter in the inn
can be heard, shepherds seeing a light and fleeing with fear.



Christ is in a Manger full of hay; a stable bustling with
livestock,

Mother watching over baby; protective and wary *in* case some
evil should take him away.



Cattle are lowing; goats are groaning,

Everybody had animals, most people were animals, every-



one sold with ease, or are



they?

Dreaming the meeting again with Herod; after dark, Not
to reveal the location of the beacon, Christ,
After he'd gone, Herod melted down in his castle when he'd realized.

The dark hours were everlasting and endless; most souls slept, slowly
breathing, heavily breathing, as wise men swayed out to the east,
Each owning riches such as Gold, Myrrh, Frankincense, Rubies, White
horses and lots of money; going back to their kingdoms with more wisdom
than before...

By Reuben G

AN AFTER-HOLIDAY POEM

'Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house
nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, 'No thank you, please.'

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt -
I said to myself, as I only can
'You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!'

So - away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
'Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie - not even a lick.
I'll only chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore.
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!



A SERIES OF IMPOSSIBLE EVENTS

“Of all the impossible things you can ask me to conceive,
which one,” you wonder, do you find most difficult to believe?”

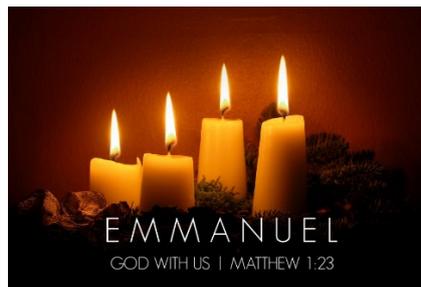
That a child might be born without paternal seed?
That God would be in a trough where animals feed?
That a billion year old star should time its flight
To point so small a band to the royal light?
That winged angels sing impossible news for all the earth
To nobody – nightworkers on nowhere turf?

Or this:

That God, creator of time and space,
Mediterranean azure and gazelle grace,
That God, immortal, should come down in mortal flesh,
God with us in our human mess?
God with us? In bomb blast? And first breath?
And some slow dimming towards a memoryless death?
God with us? In the crushed commute, and the lonely bed?
In the sleep, work, eat, work of our daily bread?
In our petty snipes and blocked ambitions?
In all the twists of our confused decisions?

God with us in all of that? God with me in all of me?
No, that I could not believe, if, with outstretched heart, he
Had not given free his blood and life on that barren tree,
And with love and mercy, tender, wiped my eyes so I do see

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LOVE, PRAYERS AND A SHAWL

Thank you all for the prayers over the last 3 months, for cards and phone calls, it has meant so much. Love from family, love from friends, neighbours, for care from District Nurses. I am so lucky, it could have been a lot worse. Rehab was very hard and I got so tired but I managed to go on. Now I have a beautiful blue prayer shawl much admired by everyone. Yes, it feels a long time since I came to church. I feel I have missed the spring but hope it won't be too bad a winter. I must look forward and be positive about things, come summer I hope to be back to something like my old self!

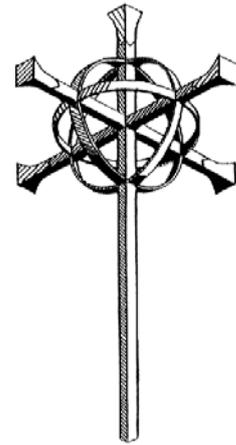
GS should be proud of what has been achieved through love and prayer. I know it works. Thank you again and God bless,

Ruth Reid

IN THE CHURCH HALL (to book call 352151 (evenings))

THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 1 st Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	Jinty Keir	572303
RED HEN Monday 8.15 – 11am	Christine O'Reilly	0781 6444439
SANG Monday 10– 11.30 (meets in Haven and in Church)	Rachel Blanchflower	523066
THE MONDAY CLUB Monday 2.00 – 3.30pm	Ruby Leyshon	352151
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
LINE DANCING Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Deborah Walker	01954 231382
KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Margaret Briggs	01954 250870
THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
THE 18th & 25th GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm January to November	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
PILATES Thursday 1.10-2.10pm	Lexi	367639
THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Chris White	0700 891511
CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
TAI CHI Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Friday 3.15-4.15pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for
February Newsletter:
January 14
(Publication date January 28)**



Vicarage 01223 351844

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

