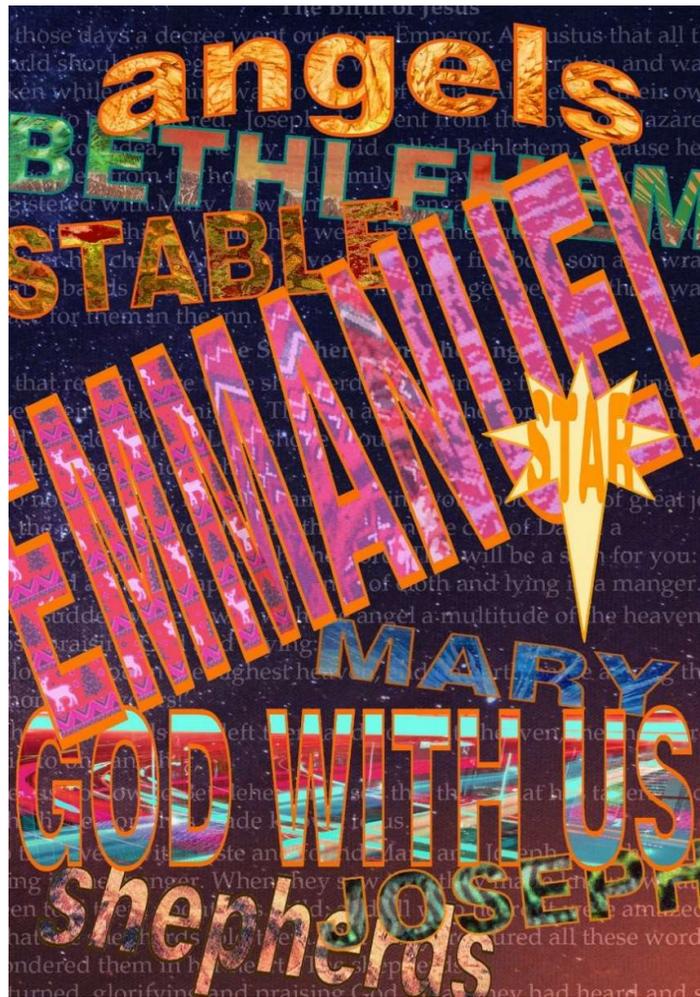




*'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'*

# Connections

*The church magazine for Baginton Road URC*



**December 2023 – January 2024**

*Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC*

**83 Baginton Road  
Coventry  
CV3 6FP**

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Dear Friends

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." [John 8:12 NIV]*

*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. [Matthew 5:13-15 NIV]*

This time of year, we start to look forward to Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is recorded as referring to himself as "the Light of the World." I wonder if I might refer to Jesus as our spiritual light, lifting our spirits during the short days and long dark nights of winter.

Jesus also calls us all to be the light of the world. He calls us to share with him in the ministry of bringing light into the darkest places of the earth.

As I write this, the situation in Palestine seems only to be getting worse, with much anguish on both side of the conflict. In Ukraine, the fighting has not stopped just because it's not headline news any more.

And so I find myself reflecting on how can we be the light of the world here in our corner of Coventry. Jesus does not call us all to be great statesmen or women, he calls us to be who we are and where we are. But Jesus encourages us to focus on our own lives, our own world – a world in which we can make a difference no matter how small. Every act of kindness equals a small glow of light. Every kind word equals a small glow of light. Every act of generosity equals a small glow of light. Every time we go out of our way to help someone in need. equals a small glow of light.

Jesus is and will always be the Light of the World, able to bring light, hope and peace this Christmas and every Christmas. I pray that we here at Baginton Road Church may also be lights in the darkness too.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,

*Revd Peter*



## Christmas Post 2023

Once again, we will be giving you the opportunity to post your Christmas cards using the Baginton Road Postal Service.

Cards can be posted on Sunday mornings, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December and can be collected after these services. There will also be the opportunity to post cards at the Call in for Coffee sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December. When addressing the envelopes, please include surnames of the recipients and only post to people who attend Baginton Road Church regularly.

There is no suggested donation for using the service, but when considering how much to give, please consider the cost of a second-class stamp, which is now 75p. The chosen charity to receive our donations for 2023 is Pancreatic Cancer UK.

My two little elves, Freddie and Alfie, and I are looking forward to dealing with your Christmas cards again this year!

*Lesley Rice*



I would like to say a very sincere thank you to everyone for all the lovely cards, gifts and flowers I received for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. At the Christian Aid soup lunch - on the day! - I was provided with a special birthday cake complete with candle to share with everyone, including members of the Belonging Church. So thank you all for your care and friendship. God bless.

*Janice Drake*

## Notes from Elders' Meetings - November 2023

- Arrangements are underway for the Family Christmas Activity Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
- Appointment of a Pastor: this is still work in progress.
- The Mission & Outreach Worker job description has been reviewed and updated.
- The Apse Redevelopment will go ahead in March 2024 as the deposit has been paid courtesy of a legacy to BRURC.
- Christmas arrangements include: gifts for the housebound, decorations, card distribution and charitable organisations for Christmas offertories, all confirmed.
- Updates regarding recent group and committee work were shared.
- Events for 2024 are being planned.
- Grange Farm School is to visit BR for a Christmas Activity Day on 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- Church Away Day and Morning of Mission under consideration for 2024.
- Preliminary thought is being given to the location and timing for World Day of Prayer, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.



*Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary*

## Social Committee News

The musical afternoon originally fixed for Sunday 3rd December has been re-scheduled and will now take place on 14<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm. Our organist Tim will once again be giving a recital of a wide variety of music. This will be an entertaining afternoon with light refreshments served. Everybody is welcome, just come along for a fun afternoon. Donations will be gratefully received to go to charity (TBA). Please see the poster on p.8 of this magazine for full details.

We look forward to seeing you at the concert in the new year.

*Social Committee*



## Commitment for Life

Commitment is an act, not a word. Therefore, I wish I could contact Blessings Muzori to tell her about your continuing commitment to the appeal in *Connections*, with your generous donations. She would be so happy, I guess: family reunited and our ongoing support.

Filling your envelope demonstrated your faith in action by generating practical projects at village level. Your gifts helped support the most vulnerable people build a more secure life in their community.

So...how did we do? In today's parlance, "we smashed it!". We have sent, for our area Zimbabwe, £1,300 (including Gift Aid, of course) - what a Baginton Road Church community effort!

If I can presume that Blessings Muzori is Shona (Zimbabwe's largest ethnic group). I think she would like to say to us "basa rakanaka" ("good job"). Thank you everyone.

*Mary Goodwin*

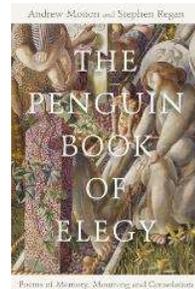
## NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

Hearsall Baptist Church has announced that it is to merge with Holyhead Road URC next year to form a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP). The original 1928 church was first established in Lord Street as a chapel and Sunday School; in 1961, it moved to its current location on the corner of Fife Road and Queensland Avenue. The move coincides with the retirement of their Minister, Revd David Sutcliffe.

The Right Reverend Karwei Dorgu, who became one of the first black bishops in the Church of England, has died. The eleventh of 12 children, he first became a doctor then a priest in Nigeria, before moving to the UK and working in London. Wherever he worked from, he displayed a plaque that read “If at first you do not succeed, try doing it the way your wife told you”.

Concern is expressed in Old Road, Tiverton, Devon, about the Roman Catholic St James’s Church. Built in 1967 as a church with social centre, it has now put in a planning application for enlargement, including a belfry and spire! Neighbours have expressed concern about the noise impact but the planning officers state the bells will be the equivalent to “light traffic noise”.

Andrew Motion, the former Poet Laureate, and Professor Stephen Regan have compiled a book about grief, *The Penguin Book of Elegy*, with 600 pages of poems on death, loss, and consolation. This book is collated alphabetically to introduce “an element of happy accident”.



Birmingham Cathedral is home to four exquisite stained glass windows, designed by Pre-Raphaelite artist Edwards Burne-Jones, that are considered by many to be some of the most precious stained glass windows in the world. These have now been cleaned, which took 500 days. The colour and manufacture of the windows was undertaken in the workshop of William Morris, who was a close friend of Burne-Jones for many years. Burne-Jones had a deep connection with St Philip’s, being baptised there and spending his childhood nearby on Bennetts Hill. The four windows were installed over a 12-year period between 1885 and 1897, before St Philip’s was given cathedral status. They depict four key scenes from the life of Christ, reflecting the religious beliefs of their designer. The first window to be installed was the Ascension; either side in the chancel are windows depicting the Nativity and the Crucifixion. The west end of the cathedral has the Last Judgement.

The rebuild of Barcelona’s Nou Camp Football Stadium has included a “forever” room where ashes of up to 26,000 supporters can be stored close to the pitch. The urns will be stored behind large murals. This is the fifth European stadium to offer such a facility.

More than 200 years ago Christianity was taken to Hong Kong and now the reverse is taking place. Research has shown how Chinese Christian church services are

impacting on the UK Christian family. In Manchester a congregation that was 200 pre-Covid, now is 2,000 spread over four sites. Of these, 80% are Cantonese speakers from Hong Kong.

In the heart of Istanbul stands Christ Church, built in 1868 on land given to Queen Victoria by Sultan Abdulmecid I and opened as a memorial to the Crimean War. It is one of three Anglican churches but has fallen into disrepair. In 1989 Canon Ian Sherwood arrived and started repairing the Church and its grounds. Once restoration had been completed the church was opened for refugees as a hostel. The 1911 organ, built by William Hill & Son, was in bits until a refugee Nigerian who had worked in Lagos Cathedral arrived. He repaired the bellows and fitted the pipes but did not know about tuning. Later, a visiting clockmaker from the Netherlands was able to do that. Now, the organ is played accompanying the liturgy and also performing recitals every weekend by a Russian refugee from Crimea who trained at the Moscow Conservatory. He is part of the growing community of thousands of Russian émigrés in Istanbul.

A recent report states it is impossible to quantify how Covid disrupted attendance at Church of England services. Regular worshippers in 2019 numbered 1.1m, but this had dropped to 984,000 in 2022, whereas 2021 was 966,000. "Church at Home" continues for those unable to attend in person by online, telephone, post or e-mail but thankfully the use of these methods has decreased.

*Barry Stelfox*

## Poetry Café

Poetry Café meets each month in the Open Doors Café at 2.30pm. Meetings are normally on the first Thursday of each month but this is sometimes changed so please check beforehand with Warwick Road Centre Office: 024 7622 0299.

We each share two or three poems – these are usually on a set theme but don't have to be! All are welcome.



The next meetings are:

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, Theme: 'Music'**  
**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January, Theme: 'Mystery & Fantasy'**  
**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, Theme: 'Sport'**



For more information, please contact David Lathbury: [david@dlathbury.co.uk](mailto:david@dlathbury.co.uk).

*Baginton Road United Reformed Church  
The Chesils, Coventry*

*Invites you to an Afternoon Concert*

*Featuring Pianist*



*On Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024*

*At 2.30pm*

*Light refreshments will be served.*

*There is no charge but donations to a charity (to be notified at the event) would be most welcome.*

## Letter from Tearfund Action

*Rita Dalton has received an update from Tearfund Action, a charity which works with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty. Below is an edited version of this email:*



A waste picker working along the riverbank in Tanzania. Image: Daniel Msirikale/Tearfund

Thank you for praying with us through the Rubbish Campaign Week of Prayer and Action! Many people got in touch to tell us they were joining Christians across the world to pray for the outcome of the third round of UN global plastics treaty talks (INC-3). In Brazil, campaigners organised 24 hours of prayer throughout Sunday, before the negotiations kicked off on Monday in Nairobi.

We're already seeing signs of God answering prayer. Here are a few highlights so far:

- Rev Dennis Nthenge, a Tearfund campaigner and coordinator of Green Anglicans in Kenya, has handed an open letter signed by more than 80 African faith leaders to delegates at the talks, including the chair of the African Group. This has had huge levels of global media coverage, amplifying the voice of African communities most impacted by plastic pollution.
- We were able to support waste pickers to set up a photo exhibition inside the UN building where the talks are taking place, to raise awareness of the key role they're playing in the negotiations.
- Dr Tiwonge Mzumara-Gawa, an ecologist and Tearfund campaigner, has been able to encourage those delegates who are less ambitious to go further, and has supported the delegation from her native Malawi.
- The US Government said their position has shifted to being more ambitious. As they are powerful players in the room, this will really help progress.
- In Bolivia, young people who are part of the Rubbish Campaign met with government officials and UN representatives to influence their response. They also brought together church leaders who, after the meeting, said they had been 'woken up on how to take care of the environment'.

All of these are testament to the power of praying for the treaty and all those involved in the negotiations.

But despite these encouraging signs, there are also concerns. Countries, including Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, Bahrain and Cuba, have formed a new coalition, the Global Coalition for Plastic Sustainability. Their aim is to delay the process and prevent the first draft of the treaty – which contained lots of ambitious and justice-focused elements – from being accepted. Statements from group members suggest

they're trying to shift the focus away from 'turning off the tap' of plastic production to just clearing up the rapidly growing mess.

We need to see an agreement on an ambitious target for reducing plastic production – a target that sets a common goal and timeframe, which requires every country to take action.

Plastic pollution is impacting people living in poverty the most. Billions of people don't have a safe way to dispose of it, meaning they are forced to dump and burn it, making people sick and increasing the risk of flooding. And the rapid growth of single-use plastic is making the problem worse.

Please pray that, despite the attempts of certain countries and vested interests, governments at INC-3 will continue to make progress. Pray that they agree on next steps, working towards an ambitious treaty that delivers real change for people living in poverty who are impacted by plastic waste the most.

Every blessing,

*Naomi Witherick, Tearfund Action*



**Three-week Advent Study**

The 1<sup>st</sup> session on **Stars** is at Holyhead Road URC on 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm. The session will be repeated on 7<sup>th</sup> December via Zoom also at 7.15pm

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session on **Light** is at Ansty Road URC on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm. The session will be repeated on 14<sup>th</sup> December via Zoom also at 7.15pm

The 3<sup>rd</sup> session on **Emmanuel** is at Baginton Road URC on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm. The session will be repeated on 21<sup>st</sup> December via Zoom also at 7.15pm

Zoom details for all sessions  
ID 886 5612 6155 Passcode: 103563



## Warwick Road Centre and Café - December & January Update



- Film Club is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. Please call the Office for details of the film. We are always looking for film titles so if you have a suggestion then please let George in the Office know.
- Christmas Lunch in Open Doors Café this year will be on 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December with a **prompt** 12noon start. Meals must be pre-ordered and pre-paid (see the poster below). Please call the office to book (024 7622 0299).
- The Church Centre will close from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-open on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.
- Festive Greetings from all at Warwick Road Centre. We pray that you will all have a peaceful break.

*Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager*

**Warwick Road Centre Christmas Lunch**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**



at 12.00 noon prompt  
£12.50 per person



Payment to be made with order



Roast Turkey, Chipolata Sausage,  
Sage & Onion Stuffing,  
Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy

or

Vegetable Parcel



Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce



or

Biscoff & Ginger Cheesecake



Tea or Coffee & Mints



## Open Doors Café menu – December & January 2023

Opening times: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Snacks and drinks: 10am – 11:30am; Hot meal: 12noon – 1:30pm  
(last orders 1pm).



Prices to 31/12/23: Main course - £4.50, Pudding - £2.50; Meal Deal  
(Main and Pudding, served with tea or coffee) - £7.

Regretfully, there will be a small increase in all cafe prices from January onwards;  
from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, prices are: Main course - £5, Pudding - £2.50; Meal Deal -  
£7.50.

Telephone orders: 024 7622 0299

### December 2023 & January 2024 Menus

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Chicken chasseur, potatoes and vegetables Dutch apple pie and custard
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Beef lasagne, garlic bread and salad Lemon meringue pie
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Steak & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Raspberry & white chocolate sponge with cream
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sausage & tomato hotpot Creamy rice pudding
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b> No other main meals served today
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cheese & bacon filled potato skins with cauliflower cheese Jam roly-poly and custard
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b> No other main meals served today
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ham & leek pie, potatoes and vegetables Mixed berry crumble and custard
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pork & vegetable casserole Bread and butter pudding and ice cream
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cottage pie and vegetables Treacle sponge and custard
The Centre will be closed from Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December We will re-open on Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Faggots, mashed potatoes and mushy peas Peach cobbler and cream
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cumberland sausages, bubble & squeak and onion gravy Treacle tart and custard
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Beef stew and dumplings Coffee, date & walnut sponge and custard

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Chicken & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Lemon sponge and custard
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pork in a leek & stilton sauce, potatoes and vegetables Eve's pudding and custard
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Shepherd's pie and vegetables Fruit trifle
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Savoury sausage meat lattice, potatoes and vegetables Warm chocolate brownie and ice cream
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gammon, grilled tomatoes, potatoes, peas and parsley sauce Ginger sponge and custard
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Salmon with a lemon & dill sauce, potatoes and peas Orange & mango cheesecake
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Corned beef hash and cauliflower cheese Pineapple upside down cake and cream
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Hunter's chicken, potatoes and green beans Sticky toffee sponge and custard
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Steak in ale pie, potatoes and vegetables Apple crumble and custard
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Mince beef & onion pie, potatoes and vegetables Creamy rice pudding
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Chicken & vegetable cobbler and potatoes Mincemeat & apple tart and custard



## Burns Supper

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

Menu:

Cock-a-Leekie Soup  
Haggis, Bashed Neeps and Mashed Tatties  
Steak Pie and Vegetables

Dessert

Cheese & Biscuits, Tea, Coffee



The meal will be followed by a few short speeches after which you will be able to participate in some Scottish Country Dancing led by Keith Stevens, or just sit and watch if you prefer. The evening will conclude with the singing of Auld Lang Syne at 11.30pm. There will be a licensed bar throughout the evening.

Offers of help to prepare for the event either in advance or on the day would be welcome.

Tickets are £25 – please contact Pauline Lockett.

## Christian Aid Soup Lunch



On a rainy Saturday at the end of the half-term holiday, our Soup Lunch survived valiantly.

By 10am, Pam and her faithful band of volunteers were already in the kitchen with John setting up the heavy tables in the Small Hall. Meanwhile Jenny had secured a much-appreciated selection of fresh bread and rolls to accompany the soup. Pauline had prepared a large-print menu for each table and Ruth had set up the coffee 'n cake station for after the soup.

The aroma of the homemade soups was soon permeating the corridor and our faithful public began to arrive, joined by a group from the Belonging Church. The Grace was led by Pastor Sammy in both Cantonese and English.

George D. then thanked us in advance for the efforts of everyone involved, just as a 'surprise' birthday cake was presented to his wife, Janice, to mark her 90 years. A rousing Happy Birthday was sung.

Ladles at the ready, the soup service began. This year the servers were joined by a gentleman in a very fetching apron who did a grand job! Amid all the chat and laughter, the nine different soups were much appreciated, with gluten free and vegetarian options.

A huge thank you to soup makers, volunteers, washer-uppers and all who contributed to another successful Baginton Road Community Soup Lunch. We know it was a success, not only because we raised over £200 but also because *third* helpings were requested!

*Mary G.*

## Soup Recipes

Following the success of the Christian Aid Soup Lunch that we held in November, it has been suggested that we include at least one soup recipe a month so we can all try them at home. The first two are from Pauline L and Lesley R.



### Broccoli & Stilton Soup

This is a simple recipe to follow and takes no longer than 45 minutes to prepare, cook and blitz. Great starter for a Christmas Meal over the festive period too. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped

- 1 stick celery, sliced
- 1 leek, sliced
- 1 medium potato, diced
- 1 knob butter
- 1 litre chicken or vegetable stock (I use the Knorr stock pots – 2 pots in 1L of boiling water)
- 1 head broccoli, roughly chopped
- 140g stilton, crumbled

#### Method

1. Heat 2 tbsp rapeseed oil in a large saucepan and then add 1 finely chopped onion. Cook on a medium heat until soft.
2. Add 1 sliced celery stick, 1 sliced leek, 1 diced medium potato and a knob of butter. Stir until melted, then cover with a lid. Allow to sweat for 5 minutes then remove the lid.
3. Pour in 1 litre of chicken or vegetable stock and add any chunky bits of stalk from 1 head of broccoli. Cook for 10-15 minutes until all the vegetables are soft.
4. Add the rest of the roughly chopped broccoli and cook for a further 5 minutes.
5. Carefully transfer to a blender and blitz until smooth.
6. Stir in 140g crumbled stilton and stir until smooth.
7. Season with black pepper and serve.

*Lesley Rice*

#### Leek & Potato using a soup maker

##### Ingredients

- 280g potatoes, peeled and cut into small, bite sized chunks.
- 3 leeks.
- 1 onion, chopped.
- 55g butter.
- 850ml cold vegetable stock.
- Salt & pepper, season to taste.
- Single cream, to serve (optional).



##### Method

1. Add all of the ingredients to the Soup Maker, give it a quick stir and select the Purée function.
2. Season with salt & pepper to taste, serve in warm bowls swirled with cream if desired.

*Pauline L*



Alongside Jesus, a series of 'enlightened' human beings, have also been recognised as divine Messengers, anointed ones, (Christs) or Wisdom Teachers. Each prophet's teaching became the cornerstone of a major world religion. The messengers have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, The Buddha, Muhammad, Guru Nanak and Baha'u'llah.

Until recent centuries, each faith developed within a distinct human culture, and interaction was limited. The development of humanity was not ready for a single faith and common understanding. However, we can hope that the time is near when this can develop, as globalisation enables increasing numbers to be aware of what is unfolding across the world.

Knowing more of other faith traditions is of great relevance to Christians, and those exploring other spiritual paths. Two spiritual paths that both post-date Christianity are Islam (in its more mystical Sufi form) and secondly, the Baha'i Faith, given its claim to offer a specific revelation for the new global age. Let us also bear in mind the words of the Dalai Lama who has said that, even as we come to understand other faiths, our primary task is to move deeper into the ocean of wisdom already within our own faith.

As Christians we are called by Jesus to begin a journey of discovery in this life. We are called to waken to the truth that our being, our life, is but an expression of the of the great 'I am' that shouts from every atom, star, galaxy and life form in the Universe. There are numerous passages in the writings of every faith that seek to say the same thing.

To build God's future, the core message of all religions and all spiritual searching is that we need to discover 'ourselves', exploring fresh ways of living in the now of God's reality. We can do this within our own faith background, without converting to another faith or insight. Nevertheless, from this time on, we must be open to all that God has made plain through the insights of all the faith founders, and countless other deeply spiritual human beings.

The time is now very short to learn to live sustainably and in harmony with one another on this planet, yet together we can change the world.

A final thought – in the November 2023 issue of *Connections*, Sue Davis asks, 'What is your special place?'. To me anywhere that is very quiet, where I can meditate is a special place - God has a very quiet voice.

*Shalom, George Drake*





**Saturday, 9 December 2023, 3pm**

**Baginton Road United Reform Church**

**83 Baginton Road Coventry CV3 6FP**

Adults: £10.00    Concessions £7.50    Children under 16 £1

Admission available on the afternoon subject to availability.

More information can be obtained from our website below:

 [www.CoventryCoopOrchestra.org.uk](http://www.CoventryCoopOrchestra.org.uk)

 [www.facebook.com/CoventryCoopOrchestra](http://www.facebook.com/CoventryCoopOrchestra)



Tickets here

**Proceeds to UNICEF**





## FESTIVE FAMILY FUN



There are some amazing events coming up in December, here are some of our favourites!

### **Coventry Big Wheel & Christmas Market** 18th November 2023 - 7th January 2024 | Broadgate

Broadgate is set to be home to a glistening big wheel this winter! Open to both adults and children, the wheel is over 100ft and offers breath-taking views over the city. During your visit don't miss the Coventry Christmas Market - stalls will include mulled wine, toasted marshmallows, Yorkshire pudding wraps, crepes, and more!

### **Oliver Twist** 9th - 31st December 2023 | The Albany Theatre

From the team that created The Albany's stunning A Christmas Carol comes a new version of the story of Dickens' most famous creation - Oliver Twist. Perfect for ages 8+ and their grown ups.

### **Christmas Markets & Fayres** Throughout November & December | Coventry

At Coventry Rocks we love a Christmas market! Whether you're there for the food, mulled wine, or to start your Christmas shopping, they are a brilliant way to get into the festive spirit. Find Christmas Markets and festive fayres on Coventry Rocks.

### **Big Fish Little Fish NYE (Eve) Family Rave** Saturday 30th December | Coventry Cathedral

For the 4th year running, Big Fish Little Fish returns to rave... In the nave! This year's theme is 'animal fantastical' so expect to swing, slither, and sashay your way into 2024 under the magnificent stained-glass windows of Coventry Cathedral. Designed for families with younger children (8 and under) but all ages welcome.

### **Luminate Coombe** Friday 24th Nov - Friday 2nd Jan 2024 | Coombe Abbey

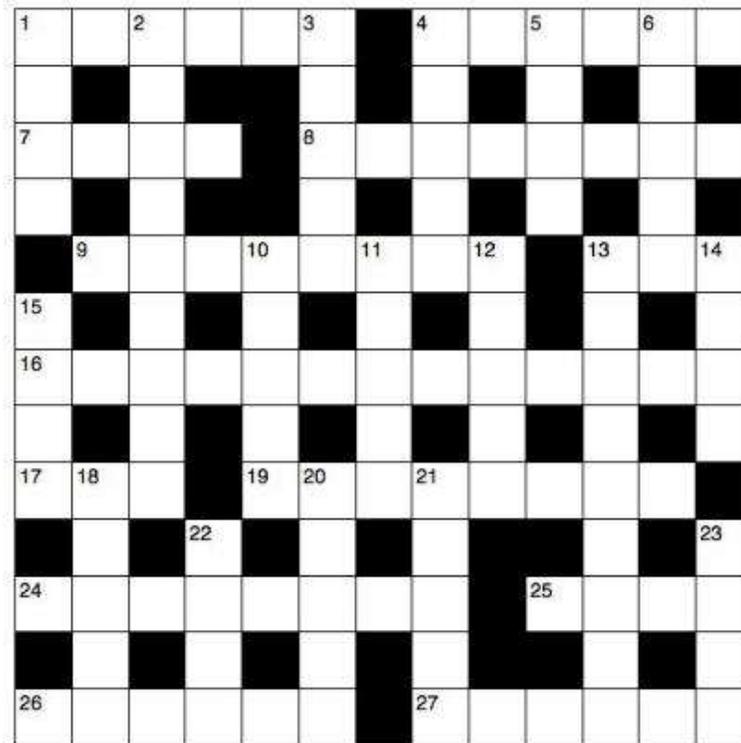
The spectacular, illuminated trail returns to Coombe Abbey Park in 2023! Immerse yourself in the mesmerising mile long trail, with stunning lighting elements and fabulous light play, all set to ambient music. Pre-booking is essential!

**And there's more!**  
Head to [www.coventryrocks.co.uk](http://www.coventryrocks.co.uk) to find your fun.

[www.coventryrocks.co.uk](http://www.coventryrocks.co.uk)



## Puzzle Pages



### Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

### Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

### SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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### SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

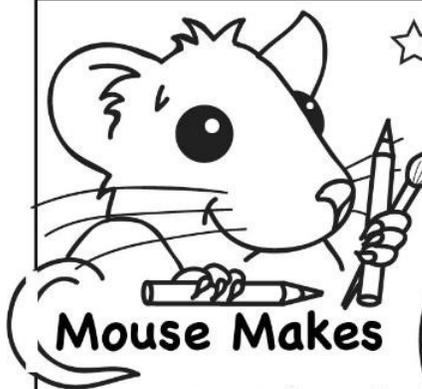
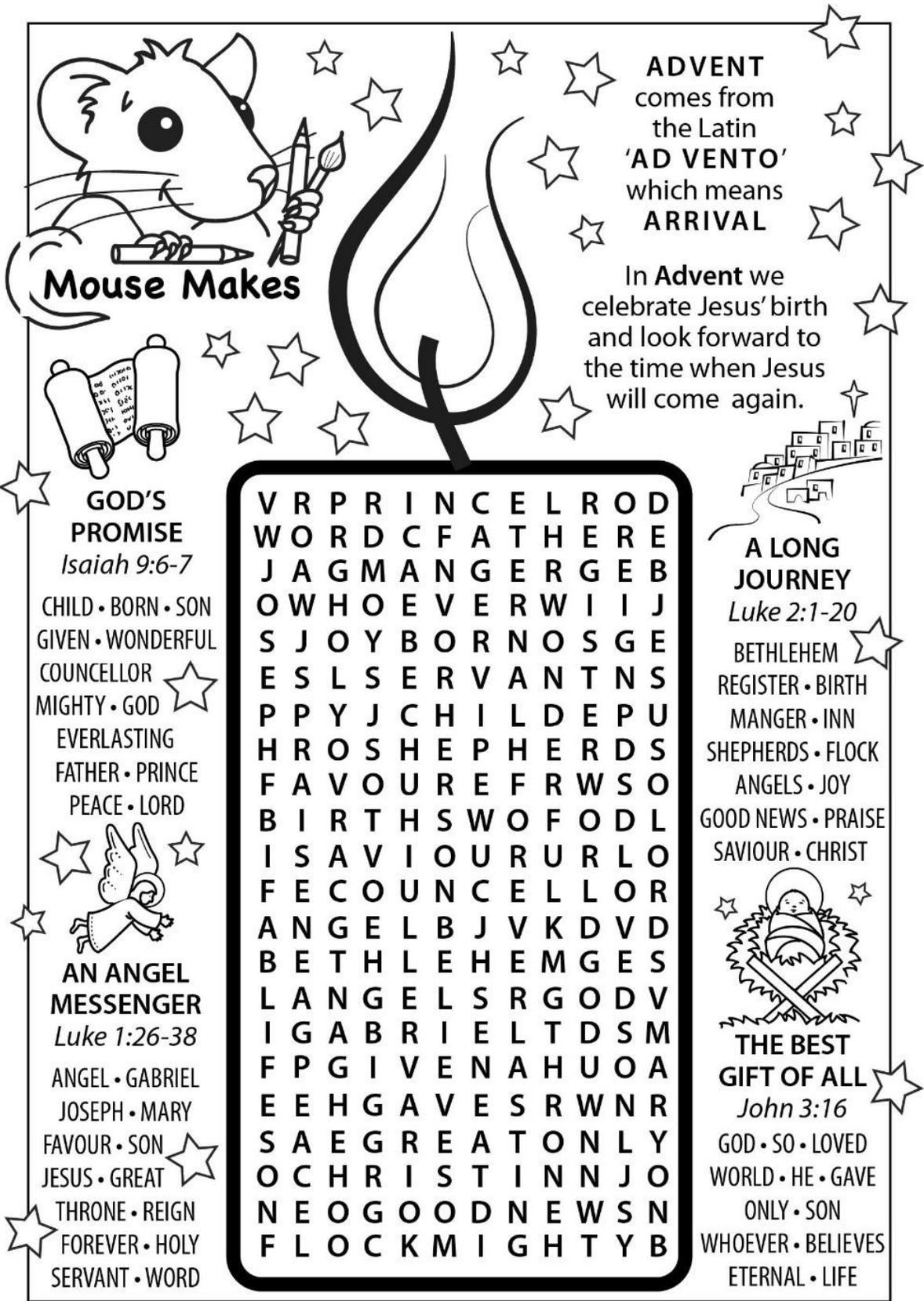
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Solutions on p.23

## WORDSEARCH

The much-loved carol *Silent Night* comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved worldwide; the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

SILENT	JOSEPH	<table border="1"> <tr><td>M</td><td>O</td><td>H</td><td>R</td><td>L</td><td>A</td><td>A</td><td>M</td><td>A</td><td>S</td><td>S</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>T</td><td>I</td><td>L</td><td>L</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>Y</td><td>E</td><td>M</td><td>G</td><td>L</td><td>I</td><td>A</td><td>N</td><td>R</td><td>D</td><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>J</td><td>L</td><td>B</td><td>I</td><td>N</td><td>G</td><td>M</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>T</td><td>O</td><td>M</td></tr> <tr><td>I</td><td>O</td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>D</td><td>U</td><td>T</td><td>L</td><td>S</td><td>G</td><td>I</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>T</td><td>V</td><td>S</td><td>I</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>U</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>E</td><td>I</td><td>E</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td>I</td><td>N</td><td>A</td><td>G</td><td>R</td><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>Y</td><td>D</td><td>N</td><td>H</td><td>P</td><td>R</td><td>R</td><td>G</td><td>A</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>A</td><td>G</td><td>I</td><td>P</td><td>H</td><td>H</td><td>I</td><td>H</td><td>C</td><td>V</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>U</td><td>I</td><td>L</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>C</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>T</td><td>H</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td>D</td><td>O</td><td>T</td><td>A</td><td>D</td><td>R</td><td>I</td><td>H</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>G</td><td>C</td><td>A</td><td>G</td><td>A</td><td>F</td><td>R</td><td>A</td><td>E</td><td>H</td><td>A</td><td>U</td></tr> </table>	M	O	H	R	L	A	A	M	A	S	S	T	R	T	N	E	L	I	S	T	I	L	L	E	Y	E	M	G	L	I	A	N	R	D	N	E	J	L	B	I	N	G	M	M	T	T	O	M	I	O	A	L	D	U	T	L	S	G	I	E	T	V	S	I	T	N	S	E	U	E	S	L	O	E	I	E	T	S	I	N	A	G	R	O	Y	D	N	H	P	R	R	G	A	E	E	D	O	A	G	I	P	H	H	I	H	C	V	Y	U	I	L	O	R	A	C	T	F	T	H	E	N	D	E	D	O	T	A	D	R	I	H	T	G	C	A	G	A	F	R	A	E	H	A	U
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AUSTRIA	ORGANIST																																																																																																																																																	
FIRST	MIDNIGHT																																																																																																																																																	
SUNG	MASS																																																																																																																																																	
STILLE	MELODY																																																																																																																																																	
NACHT	SINGLE																																																																																																																																																	
HEILIGE	BING																																																																																																																																																	
CHRISTMAS	VERSION																																																																																																																																																	
EVE	THIRD																																																																																																																																																	
FATHER																																																																																																																																																		



**Mouse Makes**



**GOD'S PROMISE**

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.



**A LONG JOURNEY**

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**

*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOMEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

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

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

**SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)**

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

**SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)**

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

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Depend. 4 Canopy. 7 Beak. 8 Irritate. 9 Zedekiah. 13 Ate. 16 Job's comforter. 17 NAE. 19 Lang Syne. 24 Blockade. 25 Five. 26 Enigma. 27 Drench.

DOWN: 1 Debt. 2 Peaceable. 3 Drink. 4 Curia. 5 Nuts. 6 Put it. 10 Excel. 11 Is man. 12 Hoofs. 13 Attention. 14 Ezra. 15 Ijon. 18 Aslan. 20 Abana. 21 Greed. 22 GCMG. 23 Leah.

**Connections - February 2024 issue deadline**

News, articles & other items to be included in the February 2024 double issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

Items should ideally be no more than 1 page in length (about 450 words) and definitely no longer than 2 pages.

*Connections* is published in digital format ten times a year and emailed to subscribers. You are also able to view it on the church website and Facebook page. If you want it emailed to you, please contact Kevin Bodsworth at the Church Office: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk.

Thanks,  
*Claire*

**The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily  
the views of the URC or its congregation**

## Worship at Baginton Road URC – December 2023 & January 2024



Morning service: 10.30am; Evening service: 6.30pm (unless otherwise stated)

Date	Time	Preacher	
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2023	am	Kirsty Mabbott	Advent Sunday
	pm	Revd David Spriggs	Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup> December	am	Revd Colin Offor	No pm service
17 <sup>th</sup> December	am	Revd Peter Kimberley	Holy Communion
	pm	Carols by Candlelight	
24 <sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)			No am service
	5pm	Crawford Dow	All age service
	8.30pm	Pauline Lockett & Sue Matthews	Holy Communion
25 <sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)	10.30	Pam Dawson, Wilf Hawes & Liz Kershaw	
31 <sup>st</sup> December Sunday	am	Revd Colin Offor	New Year's Eve No pm service
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	am	Peter Kimberley	
	pm	Revd David Spriggs	Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup> January	am	Revd Peter Kimberley	Holy Communion No pm service
21 <sup>st</sup> January	am	Keith Stevens	
	pm	Sue Matthews	
28 <sup>th</sup> January	am	Les Wade	No pm service
4 <sup>th</sup> February	am	Crawford Dow	Church Parade
	pm	Revd Colin Offor	Holy Communion

### Candlelight Service Refreshments



We will once again be serving refreshments after the Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Please make your way to the small hall at the end of the service, where you will find warm mulled wine (with or without alcohol), stollen and mince pies.

We hope you will be able to join us.

*Lesley Rice*