

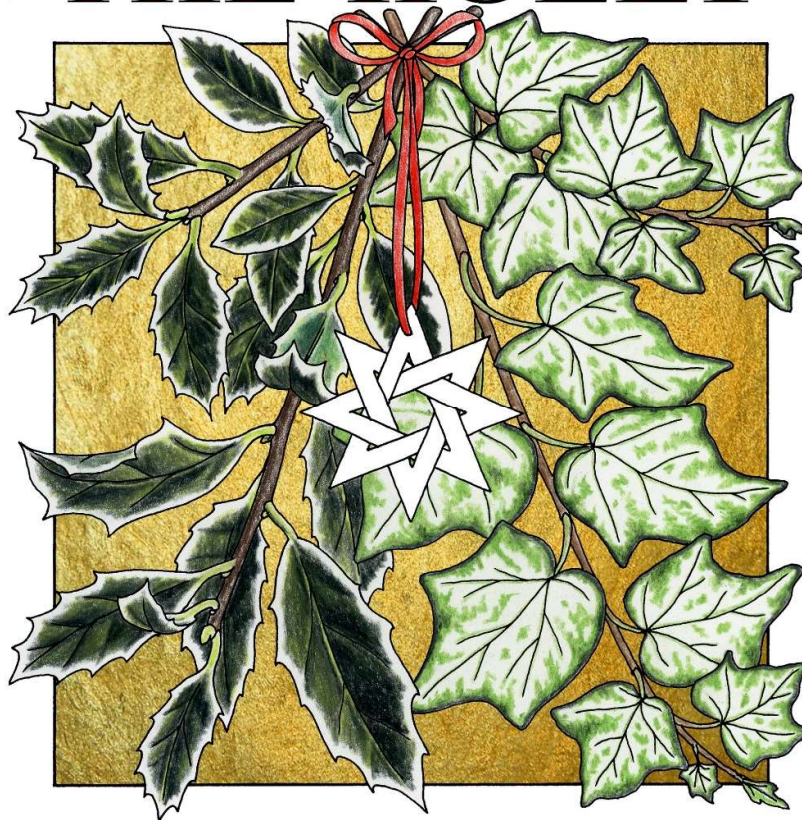
'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'



Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

December 2024 / January 2025

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

**Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP**



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Dear Friends

What a true joy it is as children of God as we enter the Advent season!

The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *adventus*, which was translated from the Greek word *parousia* (παρουσία) from the New Testament. *Parousia* means 'arrival', 'presence' or 'coming' and is usually associated with the second coming of Christ. So this season is a call not only to look back in thankfulness and with grateful hearts for Jesus' birth and arrival over 2,000 years ago, but also to look forward in hope and with expectation for His return and second coming.

These three translations of *parousia* summarise this Advent season for us:

Arrival: We give thanks and celebrate the arrival of our Saviour – the beginning of the 'good news' and the beginning of the 'gospel.' The Greek word *euangelion* (εὐαγγέλιον) means 'good news' or 'gospel' in the New Testament, and the Roman Empire used this word to make a grand announcement of an event of significance. We find the word in Luke 2:10 when the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the Shepherds: *"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** that will cause great joy for everyone. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord."*

The good news was that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. It brings joy to the world! The birth of Jesus Christ was God's gift to the world. And so, as we spend time with our families, friends and loved ones this season, and we share gifts, let us remember that the best gift you can give them is to share the good news of Jesus Christ – who He is and what He came to do, His life and teachings. Bring the gift of the good news of salvation to everyone you meet and encounter this season.

Presence: Isaiah 7:14 says: *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel."* In Matthew 1:23, we see that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled, and we are also told the meaning of the name Immanuel: *"... they will call Him Immanuel (which means "God with us")."*

God is with us! God is ever present with us! God is with us always! His promise to us was fulfilled through Christ – what a comfort to know we are never alone.

Coming: Jesus has come and is coming again – Glory to God! He will return for His Church. Let us be expectant for His return. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 says: *"For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."* 1 Corinthians 15:52 tells us it will be *"In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last*

trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

Prepare yourself for His coming as Matthew 24:44 reminds us: *“So you must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.”*

Live in anticipation, put in the effort and energy to spend time and connect with Jesus through prayer, reading and studying God’s word, committing to worship, serving God, and loving one another.

The one thing I have been genuinely grateful for is coming to know Jesus, truly knowing Him. He has changed my life in so many ways. I cannot express this in words – there are no words but only those imprinted on my heart and in my spirit for Him alone to read. It is the best gift anyone can, or ever has, or ever could give me. Now that we have received Him, the call to action for us all is to share this with others. Remember to share about Christ’s arrival, His presence and His Coming this season, and God bless you abundantly as you do.

I pray that as you celebrate Christmas, your hearts overflow with thanksgiving for the ultimate gift of salvation. I am wishing you a joyous New Year in advance.

Every blessing,
Pastor Sherry Owolabi

Christmas Post

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, 8th, 15th and 22nd 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 these dates.

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 take into account the cost of a second-class stamp which is now 85p.

The chosen charity to receive the donations for 2024 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

Notes from Elders' Meeting, November 2024



- Link Elders have been appointed to help improve communication with the many groups that meet on our premises.
- The sale of the Manse is progressing.
- A by-election is to be held so that Pastor Sherry may, hopefully, be elected as an Elder of BRURC, after which we can approach the URC to request training for her so that she is able to preside at Holy Communion. Nominations may also be made to fill all three vacant places on the Eldership.
- Pastor Sherry updated the Elders on the various tasks she is progressing: Passion for Prayer is now available via Zoom for the winter months. Kerebu's home group has started, Sermon study sessions start at the end of the month. Pastor Sherry's sermons are now available to read on the website.
- Elders are to go back to serving Holy Communion.
- Arrangements for Christmas services were finalised. Offertory at Candlelight, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be divided between Coventry Myton Hospice and Zoe's Place. Internal post for Church Christmas Cards, donations will be for Pancreatic Cancer.
- Arrangements are being offered online for all who wish to undertake basic safeguarding training.
- Reports from groups and committees were received.

Pauline Lockett, Assistant Secretary

Church Meeting Dates 2025

It was clear from a recent survey amongst the congregation that the preferred time for Church Meetings to take place is on a Sunday, after the morning service. Based on this, the following dates have been fixed for 2025:

- 9th February, 18th May, 10th September, 7th December.

The date for the AGM is yet to be decided.

Sue Davis, Church Secretary

Commitment for Life Update



It's with great joy and gratitude that I can announce that we raised £1,176.87 for Commitment for Life this year. I'm not sure just how many goats that might buy for farmers in Zimbabwe but I am sure that the Mazarura family will certainly have benefitted from your generous donations. Thank you all again for your loyal support.

Mary Goodwin

Women's Prayer Breakfast



Next dates: 11th January (NB: 9.30am at Revive Café, St Martin's Church, Green Lane),

8th February, 8th March, April 1st (date & venue tbc), 10th May, 14th June, 12th July.

A warm welcome to all women from our church, Belonging Church, and any friends from another or no church at all. We meet once a month at 8.30am in Baginton Road URC Small Hall to set up, and start with a bring-and-share breakfast – always delicious and more than enough!

An opportunity to offer each other encouragement and a listening ear as we share our good and tough times, laughter and maybe tears. We spend about 20 minutes with an activity to nurture our spirit and soul, always ending in prayer for concerns shared. There is no obligation to speak; you can just eat and listen. Everything we share is confidential to those present.

Not everyone comes every time; just come when you can. We promise that it's always worth getting up for! Please ask me if you wish to know more.

Kathy Jackson

What a difference a year makes - my reflections

This time last year our Church here at Baginton Road had just begun the search for a Pastor to lead the fellowship. Adverts had been placed and we waited to see what the Lord would offer us.

Fast forward to 1st April when we welcomed Sherry, Kerebu, Neriah and Jeremiah into our midst and to their new life in Coventry – and what a blessing they have been to us.

Sherry has challenged our Bible knowledge through her sermons, shared her passion for prayer, and is a friendly face to us all. We are welcoming new people to worship with us on Sundays and, as many people have commented to me, there is a real buzz about the place these days.

As we now come to the end of 2024, thank you everyone for the support you have given to Sherry and her family and to the Elders as we plan for the future of our Church.

Let's keep the buzz going over the festive season and into 2025!

Sue Davis, Church Secretary



A Poem for Christmas

We've got very used to the Christmas story; we enjoy its comfortable message of peace and joy. But if you look at it as you might have experienced it in the 1st Century, it would have been terrifying! Angels, strange men from foreign lands, murderous kings, a night flight to Egypt – it's more like a horror story than a festive tale of comfort. But yes, the bottom line – the punchline – is about Good News:

Nolite Timere (Do not be afraid)

Do not be afraid
Of angels in the sky
Nor of the Babe in manger laid
Or of the death He'd die.

Do not be afraid
Of magi bearing gold
Their clothes of velvet and rich braid
As mysteries unfold.

Do not be afraid
Tho' Herod's fatal rage
Sends soldiers on a killing raid
On those of tender age.

Fear not, instead rejoice!
For joy the angels bring!
Good news is in the angel's voice
Of Christ, our Saviour King!

By Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump

Christmas Smiles

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

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man. "Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?" "Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

Social Committee News



Christian Aid Soup Lunch: The committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Christian Aid Soup Lunch. We raised £400 on the day; additional donations and Gift Aid will take the total to over £500.

It was lovely to see the small hall full of diners enjoying the hearty warming soups and sharing friendship and fellowship. We had so many people that we ran out of seats, plates and spoons – but not soup fortunately!

So, a big thank you for the generosity of making such delicious soup, giving time to help on the day and making donations to raise such an amazing amount of money.

Christmas Tree Festival: It has been decided to cancel the tree festival this year because we have not had many volunteering to provide a tree. However, we would like to thank those groups who have offered to decorate a tree and hope that they will still do so. These trees will decorate our Sanctuary and will be seen by all who visit or attend our church services through Advent.

We have not planned any events for 2025 yet but will do so soon and will include them in the February issue of this magazine. If you have any ideas, please speak to one of the Social Committee.

Social Committee



Soup, Glorious Soup, We're Anxious to Try It!

And so they were! For the first time, we had a queue outside the small hall for the Christian Aid Soup Lunch. We even had to find extra chairs.

But Pam and her 'team' were on form, ladles at the ready! There was such a friendly, chatty atmosphere at table and hands soon went up for “seconds, please”. The seven soups were so delicious that there was barely enough left to enable the volunteers to enjoy a wee bowlful. After soup, Kathy manned the coffee station with admirable calm, ably supported by Sue M. Then all hands were required to leave the kitchen spick and span, before collecting our ladles, tired but content.

What a success and what a total – £550 (with Gift Aid added)! When we add that to the £461 raised from our Christian Aid envelopes, we have a grand total of £1,011 raised for Christian Aid during 2024.

Pam thanked everyone during the Sunday-after service and rightly emphasised the teamwork which made it all possible: bread-bringers, soup makers, soup servers and soup eaters, dishwashers and kitchen-cleaners. Thank you all!

Mary Goodwin



Advent Knitalong 2024

Over the course of Advent, participants are invited to knit a square table mat in DK weight yarn, which can be used, displayed or given as a present on Christmas Day. The exact design of the table mat is a surprise, as it's a Mystery Knitalong and will be revealed as you knit, but it will feature a design in lace and textured stitches!

Knitters may prefer to work a smaller square in 4ply / fingering weight yarn which would be perfect as a Christmas dishcloth if worked in a cotton yarn. The pattern is the same, regardless of yarn weight.

The Knitalong will follow the format of previous Advent / Lent Knitalongs: the pattern will be laid out across 24 days (1st - 24th December) and each daily chunk of knitting will be accompanied by a Bible verse for reflection as you knit.

What you will need to take part:

For DK yarn, you'll need approximately 40 - 60 grams (90 - 160 metres) in a solid (Christmassy?) colour and 4mm needles - these should ideally be 20 - 30 cm in length, or knitters may choose to use a circular needle.

Knitters who choose to work the square in 4ply weight yarn will need approximately 30 - 45 grams (100 - 160 metres) of yarn and 3.5mm or 3.75mm needles.

The pattern requires knitters to cast on and off, work the basic knit and purl stitches, and some simple lace stitches: K2tog, SSK, YO and CDD – these will be explained in the pattern. The knitting should take an average knitter 10 - 15 minutes each day.

Please contact me if you would like a copy of the pattern.

Jenny Barnes

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2024

A massive thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September.



We now have the final total raised: a truly impressive £1,150, inclusive of Gift Aid.

My very grateful thanks to everyone that turned up on the morning and all who donated cakes and items to sell. For the extremely generous monetary donations, a very big thank you to you all.

Please make a note that next year's event will be on Friday 26th September 2025 – same time, same place!

Lesley Rice

The Charter for Compassion

After being awarded the Ted Prize in 2008, Karen Armstrong used the prize money to create *The Charter for Compassion*. This was unveiled the following year. I recommend the Charter to all of us as a basis of how to lead our lives.

For more information about the charter and how it has developed, Google 'Charter for Compassion'. A copy of the Charter is printed below.

George Drake



The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others – even our enemies – is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women

- to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion
- to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate
- to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures
- to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity
- to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings, even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.



Christmas Geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: 'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!' So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house, he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: 'Why don't they follow me?' Then he realised: 'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'

Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

From Parish Pump

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, 5th December, Theme: 'Gifts'
Thursday, 9th January, Theme: 'Beginnings'
Thursday, 13th February, Theme: 'Birthdays'



For more information, please contact David Lathbury: david@dlathbury.co.uk.

Warwick Road Centre and Café – December Update

Ruth, George and Trevor would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful, peaceful Christmas and New Year holiday. It has been another busy year at the Warwick Road Centre, and we thank everyone for your support to the office team.



We have a monthly team meeting with David Lathbury which proves a valuable communication channel. This enables us to be kept up to date with what is happening from an Elders / trustees perspective and allows us to brief David on issues in the Centre. It is an incredibly important relationship and we are grateful to David for his support to all of us.

We have managed to retain most of our existing customers for room lets in 2024 and have attracted a few new customers.

The Centre will be open until Friday 20th December and will then close until Monday 6th January; it will re-open on Tuesday 7th January.

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Café Menu – December 2024 & January 2025

Opening Times: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday. Snacks and Drinks: 10am – 11.30am; Hot Meal: 12 noon – 1.30pm (last orders 1pm)

Main course £5, Pudding £2.50, Meal Deal (Main and Pudding, served with tea or coffee) £7.50. Telephone orders: 024 7622 0299

Tuesday 3 rd December	Minced beef cobbler, potatoes and vegetables Coffee, date & walnut sponge and custard
Wednesday 4 th	Bacon & cheese-filled potato skins, coleslaw and salad Blackcurrant jam sponge and custard
Friday 6 th	Pork & apple casserole Mincemeat & apple tart and custard
Tuesday 10 th	Christmas lunch (£14 - must be pre-booked)
Wednesday 11 th	Sausage & tomato hotpot Treacle sponge and custard
Friday 13 th	Christmas lunch (£14 - must be pre-booked)
Tuesday 17 th	Chicken Chasseur, potatoes and vegetables Caramel apple cake and custard
Wednesday 18 th	Fisherman's pie and peas Apple crumble and custard
Friday 20 th	Beef stew and dumplings Eton mess
Closed until Tuesday 7 th January 2025	

Tuesday 7 th January	Cottage pie and vegetables Creamy rice pudding
Wednesday 8 th	Hunter's chicken, potatoes and vegetables Pineapple sponge and cream
Friday 10 th	Corned beef hash and cauliflower cheese Lemon meringue pie
Tuesday 14 th	Steak in ale pie, potatoes and vegetables Raspberry & white chocolate sponge and ice cream
Wednesday 15 th	Chicken casserole Sticky toffee sponge and custard
Friday 17 th	Salmon with a lemon & dill sauce, potatoes and peas Treacle tart and custard
Tuesday 21 st	BBQ pork, potatoes and vegetables Bread & butter pudding and ice cream
Wednesday 22 nd	Lancashire hotpot Mixed berry crumble and custard
Friday 24 th	Faggots, creamed potatoes and mushy peas Chocolate & cherry cream sponge
Tuesday 28 th	Beef lasagne and salad Fruit trifle
Wednesday 29 th	Cheese & broccoli quiche, potatoes and peas Eve's pudding and custard
Friday 31 st	Beef Bourguignon Fruit salad and ice cream



Christmas Activity Morning

Saturday 14th December 2024 9.30am – 12.30pm

Welcoming all children from 0 – 11 yrs old to our Christmas Activity Morning where we will have fun exploring the true meaning of Christmas. As we retell the birth of Jesus, the children will have the opportunity to dress up and interact with the story. There will be crafts, games, songs and much more. All under 5's must be accompanied by an adult. If you would like to come along, please register via email at office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk. There will be a £5 fee per family.

Burns Supper



Saturday, 18th January 2025, 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, 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.

Medieval Women: In Their Own Words – An Exhibition



The British Library has a major new exhibition depicting the lives, words and works of medieval women.

It focuses principally on women in Europe from about 1100 to 1500AD and ranges across many aspects of their lives – motherhood, medical, their role in society, culture, politics, and their spiritual and religious lives. Enigmatic English women such as the anchoress Julian of Norwich and the widely-travelled Margery Kempe are covered, with original and rarely-seen manuscripts being displayed.

If you happen to be in London, this exhibition should be well worth visiting. It runs until 2nd March 2025, and tickets cost £17 (adults), £14.50 (over 65s). The British Library is a short (10-minute) walk from Euston Station.

David Lathbury

The Giving Tree Church Parade and Gift Sunday

1st December 2024



Coventry City Mission says: "The Giving Tree Project runs each year to provide Christmas presents to those children in Coventry who otherwise wouldn't receive them. Last year we were able to help a record number of children and families, providing gifts for 1,411 children from 586 families. This was a particularly high number of families and it highlighted to us the problems that the high cost-of-living is causing. This is an amazing opportunity for us to share God's love with the people of Coventry."

Could you buy a toy for a child in need in Coventry this Christmas?

If you would like to buy a **new gift** for The Giving Tree, Coventry City Mission would be very grateful. We need gifts for all ages of children and teenagers. We aim to give each child a gift worth approximately £15.

You can buy a gift from the suggestions below and bring it to Baginton Road Church for 1st December, or use this Amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1F08E4G2IOTWO?ref_=wl_share.

The gifts must be new and unwrapped.

Money donations are also accepted and you can donate direct to the CCM's bank account: Coventry City Mission: CAF Bank, Sort Code 40-52-40, Account 00018702 (Please use the reference GT2024)

Suggested ideas: Baby toys; Duplo; Lego and Lego friends; Dolls; Action figures; Star Wars toys; Disney princess dolls; Barbie-style dolls; Jewellery making kits; Remote controlled cars; Skateboards or scooters; Footballs (and pumps); Fidget toys; 'Rubix' style cubes.



'One for All' gift vouchers are great (from the Post Office) – please get £10 value

If you are able to give us board games / jigsaws as well, then we can give these out as additional family gifts.

No books, clothing, CDs, DVDs, electronics or video games

We always need standard sized rolls of wrapping paper, small rolls of Sellotape, AA and AAA batteries and chocolate selection boxes.

Many thanks for supporting the children in need of Coventry

Any questions to office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

This year Gaudete Sunday, or the Third Sunday of Advent, will be 15th December. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for 'rejoice'. Based on Luke 2:10-11 is the carol/song by Buryl Red *There is a Great Joy Coming*, which has a powerful baritone opening solo. There is also a song issued by Steeleye Span in 1972 called *Gaudete* which, along with *Pie Jesu* (Lloyd Webber / Requiem Mass) are the only two recordings in Latin to have reached the top ten hit parade. Joy-full learning.

To celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, Arundel Cathedral held an animal blessing service in October. St Francis was also the founder of the Franciscans, or the Greyfriars as they are known in England, which Order came to Coventry in 1234.

In 1884 the Sultan of Morocco gave land in Tangier for the erection of a church. A pre-fabricated iron church was shipped out and erected in 28 days, but was replaced a few years later with a crenellated Anglo-Moorish church dedicated to St Andrew. The church is now advertising for an Anglican priest to become a full-time chaplain for a congregation of 20-40+ international visitors. These pre-fabricated churches were also known as "tin tabernacles", often made in Birmingham, and there is one in Corley Moor, near Coventry.

Churches "divert demand" from the NHS worth £8.4bn a year by providing mental health and additional support, plus running food banks and youth clubs, a report has claimed. However, such projects are "dangerously underfunded" and many in the most deprived areas face closure, according to economists at the analytics company State of Life.

The remains of the explorer Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), which are in Seville Cathedral, have been DNA tested. It is now thought he was of Western Mediterranean origin with traits compatible with Jewish origins, but he was working for the Roman Catholic Church.



A leading Bishop is asking if the Church of England is to be sucked down a plug hole with its ambitious plan *Vision and Strategy* to try to double children attending services by 2030, also to create new congregations and boost church diversity. Yearly attendance has recovered since Covid but was still down by 170,000 in 2023.

The American election day 6th November was also the feast day of St Leonard, patron saint of women in labour, diseases of cattle and release of prisoners. The Inauguration date of the new President, 20th January 2025, is the feast day of St Sebastian, patron saint of soldiers, the plague-stricken, athletes, cyclists, archers and disabled people. He was shot by arrows but survived, in the 3rd Century.

Barry Stelfox



Mission, Outreach and Worship Report for November 2024

Bounce and Play: This year we will be offering the families of Bounce and Play the opportunity to share Christingle service on 11th December. This a truly exciting new venture – please pray that this is well received by the families and that Christ’s love continues to flow into the Bounce and Play mornings.

Home Communion at Home: I have the great privilege to lead Holy Communion at St Andrews House every month, sharing with Rose Tomlinson, John Bruffell, Julia Dixon and Revd Alan Stanyon. If you know someone who would appreciate receiving Holy Communion, please get in touch with me.

Warwick Road Church Centre: I am continuing my pledge to support Warwick Road Centre and visit them on a Friday lunchtime. If you would like to visit Warwick Road Centre to see the Open Doors Café in action, you are more than welcome to join me – in fact, the café is really struggling for volunteers. Please, please, please prayerfully consider offering a morning of your time, to help this fabulous piece of Christian witness in our city centre.

Agenda-less worship: This is usually held on the last Tuesday of every month starting at 7:30pm; however, as Christmas is such a busy time, the next worship evening will be 28th January 2025.

Christmas Activity Day: I look forward to being a part of the leadership team and helping tell the Christmas story during our Christmas Activity Day on 14th December.

Ecumenical Working: We continue to build strong relationships with other churches in our area. Local church leaders from Baginton Road, Christchurch, King’s Church, St James and Quinton Park are continuing to meet on a regular basis to share fellowship and ideas for working together.

Church Membership: During December’s Holy Communion service (8th), I will have the privilege of welcoming Joan Roberts into church membership. Please join me in welcoming Joan into membership. If you are not currently a church member but regularly attend Sunday worship, could I ask you to seriously consider and pray about becoming a member.

A word of thanks and a plea for the New Year: It was very uplifting for me to hear Revd Sally Willets comment on how much Mission and Outreach was evident in our Church. This is very much thanks to all you hardworking volunteers who support Sherry and me on a weekly basis to interact and build relationships with our church and the wider community.



So, thank you for all your support during this last year. Thank you for opening, for washing up, for making coffee, moving furniture, for fixing and for cooking, for being a listening ear, being a kind word, and for being there for Jesus and his Church.

I believe that we are seeing green shoots of growth in our church, new faces appearing in our congregation. The future for me is full of hope. So, can I please ask you to keep giving up some of your valuable time to help make this church the best it can be.

Every Blessing and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Revd Peter Kimberley



Church Contacts

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<p>Baginton Road Church Office: Baginton Road, Coventry CV3 6FP tel. 024 7641 9927 website: www.bagintonroadurc.org.uk Usual office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 7.30am - 1.30pm.</p> <p>Church Administrator: Kevin Bodsworth email: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p> <p>Church Secretary: Sue Davis e: secretary@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p>	<p>Warwick Road Centre Office: 10 Warwick Row, Coventry, CV1 1EX tel: 024 7622 0299 e: cityoffice@bagintonroadurc.org.uk Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm</p> <p>Room Bookings: tel: 024 7641 9927 email: rooms@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p> <p>Premises Caretaker, Baginton Road: George Stone tel; 07468 585611 e: caretaker@bagintonroadurc.org .uk</p>



← scan me!



FIND YOUR FESTIVE FUN!



Alice in Wonderland | The Albany Theatre

Sat 7th - Sun 29th December | Ages 6+

Head to The Albany Theatre this Christmas and follow Alice and the White Rabbit down the rabbit hole for an extraordinary adventure in Wonderland. Alice in Wonderland is filled with fun, laughter and magic!

Father Christmas Experience | The Barn at Berryfields

30th November - 23rd December | All ages

Bookings are now open for the Barn at Berryfield's Father Christmas Experience - don't miss out on all the magical festive fun!



The Snowman | Coventry Cathedral

Saturday 21st December | All ages

Countdown to Christmas with the festive family favourite The Snowman! With a live Orchestra and a solo from the Cathedral's Choristers, this magical screening with live performance will be a magical experience.



Christmas Makers Market | Fargo Village

7th, 8th, 14th, 15th December | All ages

Lovingly handcrafted gifts, amazing local designers and fabulously festive vibes!



The Smeds and The Smoos | Warwick Arts Centre

26th November - 29th December | Ages 3+

Soar into space for your festive family treat with this exciting adaptation of the award-winning book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

Luminate | Coombe Abbey Park

30th November - 31st December | All ages

The spectacular, illuminated trail, full of wonder and intrigue, returns to Coombe Abbey Park to delight and enthrall your senses.



Star Pins | Coventry City Centre

Open 10am-10pm from 6th December | All ages

Have you heard? Star Pins is opening in Coventry City Centre! You'll find state-of-the-art Ten Pin lanes, ice-free curling, shuffleboard, tech darts, virtual shooting, arcade games, mini golf and more!

And there's more!
Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to find your fun.

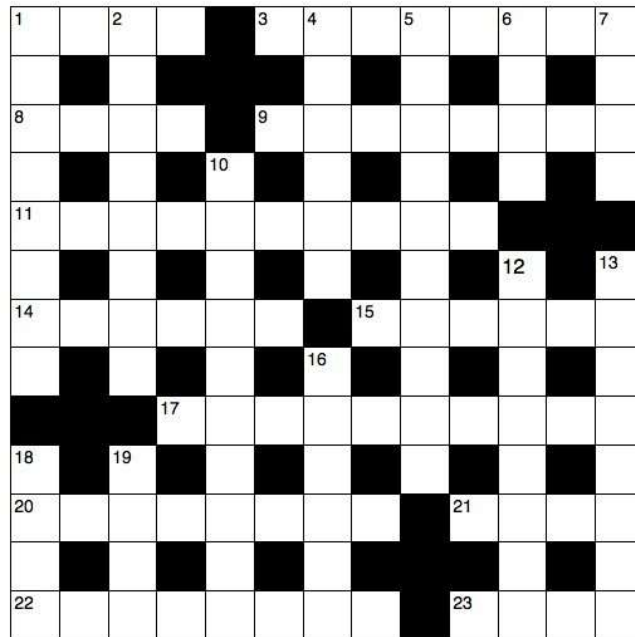
FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!

There are thousands of local parents following us Social Media, and we'd love for you to join in! Just search Coventry Rocks and like our page!

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



Puzzle Pages



Across

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

Down

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

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

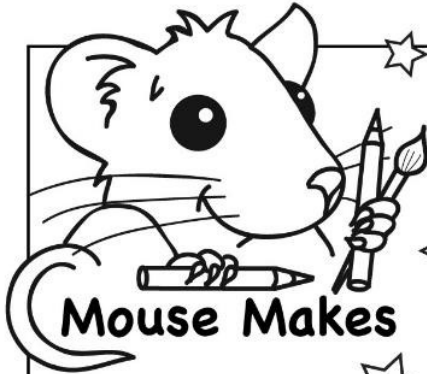
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Solutions on p.23

WORDSEARCH

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the Emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings today: there was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window, which landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve.

FATHER	NEEDY	U G S D C M F A M I L Y K M G Y H T L A E W I M P C N N R O R E P M E E O F I O I S T M D L H G O N K S S R E H T A F R R T C I T E E N R T K E A U O R M T G F E E M E I O T P A H R A F E E K G V S T S G E R L U D C C E N T R U R Y M L S Y O D G D S A L O H C I N T T H I R D B O R N T V
CHRISTMAS	SICK	
NICHOLAS	SUFFERING	
BORN	PRISON	
THIRD	EMPEROR	
CENTURY	POOR	
GREEK	FAMILY	
VILLAGE	THREE	
DEVOUT	DAUGHTERS	
WEALTHY	STOCKINGS	



Mouse Makes

★ "Jesus said,
I am the ___ Y
and the ___ U ___
and the ___ I ___.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H _____, the
_____ of _____"
Luke 1:35

★ "For unto you is born
this day a
S _____
who is
_____ R _____
the ___ R ___"
Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

_____ for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

_____ and the life."
John 11:25

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

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



P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

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SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Lame. 3 Obtained. 8 Omit. 9 Merchant. 11 Burdensome. 14 Crafty. 15 Please. 17 Blacksmith. 20 Splendid. 21 Tier. 22 Singeing. 23 Hand.

DOWN: 1 Look back. 2 Main road. 4 Breast. 5 Accomplish. 6 Near. 7 Date. 10 Pestilence. 12 Basilica. 13 Tethered. 16 Action. 18 Asa's. 19 Clan.

Connections - February 2025 issue deadline

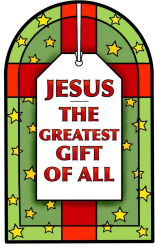
News, articles & other items to be included in the February 2025 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 22nd January 2025**.

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

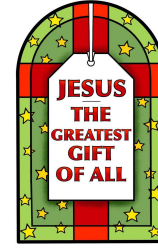
Connections is published in digital format ten times a year and emailed to subscribers. You are also able to view it on the church website. If you want it emailed to you, please contact Kevin Bodsworth at the Church Office: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk.

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 2024



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

Date	Time	Preacher	
1 st December	am	Sherry Owolabi	Advent Sunday - Gift Sunday
	pm	Sue Matthews	Church Parade Holy Communion
8 th	am	Rev Peter Kimberley	Holy Communion
15 th	am	Sherry Owolabi	All-ages Nativity Service
	pm	Choir: Bethlehem's Babe	
22 nd	am	Sherry Owolabi	Followed by refreshments
	pm	Carols by Candlelight	
24 th (Tues)	5pm	Crawford Dow	
25 th (Wed)	am	Sherry Owolabi	
29 th (Sun)	am	Sherry Owolabi	
5 th January 2025	am	Revd Ian Macnair	Holy Communion
	pm	Revd David Spriggs	
12 th	am	Pastor Teddy Donobauer	
19 th	am	Revd Peter Kimberley	Holy Communion
	pm	Tbc	
26 th	am	Sherry Owolabi	
2 nd February	am	Crawford Dow	Church Parade Holy Communion
	pm	Crawford Dow	



Sunday 22nd December – Candlelight Service Refreshments

We will once again be serving refreshments after the Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday 22nd 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