



CHURCH AT HOME

Issue 35: December 12th 2020

Welcome, brothers and sisters to the thirty-fifth edition of "Church at Home".

I've just started reading Nick Page's latest book "Christmas – Tradition, Truth and Total Baubles". I highly recommend it. It's both informative and very funny. I thought I knew pretty much everything about Christmas but it seems not. One of the things that he debunks is once again doing the rounds on social media. The old "Christmas was invented by the Pagans" myth. Here's what Nick says "Coincidence is not connection. Just because it looks pagan, doesn't mean it is. Just because the Druids liked groves of oak trees, doesn't mean that when I go to Oak Furnitureland I am unconsciously channelling ancient pagan roots".

The fact is, most in our society now don't know why we celebrate Christmas. I'm not talking about the intricacies of Advent or the associated festivals of Candlemas or Epiphany. Recently I had to point out to someone that Christmas was actually Christian. It had completely passed them by that the fact Christ is the first syllable had any relevance. This is the world we live in. So, if you can share the true story in any way this year, then go for it.

Follow the guidance, encourage each other, pray and stay safe.

Rev Clive



Christmas at St Paul's

December 6th at 10am

Final chance to bring toys for children with Women's Aid

December 12th at 2pm

Christmas film for all the family - Nativity

December 19th At 2pm

Christmas film for all the family - The Star

December 19th

Children Nativity Colouring Competition ends

December 19th at 7:30pm

Online Christmas Quiz

December 24th

Christingle at home
Sign up to have your Christingle packs delivered to your children on Christmas Eve.

December 24th at 11:30pm

Midnight Communion

December 25th at 10am

Family Celebration

We will do our best to run all these activities as long as restrictions allow.

To apply for the Children's Nativity Colouring Competition, visit www.spnh.org.uk.

Toys can be delivered to Church on Wednesdays 9:30-10am or Sundays 10-11am.

Church noticeboard

Christmas Quiz

The log in details for the Christmas Quiz are **Meeting ID: 815 9605 0675** **Passcode: quiz**. Please try to join us on the 19th at 7:30pm. It would be helpful if you could let the Gills know you are going to be quizzing with us. thegills41@virginmedia.com

Toys

Thank you for your donations. The toys were handed over to Bexley Women's Aid this week.



Christingles

To clarify. Christingle bags are available to everyone regardless of age, if you would like one. See the information on page 4.

Services

We have one service at 10am on Sundays and our weekday communion on Wednesdays at 9:30am

Demelza Christmas Card

Instead of sending so many Christmas cards this year, why not support Demelza House Children's Hospice, by signing our St Paul's Christmas card and making a donation. The card will be at the back of the church from 6 December. Cheques payable to St Paul's Church PCC.

Children's Nativity Colouring Competition

We are running a colouring competition for our children. Entry is on the back page. Closing date 19th December

Advent Craft Bags

With an activity and worksheet for each Sunday of advent.

Please contact Pippa for collection details.



Available to children in Creche, Splash, Xstream and The Grid.

stpaulsnhchildren@hotmail.com



CHRISTINGLE DELIVERED 2020

Sadly, this year we can't have our usual fun themed Christingle service on Christmas Eve. But instead we are going to be delivering Christingle packs to your homes. Packs will contain everything you need to make your Christingle and in our children's packs lots of other things for them to do as well. You must be home on Christmas Eve from 2pm. Fill in the form below and pop it through the church letterbox or email your details to revclive@hotmail.co.uk.

Name _____

Number of Adult packs _____ Child packs _____

Age of Child(ren) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**DECEMBER
29TH**



St Paul's Church presents...

Family Christmas Films



Nativity!
Saturday 12th
December
2pm

Free tickets from
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/
e/129165791359](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/129165791359)

The Star

From the makers of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Saturday 19th
December
2pm

Free tickets from
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/
e/129167558645](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/129167558645)



We are ticketing these events in order to effectively socially distance during the films. Please only reserve tickets for those you can sit together with.

More tickets may be become available depending on the groupings of those already reserved.

Popcorn and drinks will be available during the films.



ST PAUL'S
VIRTUAL
CHRISTMAS
QUIZ!!

JOIN US VIA ZOOM FOR OUR AMAZING
Festive Night In!!

Saturday 19th December

@7.30pm

ZOOM DETAILS TO FOLLOW....

New Finance Team

As no one has come forward to be our church treasurer the role is now vacant. We have decided to try splitting the role into a number of smaller jobs.

Please consider prayerfully if you are able to fill one of these roles.

Banker (Incoming) [Role Filled – The Lindridges]

Co-ordinate the paying in of physical cash / cheques.

Oversee the Sunday counting team.

Send counting sheets and yellow envelopes to Gift Aid Secretary.

Co-ordinate any miscellaneous incoming payments to bank account. (i.e. non regular incoming payments).

Banker (Outgoing)

Pay bills.

Pay expenses.

Provide office petty cash when requested.

Pay Parish pledge.

Bookkeeper

Prepare monthly accounts for PCC.

Prepare draft budget.

Prepare annual accounts.

Send annual accounts to Diocese & Charity Commission.

If required send accounts to HMRC.

Record Keeper

Keep a financial record of incomings and outgoings.

Gift Aid Secretary [Role filled - Dot Turner]

Co-ordinate the claiming of gift aid from the government.

Please contact Clive for more details.

Community Notices

Hall Place Christmas Opening

Hall place will be closed on 24th, 25th, 26th December & on January 1st. When closed there will be no access to the gardens, visitor centre, house or garden trail.

Bexley Homeless Protocol

The mayor has activated the rough sleeping severe weather protocol. If you see anyone sleeping rough please log their location via streetlink so the outreach team can find and help them.

www.streetlink.org.uk

Abena Appong-Asare

Congratulations to North Heath MP Abena Appong-Asare who has been awarded Newcomer MP of the year for 2020.

Evergreen Care Bexley

Evergreen Care Bexley is looking to recruit a full-time Chief Operating Officer. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested, please send an email with the subject line 'Chief Operating Officer Application' to info@evergreencarebexley.org to request an information pack which will give details of the personal specification for the job role.

Alive & Kicking

Alive N Kicking - are providing free online cooking classes for children aged 4 to 11 who are above their healthy weight range (above the 91st percentile). You will receive a free goodie bag delivered to your door, filled with all the yummy ingredients and the recipe (feeds 4) needed for the class, plus a free lunch box and apron! Call **020 8432 8535** or <https://www.facebook.com/ankbexley>

TIER 2

HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	BARs, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, after supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Open.</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes. 30 for funerals.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Open.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 2 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Closes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-16s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower).</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature + A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



This week's prayer

For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability.

For our homes and families,
our schools and young people,
and all in any kind of need or distress.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of
trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for.

Amen

Prayer

There are many who still need our prayers.

Those who have asked for our prayers are: Ann Easter, Ann Batchelor (Reader at St Martin's), Andrew Bennett, Charles Brooke, Ron and Joan Handy. For Marjorie and Eileen Hoare, Monica Lindridge, Christine Meaton and Christine Minns. For Carol & John O'Connor, John Ralph and Amanda Ralph. For Jane & George Stafford. For Karen Vaughan (Cameo), Jeanette Watts and Mark Williams.

What you're up to. – Pictures and messages



John O'Connor

Here is a pic of John in his Christmas jumper.



Hilary Haslam

Congratulations to Hilary Haslam, one of our Cameo ladies, who has been awarded the Co-op Neighbour of the Year 2020 South East.



Linda Mayes

In front of our tree with my favourite Christmas jumper on.



Grace, Joshua, Faith & Jacob Beazley-Long

Supporting Christmas jumper day.

Ministry @Home



These resources are to help equip & enable worship together as "family". They are intentionally intergenerational to allow space, conversation, activity & response together as the family of God. We encourage all ages to be participative & open, being responsive to God and each other.

Gather.....

- As you gather find a place that is comfortable and have the resources ready for the activities, prayer or response times ready.
- Choose 3 members to light the 3 candles (engage all ages)

Opening words of praise with lighting of 3 candles -

I will light a light
in the name of the Maker,
who lit the world
and gave everything life.

I will light a light
in the name of the Son,
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit,
who is present everywhere in the
world
and gives me strength.

Together:
We will light three lights
for the trinity of love:
God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us;
The beginning,
The end
and the Everlasting one.

Welcome.....

Song: Joy to the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rjinc8ctg5c>
(can be sung or listened to)

Reflection time: What brings you joy? Share with those who you are gathered with stories of when you felt joyful or happy – what or who was it that gave you that feeling of being joyful/happy. On a piece of paper draw those moments, people, or stories collectively to create a "JOY COLLAGE"



Bible passage: Read together John 1.6-8 & 19-28

AND/OR WATCH for an introduction into John the Baptist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRQn1qHCYQw>

Now is the time to light the first, second & third candle on an advent wreath if you have one or colour the 1st, 2nd & 3rd candle below. As you light or colour the candles you could use the Interactive family prayer on the next sheet. The third candle reminds us that lasting Joy is found in life on earth with Jesus Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last very long but the joy of Jesus can and does remain with us; we just need to remind ourselves at times. We are all known and called by God, John the Baptist was called by God to tell people of Jesus who was to come after him. In the other gospels it focuses more on **WHAT** Jesus taught and did, but in Johns gospel it focuses more on **WHO** Jesus is. John the Baptist told people about Jesus being the light in a dark world – we are also called to light in a dark world and to share the joy of Jesus.

Interactive Learning.....

This picture will be on the sheet every week during Advent – Today's candle is **JOY** but don't forget to colour the previous 2 candles reminding us of God's HOPE & PEACE



An Interactive Family Advent Prayer

Some families enjoy saying prayers and blessings as they light a candle on the wreath each Sunday. This is an example of an interactive family prayer:

Person 1: Lord, you are the light of the world.

Person 2: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Person 1/3: Heavenly Father, we long for your plan of rescue and redemption to be realized. Give us hearts that see your beauty and wait in hope for you to make all things good and new again.

Person 2/4: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Person 1/5: May your light and love shine brightly in our hearts, spreading hope and peace to those around us.

All: Amen.

Baubles of Grace & Joy

Watch the following video, reflect on the message within it, you could then do the same for your household or for friends and neighbours.

(Please follow the current guidance measures)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHsqQFUTFyU>



Create a Jar of Joy

Decorate an empty jar and encourage people to write on a small length of paper a way in which you can experience joy. These can range from going to the beach together, sharing sweets, making someone a cup of tea, giving a family member a hug, cooking dinner, going out for dinner, walk in the park together etc.



Continue to fill your jar with messages of joy over the next few weeks then in 2021 take out a "joy" & make it happen.

Whilst creating chat about the following questions & Share stories.....

- What is your favourite Christmas tradition & why?
- How does Jesus bring joy to your life?
- How does knowing Jesus change the way you act or treat others?

Reflection & Prayer Time.....

Song: This Little Light of Mine

(can be sung/aloud or listened to)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdsPbE9awKY>

This could also be sung as you prayer walk around your neighbourhood

Song: Light of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

Encourage members to read silently or aloud their prayers. Other prayers can be said at this time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



Celebration....

If any of your members celebrate a birthday within the next week – sing

Happy birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May God's richest blessings
Be showered on you.



Closing.....

The Grace (with "Messy" actions)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore. Amen.

Closing Responses.....

Song: Joy – Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDiETOL8vx4>

(can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

From where we are
to where you need us.

Jesus, now lead on!

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you reveal.

Jesus, now lead on!

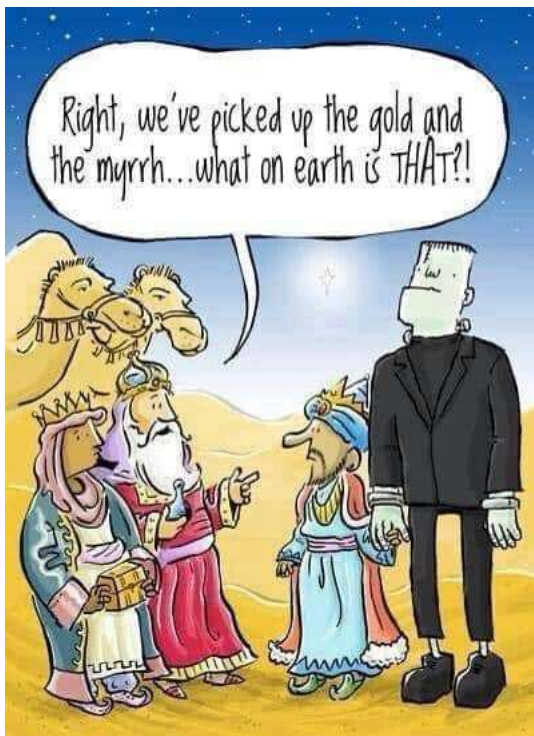
To make this world
look more like your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on!

Ask different members to blow out the candles.....until you meet again

Extra Ideas

- https://reflectionary.org/2020/11/30/names-of-jesus-christingle-decorations/?fbclid=IwAR7pEqc98YY_ig-0Km-tSP54hQDgT8tLhflwDMLNrPjUvptY5-R11MOE
- Watch together the Christmas Veggie Tales <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6p6-5ZiHak>





It's a joy to be part of an alliance that spans the UK. We have the privilege of getting a sense of the church's expressions of God's love in all four nations.

This week, we're delighted to share with you our new report, *Stories of Hope Scotland*, which was developed in partnership with *Serve Scotland*. The report found that churches across Scotland have delivered 212,214 individual acts of support during lockdown with the help of more than 3,000 volunteers.

Churches across the UK have tirelessly shown Christ-like service to those in need this year, and it's great to be able to spotlight some of these stories of hope that have come from Scotland. We are sure your spirits will be lifted as you read the report on our website. Wonderfully, a copy has been sent to every single Member of the Scottish Parliament. Please pray that the Scottish Government would continue to recognise the great work the church is doing and God's blessing over our Scottish team. Do watch out for more stories of hope that we will be sharing at the end of the year.

It's so important to engage with our political leaders. We do our utmost to represent you with one voice and also encourage you to use your individual voice. It's now the last chance to take part in a consultation about how the Government engages with faith groups, which closes tomorrow. I strongly encourage you to use this opportunity to read about how the consultation is going and give the Government your individual feedback about how **16** evangelical Christian groups are represented, engaged with and listened to.

Finally, this advent, remember how deeply our communities across the UK need the “anchor for the soul” which is our “firm and secure” hope in Jesus (Hebrews 6:19). Pray that God will help us as the church to share Jesus in every dark corner, even when we feel like retreating. Why not read our article about standing up for Jesus this Christmastime on our website and pray for you and your church family to do just that?

Every blessing,

Gavin Calver

CEO

eauk.org



Books

This week's book suggestions come from SPCK



The Comparison Trap by Helen Roberts

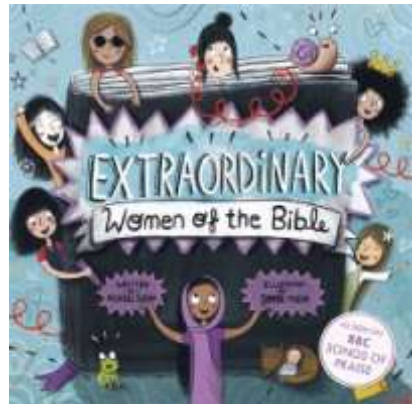
Are you in 'The Comparison Trap'? Too often, women hold each other back, bad mouthing and making unflattering comparisons. Social media gives extra opportunities for negative comment. What would happen, asks Helen Roberts, if women ceased to compete and compare? What if we settled our conflicts and resolved instead to champion one another? To celebrate each other's victories?

In *The Comparison Trap* Helen explores the complexities of female relationships.

Extraordinary Women Of The Bible by Michelle Sloan

The Bible is filled with so many incredible women, and it's time we were introduced to them!

Meet Deborah, the only female judge of Israel; Lydia, successful businesswoman and early Christian; Prisca, skilled tentmaker and determined missionary; and Rahab, quick-thinking, fearless protector of her family.




The Hoity Toity Angel by Caroline Hoile

There was once a very beautiful angel. Her hair gleamed, her wings sparkled and her dress was whiter than white. She was the most elegant angel that you could ever have wished to see. But she was also very, very proud. She really thought that she was the best! When Gabriel appears to Mary, the Hoity-Toity Angel is not at all impressed - Mary is not even a princess! And how can a king be born in a¹⁸ scruffy and smelly stable?

Official UK Christian & Gospel Albums Chart

Top 20

Pos	LW	Title, Artist	Peak Pos	W/e C
1	1	 BELIEVE ANDREA BOCELLI DECCA	1	3
2	2	 THE SEARCH NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	71
3	4 ↑	 LOOK UP CHILD LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	1	27
4	5 ↑	 A JOPLY IRISH CHRISTMAS - VOL 2 REND COLLECTIVE CCMG	2	6
5	3 ↓	 JESUS IS KING KANYE WEST EMI	1	58
6	6	 VITAL SIGNS SKILLET WARNER BROS	2	287
7	7	 MANSION NF CCMG	1	173
8	11 ↑	 SONGS OF PRAISE - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS VARIOUS ARTISTS PARLOPHONE	8	7
9	9	 AWAKE SKILLET ATLANTIC	2	352
10	8 ↓	 THERE IS MORE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	139
11	10 ↓	 RE//CHOIRED HOUSE GOSPEL CHOIR ISLAND	4	6
12	Re	 ADORE - CHRISTMAS SONGS OF WORSHIP CHRIS TOMLIN UMC	2	22
13	13	 AWAKE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	2	60
14	12 ↓	 UNLEASHED SKILLET ROADRUNNER	1	226
15	Re	 CAMPFIRE CHRISTMAS - VOL 1 REND COLLECTIVE UMC	1	35
16	15 ↓	 VICTORIOUS SKILLET WARNER RECORDS	3	67
17	Re	 THE PEACE PROJECT HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	21
18	18	 HOW CAN IT BE LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	9	123
19	Re	 HEAVEN HAS COME SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC INTEGRITY MUSIC	17	2
20	Re	 CHOOSE TO WORSHIP REND COLLECTIVE CCMG	1	19

Mrs T's quiz page

Cryptic TV Programmes

1.	TV's Fat People	
2.	Distribute the cards or not?	
3.	Hymns and Psalms	
4.	Money in the Loft	
5.	Next door either side	
6.	Reverse intelligence	
7.	Staying in	
8.	The riches of my mum and dad	
9.	Superman, Batman, Spiderman	
10.	5.4.3.2.1	
11.	Cathode ray indigestion	
12.	Pete and Mike fighting again	
13.	Wonderful view	
14.	Horticulturist's planet	
15.	Final Drink of the season	

Dingbats

1	QOOOE2	Lang4uage	3	i ✓ i
2	ACRIML	roforkad	4	Pot0000000
3	Reawithson	ABCDEFGHIJMO PQRSTUVWXYZ	5	Mail Male
4	KNOW it NO	BREN Jr	6	GMADEB
5	THYME PLAICE	ROBBERS	7	Polmomice
6	GOOD	ALLworld	8	XQQME
7			9	
8			10	
9			11	
10			12	
11			13	
12			14	
13			15	
14			16	
15			17	
16			18	

Photography



Bob Lindridge

We have been busy constructing our new rockery featuring the bird bath which was Monica's early birthday present from our family.



Pippa Beazley-Long

Christmas shopping Bexleyheath- young lad singing Christian worship songs to the shoppers. Not a great picture but wonderful to hear.



Poet's Corner

Christmas Wrap

Come on everybody and listen to us
It's all about a baby who is called Jesus
He was born a long time ago
In a town called Bethlehem, don't you know

Joseph was a man who needed a wife
An angel gave him the fright of his life
"God has chosen a wife for you
You must marry Mary, that's who"

Now Joseph made things out of wood
And Mary was a lady who was always good
They married and lived happily
And waited for the birth of their new baby

Then one day a letter came
It said "We've got to record your name
So you must go to another town
Then we can count you and write your names down"

Mary was tired so she had a ride
And Joseph walked by the donkey's side
But when they got to Bethlehem
There was no room at the inn for them

The only place that they could stay
Was in a stable full of hay
Then in the night the baby came
And Jesus the King was the baby's name

Now shepherds were asleep in the fields nearby
Some angels spoke to them from the sky
"Now all wake up and leave your sheep
And come and see the baby who is fast asleep"

A star showed the shepherds where to go
They came to the stable and bowed down low
It made them happy to see the baby king
And up in the sky they heard the angels sing

Three kings came from afar
They found their way by a star
They had gold, myrrh and frankincense
These were the first Christmas presents

So off you go, enjoy the day
But spare some time along the way
To think of the baby born to us
And tell everybody about Jesus

*Written by Bob Lindridge and the old
Pathfinder group at Carotty woods in the
1990's*

Once again, it's Christmas Day,
Another year has slipped away.
All too seldom we've kept in touch
With people we like and admire so
much.

So, in the new year let's try to find
Time to be thoughtful, loving and kind
By saying things we ought to say,
Not just at Christmas but every day.

Anon
Suggested by Carol O'Connor

Thank you

To all those who give regularly towards the mission and ministry of St Paul's

Use this information to set up regular giving through your bank

Code 60-15-28 Account No: 66526434.

Account Name: St Paul's Church.

Reference: your name

Quiz answers

Cryptic TV Programmes

Answers: 1. Teletubbies; 2. Deal or No Deal; 3. Songs of Praise; 4. Cash in the Attic; 5. Neighbours; 6. QI; 7. Not Going Out; 8. Family Fortunes; 9. Heroes; 10. Countdown; 11. TV Burp; 12. Men Behaving Badly; 13. Panorama; 14. Gardener's World; 15. Last of the Summer Wine.

Dingbats

1. Three men in a boat; 2. Foreign language; 3. Right between the eyes; 4. Criminal; 5. Fork in the road; 6. Potatoes; 7. Within reasons; 8. Missing link; 9. Postman; 10. No two ways about it; 11. Son of a gun; 12. Made in Great Britain; 13. Another time, another place; 14. Honour among thieves; 15. Mother-in-law; 16. Good looking; 17. It's a small world after all; 18. Excuse me.

St Paul's Church Presents...

Northumberland Heath Children's Nativity Colouring Competition

2 prizes of

www.the

