

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

**St Mark's Parish Magazine
December 2024**



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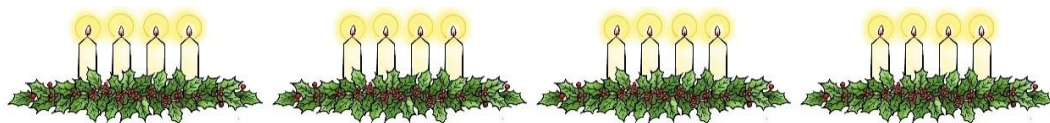
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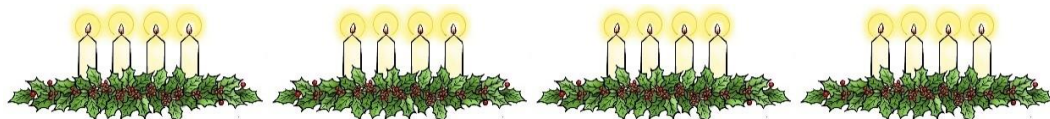


Your Views & Contributions

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All contributions to the editor by
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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

When I was a child, I was given a brightly coloured Advent calendar at the beginning of December, and every morning, I would excitedly fold back one of the little windows to reveal the picture of a robin, a star or a shiny bauble. On Christmas Eve I opened a double-sized window and was delighted to find either a nativity scene or a jolly reindeer with a red nose. Amazingly, the idea that finding a piece of chocolate each day would enhance my festive existence and support me through the ordeal of waiting for Christmas Day had not yet (at that dark and unenlightened time) occurred to Cadburys or anyone else.



The reason I believe that we feel the need to receive daily treats to help us live through that interminable dark month before the gifts and feasting of Christmas is, of course, that the process of waiting requires something we humans are really terrible at: patience. The Bible reminds us that patience is one of the most precious of human characteristics. In that famous passage in 1 Corinthians 13, much used at weddings, St Paul starts his list of the wonderful things about love by stating "love is patient". It is also pretty near to the top when he lists the "fruits" which grow in our lives when we are filled with God's Holy Spirit, coming close behind love, joy and peace. In fact, Paul seems to be firmly of the opinion that patience is a virtue which is almost completely unattainable without divine help.

The truth is, of course, that God is very good at being patient, and there are lots of verses in both the Old and New Testaments to remind us of that. Being prepared to wait thousands of years hoping that humankind would follow your commandments before eventually sending your very own Son is certainly being patient. God shows us that patience has two equally important aspects: enduring through the hard times, whilst waiting for an opportunity to bring good into the world.

The Christian season of Advent (which this year happily begins on 1st December) reminds us that, whether or not we are sustained by daily doses of chocolate, the four weeks before celebrating Jesus' birth should be a time of preparation ... and patience. With every advertisement telling at us that it is supposed to be "the most wonderful time of the year", any problems we have, especially health issues or loneliness, can seem even more difficult to deal with than usual. That's where the endurance side of patience comes in. However, Advent also offers us wonderful opportunities to show love to others; not just our family and friends, but the homeless who find themselves welcomed into night shelters, or through the Women's Refuge, gifts for children who otherwise would not be receiving any Christmas presents at all.

Maybe, this Advent, rather than counting down our sleeps until the Big Day, we could switch the focus: ask for strength to be patient with whatever problems we might be struggling with, as well as taking every chance which comes along to share blessings. Maybe that could even be more satisfying than daily treats....

With every blessing,



CHURCH NEWS

SMART



The last SMART meeting of the year will take place on Thursday 5 December in the Church Hall at 2pm.

"CHRISTMAS IS COMING!" Carols and plenty of Christmas fare. Please bring a friend or family member to join in with singing.

There will be no meeting in January as SMART will begin again in February 2025.

February 6 "GAMES & CRAFT AFTERNOON" Please come ready to join in and bring a game of chess, scrabble, draughts - something that takes about 30-40 minutes to play OR bring some craft to do on your lap.

ST MARK'S CRAFT GROUP



The group meet monthly in each other's homes and new members are most welcome. Contact Cherith Baldry or Sarah Cousins for details.

As well as our St. Mark's Knitters, some ladies at Wraymead Place also knit for us. All the blankets, soft toys and babies/children's items are packed up and sent to The Phoenix Group who distribute them to wherever there is political unrest, natural disaster or severe weather.

Patricia Bird



Marion, Chris and Pauline of Wraymead Place.

These items have been sent off in time for Christmas.



News from the Church of England

Teaching the Lord's Prayer across the North of England

The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell plans to teach the Lord's Prayer across the North of England throughout 2025, a priority of his vision for Faith in the North. Archbishop Stephen is to visit dioceses in the Northern Province of the C of E where he will be sharing the relevance of the Lord's Prayer to our world today, encouraging people to pray and live by this, as part of their missionary discipleship.

Archbishop Stephen is encouraging prayer, storytelling and church planting inspired by the Northern Saints such as Hilda, Cuthbert, Bede and Paulinus. The aim is to foster deeper connections with the Christian faith across the north and renew the Church's missionary purpose to share God's love with all.

Archbishop Stephen said, "In less than 70 words, Jesus gives us a prayer to learn by heart and a prayer that gets inside our hearts, shaping the way we live. The Lord's Prayer surely is the best place to start. It is said in every church service, from the coronation of the King to the christening of a child. It's a challenging prayer and when we say this prayer together, we become part of God's movement of change, of bringing God's heaven to earth. It teaches us how to pray. But it also teaches us how to live".

Faith in the North is a movement of prayer and strategic resourcing which aims to help recapture the missional energy and commitment to prayer of the Anglo-Saxon saints leading towards 2027, with the celebration of the 1400th anniversary of the establishment of the Church of Saint Peter in York and baptism of King Edwin by Paulinus in 627.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.



Pilgrimage

We are all pilgrims of one sort or another and are all at different stages in our pilgrimage. Physical pilgrimages might be along Pilgrims Way to Canterbury, to Lourdes in Northern Spain or even along the Appalachian Trail in America which was conquered by a grandson of mine. We can make the pilgrimage on foot, on a bicycle, in a car, on a horse, in a ship or in an aeroplane but our pilgrimage may just be the route we have taken in different parts of our life.

If an accident or an illness occurs at any stage in our journey we just hope there will be a fellow pilgrim or friend to help us with that set-back. In the mountains of the Alps, St Bernard dogs help us along our way. Similarly, in our lifetimes pilgrimage we hope there will be a helping hand as might be in the case on a mountain. Let us hope that each one of us can be a helping hand to those in trouble.

The Good Samaritan was a good story of how one should support those in trouble. So, what can we do while on a pilgrimage? We can enjoy the beautiful countryside whereas in other times we can be too busy to appreciate it fully. We can think through the course we have taken before this time and resolve to take the best course at the end of this part of our journey. As Christians we might seek guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayer.

We can laugh and joke with fellow pilgrims on the way and sympathise with them in any troubles they have. We can sing with others if you are so inclined. A good song can help us along our way.

We might raise money for a charitable cause we are keen on, having found sponsors before we depart.

Finally, when we get to the end of that pilgrimage, or part of a pilgrimage, we can reflect on the fun we have had and look forward to what we might do next.

Ian Archer



All in the month of December

It was:

1750 years ago, on 25 Dec 274 that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion. He erected a temple and declared 25 December a national holiday, to be known as the Feast of the Unconquered Sun. In 336, after

the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, 25 December began to be celebrated by the church in Rome as the birthday of God's Son.

200 years ago, on 21 Dec 1824 that James Parkinson, British surgeon and politician, died. He was the first person to describe Parkinson's disease, in 1817.

125 years ago, on 5 Dec 1899 that Henry Tate, British sugar merchant and philanthropist, died. He established the Tate Gallery in London.

75 years ago, on 13 Dec 1949 that Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, replacing Tel Aviv.

60 years ago, on 3 Dec 1964 that Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record and became the only person to break both the land speed record and the water speed record in the same year.

50 years ago, on 5 Dec 1974 that the last episode of the TV comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* was broadcast in the UK. It had begun in October 1969.

40 years ago, on 19 Dec 1984 that the Sino-British Joint Declaration was signed by Britain and China. Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on 1 July 1997.

Also 40 years ago, on 31 Dec 1984 that the Bank of England stopped producing one pound notes. They remained legal tender until 1988.

30 years ago, on 9 Dec 1994 that Sinn Fein held its first formal talks with the British government. This eventually led to the IRA ceasefire, the Good Friday Agreement, and the establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998.

25 years ago, on 1 Dec 1999 that an international team of scientists working for the Human Genome Project announced that they had mapped an entire human chromosome (number 22). In April 2003 they announced that they had mapped all human chromosomes.

Also 25 years ago, on 2 Dec 1999 that the UK devolved political power in Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee.

Also 25 years ago, on 31 Dec 1999 that the London Eye – the world's tallest Ferris wheel at the time, was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. It opened to passengers in March 2000.

20 years ago, on 26 Dec 2004 that the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also called the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.



Recognising Ourselves

I guess that none of us thinks we look like our own photographs. When we hear our recorded voices, we do not think they sound at all like us. We have no idea what our own smell is. It is a good job we never meet ourselves at a party. We'd never recognise us.

If we think these attributes don't do us justice, it is probably due to our vanity. If we think our attributes are overrated maybe it is through our humility?

So many think that with cosmetic help our appearance might be improved, but perhaps that is wishful thinking. As a man we can be conscious of a lack of hair on our head, or the greying of what is there. Still, perhaps we can grow a beard to look more virile, or shave off our hair to disguise any deficiency or to abide to a current fashion. Although ties and hats were worn by men, they have largely disappeared, although I still wear a tie to disguise a scraggy neck.

As a woman one can use cosmetics to improve what is there and an expensive hairdresser or chiropodist can do wonders. Some even choose body surgery of some kinds to hopefully make things to their own liking.

New clothes can cheer us up but nowadays instead of wearing special clothes such as evening or morning dress so many wear shorts to so many occasions, and if from down under, bare feet. In the Navy we wore bow ties every evening for dinner which made those meals always special.

When asked to a special party women can say "I have nothing to wear!" That sounds unusual but really means "I must buy a new dress!"

Jesus said "Why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?"

Ian Archer



Peace

You don't have to be a Quaker to desire peace but you may need to be Quaker-like to achieve it. Many of us have experienced the enormous joy following the birth of a healthy baby. And it lasts a long time notwithstanding the sleepless nights and constant tiredness. Christmas is a time when we consciously value the new hope which comes from new birth be it a child or a new idea.

At Christmas we share the joy in the birth of the Saviour. It was in the most difficult circumstances of a journey in winter with the only shelter an animal barn so that a feeding stall took the place of a cradle. Yet nevertheless happiness arrived. So, Christmas is a story of joy in privation with all the portents of the life to come, and many new ideas.

It is a time when traditionally we think of others and give presents as a token of our regard for them. The heart of the experience remains the contemplation of an act of God and so we use the opportunity to think of others, our neighbours as the second commandment emphasises.

The great religions differ in their view of God, but most contain a core of advice for good living valuing such qualities as kindness and love. We have never been more in need of this message of loving others as we are today. The attitude of self-interest first has run strongly for centuries and two millennia after His ministry we are still struggling to adopt this selfless view of loving others as we do ourselves.

So, are humans inherently self-interested? When a Foreign Secretary favoured a moral foreign policy he was quickly howled down and we have heard no more of that "nonsense. He should defend our interests." It's understandable. Just fancy giving priority to others only to find that in return they exploit us. Loving others involves risk.

However, the policy of self-interest adopted not only by individuals (perhaps without a thought) but governments also, has often resulted in an even worse outcome than at the beginning. Even victors have later found that their victory has only set the scene for the next conflict. The wise recognise that wars solve nothing. So perhaps it is time we gave the alternative of an understanding approach another chance.

What can we do about it?

Well, the Quakers are just as powerless as the rest of us but they seem not to accept that. For example, during the depths of the Troubles in Northern Ireland it was the Quakers who ran safe houses where proponents on both sides could meet and consider wider interests than their own.

I suppose the first step is to put on not only the present shoes of the other person but also the cloak of his history and how he himself has been treated or brought up. That should improve our understanding of the condition and motivations of the person we are dealing with and perhaps with a little modesty and humility, understand how he sees us. We can begin with him by exploring common ground and areas we can agree on before we take the next careful steps along the way to mutual understanding and if not agreement at least how to live peacefully with each other.

In relation to the behaviour of governments this may sound all pie in the sky. But bellicose behaviour and wrong appraisals which have occurred so often in the past with less destructive weapons have led to war. So perhaps it's time to try the approach of step by step understanding our opponents and seeking common ground the prize there is peace.

But the history of the COPs, including the present one, COP29, is that from the beginning it was recognised that the members would not accept enforcement. Accordingly, many right sounding agreements have proved to be promises they had no intention of keeping. There were no policies or strategies. Coping with this situation has meant that, for example, this year the emphasis has changed to compensation for the developing world for not getting the chance to pollute the world.

Maybe those countries are only using the opportunity of getting something for themselves and I have doubts that such aid will end up to the benefit of the populations. The donors may be using this as yet another way of taking the light off the changing climate. What effect do such payments have on reducing pollution of the environment?

A skilled negotiator should be able to recognise in advance the kinds of action which may be taken to avoid real commitment to change to the mutually desirable aim of saving our world. His job then is to get such ploys ruled out at an early stage not twenty-nine years later.

I say this to demonstrate that the approach of engaging and discussion with one's neighbour carries its own risks but at least it is worth a try instead of the mutual recrimination and bellicose behaviour we are used to, the rational outcome of which is war. Whether we are talking about personal engagements or government policy, the prize on offer is Peace and a co-operative approach to, nuclear weapons and the facing climate change. That is worth more than a thimble full of patience.

Harry Ingram

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st December 1st Sunday of Advent – “Green Sunday”

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in the Hall
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in the Hall and Online
4.00pm Family Service – in the Hall

Wednesday 4th December 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 5th December 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
2.00pm SMART

Sunday 8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 11th December 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 12th December 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Thursday 19th December 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 21st December 8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
6.00pm Carol Service – in Church and Online

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib and Christingle Service
9.00pm First Communion of Christmas

Weds 25th December Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Family Eucharist – in Church and Online

Sunday 29th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2025

Wednesday 1st January Naming of Jesus

Thursday 2nd January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 5th January The Epiphany – “Green Sunday”

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in the Hall

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in the Hall and Online

4.00pm Family Service – in the Hall

Wednesday 8th January 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 9th January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 12th January The Baptism of Christ

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00 am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 15th January 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 16th January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 18th January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins

8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 19th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 22nd January 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 23rd January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 25th January Conversion of St Paul

Sunday 26th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

4.00pm Taizé Prayer

Wednesday 29th January 3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 30th January 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



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.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''.* Matthew 1:23.

Parish Pump

Prayer for December

Father, the days are short; darkness deepens in December and this year it seems to reflect the darkness in so many parts of the world.

We think especially of the land You came to, all those years ago, and other nearby lands where so many are suffering.

Father, thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.

Thank you that, in Jesus, You have conquered death and darkness; that one day, everyone will bow before Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, whose Kingdom shall never end.

Help us, in thankfulness and love, to share Your Christmas Light and Hope and Joy.

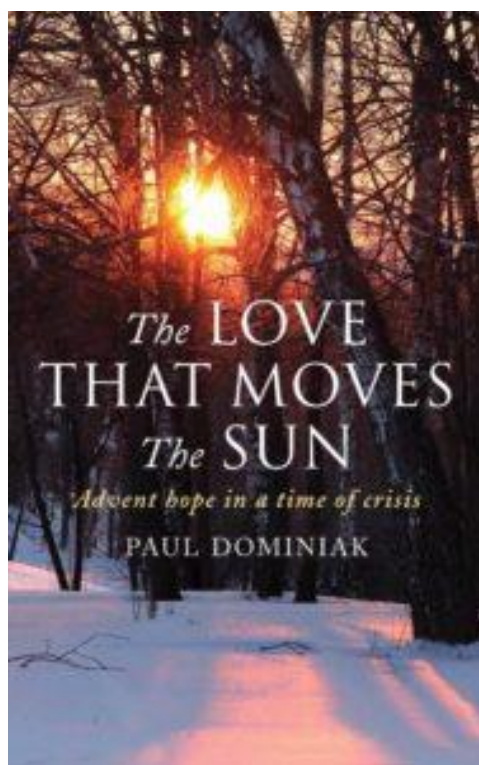
Hallelujah!

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daphne Kitching

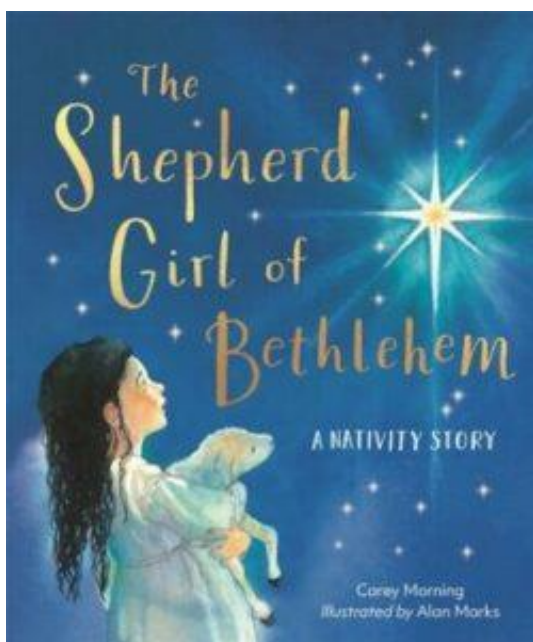


Book Reviews



The Love That Moves the Sun – Advent hope in a time of crisis **By Paul Dominiak**

The season of Advent traditionally involved meditation upon the Four Last Things: heaven, hell, death, and judgement. This ancient but nearly lost sacred art of contemplation encouraged Christians to evaluate who they were, what they treasured and how they ought to live in view of the world to come. *The Love That Moves the Sun* revives this ancient practice and blends it with contemporary concerns such as climate emergency, rise of populism, racial injustice and economic inequality.



The Shepherd Girl of Bethlehem – a Nativity story **By Carey Morning**

A little shepherd girl loves her father greatly, and adores spending time with him on the hillside, tending his flocks. But one night, he is called away and she can't find him. She anxiously searches high and low, eventually finding him at a stable in Bethlehem, where her journey ends with a most glorious discovery.

Have you recently read a good book? Tell us about it.
Email office@stmarksreigate.co.uk with your book review.



RECIPES

Pesto and cheese Christmas tree

This pesto Christmas tree recipe from BBC Food is the perfect festive party food. Ideal for those afternoon parties with kids and adults.

Ingredients

- 2 x 320g/11½oz packets ready-rolled puff pastry
- 50g/1¾oz pesto
- 80g/3oz cheddar, grated
- 1 free-range egg, beaten
- 2 tsp sesame seeds, optional
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4 and line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Lay the two sheets of puff pastry one on top of the other on the lined baking tray, taking care not to allow them to stick together. Cut into a long triangle shape. Cut a little stump for the end of your tree at the wider end, remove and reserve any scraps of pastry covered in the fridge.
3. Carefully peel the top layer of pastry off the 'tree' and set to one side.
4. Spread the pesto over the base and sprinkle with the cheese before sandwiching the base with the reserved layer of pastry to cover.
5. Starting at the pointed end, using a sharp knife, cut evenly spaced lines on each side that get longer towards the base of the tree. Make sure to leave a gap running up the middle as the trunk of the tree.
6. Starting on one side, take two of the strips and twist them together. Repeat on both sides.
7. Remove any scraps from the fridge and, using a cutter (or just with a knife freehand) cut decorative stars, placing a large one at the top of the tree and smaller ones along the middle.
8. Brush with beaten egg all over, season to taste with salt and pepper and sprinkle with the sesame seeds, if using.
9. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes. Allow to cool slightly before serving.

Recipe Tips

If you do not like pesto, you could use sun-dried tomato paste or yeast extract instead.

You can also make sweet puff pastry Christmas trees in the same style but with chocolate spread inside. Dust with icing sugar for a festive touch.



A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church

Leaving a legacy

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference to churches. Each year, gifts in wills, ranging from £100s to £100,000s are received. Faithful witnesses leaving generous legacies have enabled churches to invest in their buildings, pioneer new ministries, and sustain a welcoming presence in their communities.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

To make it easier the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will-writer, so anyone can write a simple will online for free, in as little as 30 minutes. You can find out more by visiting <https://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese> .

We strongly advise seeing a solicitor for more complicated wills, or for people wishing to review their existing will or add a codicil.

A gift for future generations

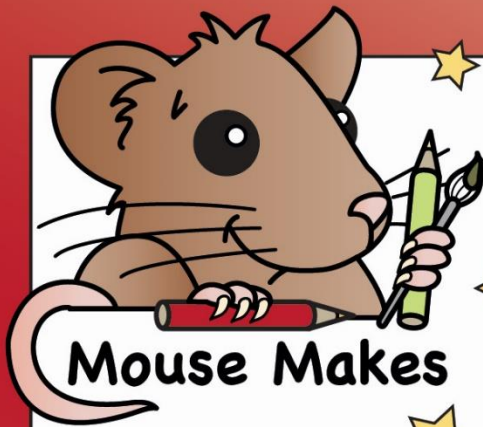
After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider leaving a gift in your will to St Mark's. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Circumstances change over the years, so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss the most appropriate use of the legacy in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (for example, children and youth, music, buildings).

You may also receive tax benefits for including a gift to St Mark's in your will. A gift in your will to a charity is free of inheritance tax and may also reduce the amount of tax payable on the rest of your will. <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

Please consider leaving a legacy to St Mark's.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer



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

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—
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GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!

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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

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Find the words from the Bible verses too!

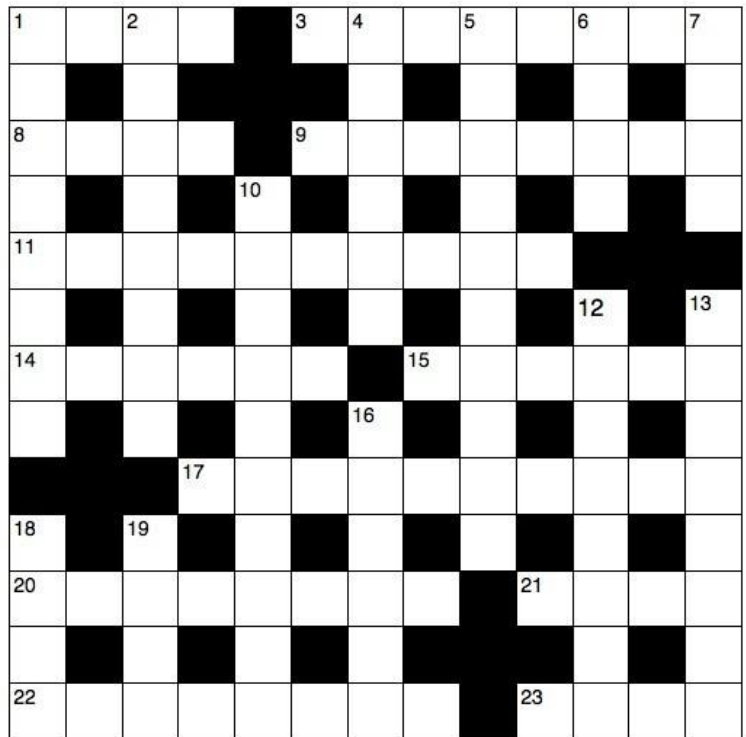
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December Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

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)

November answers

ACROSS: 1 Charioteers 9 Immoral 10 Cairo 11 SAE 13 Inns 16 Firm 17 Accuse 18 East 20 Ogam
 21 Judith 22 Seba 23 Msgr 25 Den 28 Inane 29 Entreat 30 Chrysoprase
DOWN: 2 Human 3 Rare 4 Oils 5 Ecce 6 Raising 7 Citizenship 8 Commemorate 12 Assail 14 Sat
 15 Scouse 19 Sabbath 20 Ohm 24 Seeds 25 Deny 26 Nero 27 Star

Puzzles

December Sudoku

	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	

November Solution

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



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