

Winkfield Parish News – December 2020

DEATH OF OUR VICAR, Revd HUW MORDECAI

We are deeply sorry to have to tell you that our beloved Vicar, Huw Mordecai, died on 1st December 2020, in Wexham Park Hospital, after a long illness that was borne with incredible courage and cheerfulness. We send our deepest sympathy to his family and his many friends.

Our Bishop, the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, sent a message that can be found on the Friends and the Parish website.

About this magazine

With continuing lockdown and instability, this magazine has a temporary format. Please check plans with the benefice or Friends' websites:

This edition is dated Sunday, December 6, 2020.

Useful links

Church Services: www.fosmw.com/2012services.pdf

Parish website: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Friend of St Mary's Winkfield: www.fosmw.com/

Who's who in the parish: www.fosmw.com/WHO'S WHO.pdf

A word from Patrick: Loneliness

The problem of loneliness has been very much talked about. It affects all ages but focus has been on our senior citizens. Anyone can face moments of loneliness--times when you long for companionship or when you want to be seen, to be known and to be loved. Whether you're married or single, surrounded by friends and family, or by yourself, this can lead to feelings of being completely being cut off.

We yearn for the human touch and human company that we were created for. The touch that even pets, gadgets and TV will not satisfy.



Genesis reminds us why God created society: "And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Even with perfect creation, Adam was alone and lonely.

It is very distressing to be isolated from family, friends and community, especially in times of illnesses, redundancies, joblessness, separation, divorce or death. These may mean that you find social contact difficult or that you find it hard to maintain friendships, or you may feel isolated because of stigma and discrimination. Only those in such situations understand that sinking or discarded feeling of sorrow. Mother Teresa said: "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." The Baring Foundation, reports that "loneliness may bring other problems associated with poor physical and mental health."

The Christmas season can be especially lonely for many. Does Jesus understand these feelings? Does God care? In a very human sense, Jesus *was* alone and sometimes lonely.

Jesus was born in aloneness and loneliness. His guardians Mary and Joseph could not find a Bethlehem NHS bed in any maternity ward or decent shelter. Unlike our Royalty He



had to make do with an animal shelter and manger for His first bed ***'because there was no guest room available for them'***. Not a promising start for a King.

Some people will be spending this Christmas in uncomfortable sleeping bags out in the cold. Yes, yes, the shepherds obliged a visit and angels sung "Glory to God and on earth peace", but Herod was in search of baby Jesus to kill Him. He escaped through the Negev desert to Egypt in Africa, 200 miles away, where He was a refugee. Many children however, did not escape Herod's terror squads. In older life Jesus was continuously hounded and rejected by the religious leaders and teachers. It was a lonely journey as Jesus laments, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling."

His parents didn't fully understand him, and His own brothers didn't believe in him. His companions didn't understand His focus towards His death. The Prophet Isaiah described Him as a man who "was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; one from whom men hide their face." This lonely journey continued to Gethsemane and ultimately to the Cross where in bewilderment He gasps Psalm 22. "My God My God, why have you forsaken me?"

The writer to the Hebrews explains that Jesus learnt what it is to be human. "Though He was God's Son, he learned trusting-obedience by what he suffered, just as we do." "Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

So yes Jesus understands loneliness and cares for the lonely. Through the ages, He has reached out to the lonely through the Church, His people whom He energises with the love of God, propelling each one to reach out to those in distress that we suspect and know are lonely. This is the reason the Church as a people exists. Tangible love, concern and care are the fragrance of Christ through us. That is why Journalist Canon Giles Fraser would say "Church, like therapy, is a space where you are allowed to bring your distress." In 1992, after a terrible traffic accident, my family and I were greatly comforted and encouraged by blood donations and prayer visits from mainly members of St. Thomas Church Kilifi.

It is Christmas when we celebrate the coming of this fragrance. Let us spread this fragrance. Yes, in little ways and bigger ones too. Cards, a meal, an invitation for those without family, time to listen, time to help with chores, lifts to places, and a visit. Let us pray for those that exclude themselves from this love and joy that they may be strong and humble enough to accept to be loved, just as they are. In this way Jesus will find room in our hearts and we will not have turned Him away to some cold stable.

A note from the Editors

A significantly common public response to the Government's attempts to control the spread of Covid-19 contains a strong element of game-playing; "What can we do within the rules?" and not "What can we do within the rules while still helping to control the disease?" All this is in spite of the fact that, in the UK, more than 60,000 people have lost their lives to the disease, and many survivors are suffering from 'Long Covid' – with severe symptoms lasting for months and possibly years. "It cannot happen to me!" But, yes, it still can, and the statistics prove that.

This sorry situation was made all too clear when, a few days after the lockdown on 3 November, the consequences of irresponsible bingeing came to light. There was a steep rise of new cases on 10 November, and the R-factor in our area started to rise. It took 10 days for the R-factor to fall to pre-lockdown levels, and meanwhile more than 2000 people in our 1M. population in our Thames Valley caught the disease – about 500 more than if the bingeing had not taken place. Disastrous and selfish.

We all have to follow intent of public rules, as well as the letter of the law. Doing so will aid not only the number of cases but also lessen the economic consequences. All that bingeing (which was apparently widespread in the country) created a phenomenon whose motivation and effect will have been all too clear to the policy makers, and they will not be so generous in their judgement – and quite right too.

It is wonderful news that successful vaccines are to be rolled out very soon, after monumental measures to test and validate their safety and effectiveness. When enough people have been vaccinated, the capability of Covid-19 to spread will be curtailed, and normal life can resume.

To those who would hold back from vaccination, please try out the following thought-experiment: if you were personally able to distribute vaccination to everybody in a poor country that was suffering severely from the pandemic, would you do so? If not, would you be happy with the moral responsibility of withholding it? If you did want to distribute, why would you wish to deny the corresponding benefits in your own country by abstaining from vaccination yourself, and, by your arguments, seeking to turn others against vaccination?

Notices

Safeguarding

Please visit the Safe Spaces link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/safe-spaces->

as a new addition to the Safeguarding page. For anyone feeling vulnerable, it serves to provide a place to reach-out-to. For some, it may feel like the only safe point-of-contact during these times of isolation.

Camille Jeffs

Parish Safeguarding Officer

safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

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Press release from the Easthampstead Rotarians

Monday 9 November 2020

Media contact: Peter von Bergen,
pavonbergen@gmail.com, 07935 808 790

Community Christmas Draw can benefit local charities and schools

This year, with so many fundraising activities cancelled due to COVID-19, and with our schools open again but subject to strict guidelines, do join the third Community Christmas Draw.

Every penny raised through the Community Christmas Draw 2020 goes to the participating groups!

- ❖ 100% of all ticket sale proceeds go to the participating charities, community groups and schools.
- ❖ First prize is £500, second prize £250, third prize £100, fourth

prize £50, and 10 further £10 prizes.



Community Christmas Draw 2020



The Draw will take place at The Coppid Beech Hotel, Bracknell at 8pm on Monday 21 December. Presentation of the proceeds to the participating groups and winners will be on Wednesday 13 January.

If your local charity, community group, school or youth organisation isn't part of the action yet, check out the Easthampstead Rotary website www.easthampsteadrotary.org and click DETAILS

You can also email Rob Hughes at robis62@btinternet.com or call 07951 816757 for more information.

Previous Bracknell Forest beneficiaries have been The Wayz, South Hill Park, Involve Community Services, and Brackenhale and The Pines Schools.

"How exciting" said a representative from The Pines, "Can't wait to be part of this fabulous event again!"

Since its launch two years ago, Easthampstead Rotarians' Community Christmas Draw has raised almost £20,000 for dozens of local voluntary groups and schools.

Easthampstead Rotarians - Making a Difference in the Community

New members always welcome. Post COVID, we meet most Monday evenings at The Coppid Beech.

For more information, call Brian on 07720 321 526. Check out our website: www.easthampsteadrotary.org

Or follow us on facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/easthampsteadrotaryclub/>



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

[Services within the Parish \(click for pdf\)](#)

As service plans may be affected by government policy, please check on the web to be certain that the service will take place.

St Martins

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
06-Dec	Second Sunday in Advent	9:30 AM	All Together Service
08-Dec	Tuesday	9:15 AM	Zoom - 9:15am Short Morning
12-Dec	Saturday - Chavey Down Carol Service	5:00 PM	Carol service
13-Dec	Third Sunday in Advent	9:30 AM	Holy communion
17-Dec	Thursday	8:15 PM	Zoom - Night Prayer/Compline
19-Dec	Saturday - Chavey Down Carol Service	5:00 PM	Carol service
20-Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	6:00 PM	Family communion
25-Dec	Friday - Christmas Day	9:30 AM	Holy communion
27-Dec	First Sunday Of Christmas	9:30 AM	No service in church today
03-Jan	Epiphany or Second Sunday Of Christmas	9:30 AM	All Together Service
01-Dec	Tuesday	9:15 AM	Zoom - 9:15am Short Morning

St Marys'

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
06-Dec	Second Sunday in Advent	10:00 AM	Family communion
08 Dec	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Morning Prayer

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
10-Dec	Thursday	8:15 PM	Zoom - Night Prayer/Compline
13-Dec	Third Sunday in Advent	8:00 AM	Holy communion
13-Dec	Third Sunday in Advent	10:00 AM	Family Matins
15-Dec	Tuesday	9:15 AM	Zoom - 9:15am Short Morning
20-Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	9:30 AM	Family Praise
20-Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	11:00 AM	Holy communion
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	2:00 PM	Carols & Candlelight
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	3:30 PM	Carols & Candlelight
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	11:30 PM	Holy communion
25-Dec	Friday - Christmas Day	11:00 AM	Christmas Matins
27-Dec	First Sunday Of Christmas	8:00 AM	Holy communion
27-Dec	First Sunday Of Christmas	9:30 AM	No service in church today
27-Dec	First Sunday Of Christmas	11:00 AM	No service in church today
29-Dec	Tuesday	9:15 AM	Zoom - 9:15am Short Morning
03-Jan	Epiphany or Second Sunday Of Christmas	10:00 AM	Family communion
03-Dec	Thursday	8:15 PM	Zoom - Night Prayer/Compline

St Peter's

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
06-Dec	Second Sunday in Advent	8:00 AM	Holy communion
06-Dec	Second Sunday in	11:00	All Together Service

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
	Advent	AM	
06-Dec	Second Sunday in Advent	11:00 AM	Zoom All Together
13-Dec	Third Sunday in Advent	11:00 AM	Holy communion
13-Dec	Third Sunday in Advent	11:00 AM	Zoom Holy Communion
20-Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	8:00 AM	Holy communion
20-Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	11:00 AM	Morning Prayer
22-Dec	Tuesday	9:15 AM	Zoom - 9:15am Short Morning
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	Carols & Candlelight
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	Zoom Carols by Candlelight
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	8:00 PM	Holy Communion by Candlelight
24-Dec	Thursday - Christmas Eve	8:00 PM	Zoom Communion by Candlelight
25-Dec	Friday - Christmas Day	10:45 AM	Holy communion by extension
27-Dec	First Sunday Of Christmas	11:00 AM	No service in church today
31-Dec	Thursday	8:15 PM	Zoom - Night Prayer/Compline
03-Jan	Epiphany or Second Sunday Of Christmas	08:00	Holy Communion
03-Jan	Epiphany or Second Sunday Of Christmas	11:00 AM	All Together Service
03-Jan	Epiphany or Second Sunday Of Christmas	11:00 AM	Zoom-All Together

Zoom

DATE	DAY	TIME	SERVICE
20-Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	11:00 AM	Morning Prayer

Local reports

Bell ringers' report 1 November 2020

Greetings from the bell ringers - we hope you are all managing in this second lockdown.

The tower bells are silent again for the moment, as are our hand bells – we all miss them!!

Harvest Supper was, necessarily, cancelled but the evensong service was very special. The hand bells contributed by ringing a piece called “Harvest Praise” which is an arrangement of “We Plough the Fields and Scatter” and “Come Ye Thankful People Come”.

The following day at the 9.30am service the “hymns” were again provided by the youngsters and we were treated to guitar pieces as well as piano and four of us finished the service ringing our belleplates.

We recorded “The Day Thou Gavest” during the week before lockdown which was used at the start of the Remembrance Day Service and the tower bells were also recorded in readiness.

The Remembrance Day Service was just lovely with many parts of the service recorded in advance (in beautiful sunshine) and then magically put together with John’s zoom service on the day. A superhuman effort by all involved and it was very special, as it always is, but in a different way.

Our annual fireworks event at Chez Bish had to be cancelled because of the lockdown – all very disappointing!

We are all looking forward to December 2nd when we can start ringing our lovely bells again – the tower bells in a limited way and the hand bells spaced out and without the tables. The new normal will seem ok after the lockdown when we could do nothing!!

Please keep February 27th 2021 pencilled into your diaries as we are trying to find a way of running the quiz. Of course we have no idea how Covid-19 will be behaving by then but we will do our best to run this popular event – watch this space!

Take care and keep well,

Jill Glennerster 01344-884071

St Mary's Choir

The re-closing of the church did hamper our plans for November services. However, members and visiting choral singers very kindly agreed to take part in the outside portion of the Remembrance service at the Memorial on the Wednesday before the latest lockdown began. They also sang three hymns and the National Anthem in the church. This was all filmed and incorporated into the zoom service held on Remembrance Sunday. We have plans for December and hope they will be allowed.

We are very grateful to all our visiting singers.

Lesley Philpot

St Mary's Women's Guild

The Guild has continued to meet but once again the date of the Fayre has been changed. It is now March 27. At the meeting in November it was agreed that the December meeting would be changed from 1 December (lockdown) to 8 December so that members could meet before Christmas. The Guild does not meet in January.

Lesley Philpot

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield

Several quotations have been received for an improved sound system and more are expected. Once a decision is made then permission to proceed will be sought from the DAC. Thank you to all who have generously renewed their subscriptions.

Lesley Philpot

Crafty Church and Family Praise

During October these services were very well supported and several of the children read the prayers beautifully for the zoom Remembrance Day service on 8 November.

The Family Praise service was zoomed successfully on November 15 for the first time. Crafty Church on 22 November and Family Praise on 29 November will also be zoomed. Hopefully we will be back in church in December.

Lesley Philpot

Thoughts of all sorts

I am a Pentecostal ...

by Rev'd Patrick Mukholi

I often get asked the question as to what church (wo)manship I subscribe to. To the question, "**Are you a Catholic?**" I say, Yes, I am a Catholic but not a Roman Catholic. I am a Catholic because I embrace all of God's people past, present and future in the whole of the World in Christ's Church.

Are you a charismatic? I say I am a charismatic but not a *charismaniac*. I am a charismatic because I'm open to God's grace, live by that grace and serve others in the grace gifts that the Father in Christ Jesus provided in the power of the Holy Spirit. One definition of Charisma is "a favour with which one receives without any merit of his own, or simply the gift of divine grace."¹ Whereas *Charismania* is a misuse or exaggerated emphasis on the supernatural that lends itself to chaos.

Are you a Pentecostal? I say absolutely. I celebrate Pentecost and rejoice in and hunger for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to provide all the fruit and gifts I need to live a life focused on others' welfare (mission). Each day I wait in silent and not so silent song and prayer for such inspiration and empowering.

Ask me more questions as to why I am a Baptist, an Evangelical, a Congregationalist, a JW (Hah! Not what you are thinking. Jesus' Witness (Acts 1:8)) etc. It is not to say that I am Revd. Face-it-all-ways, no. I am



¹ Thayer and Smith. "Greek Lexicon entry for Charisma". "The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon". 1999.

simply a Spirit empowered Christ follower in mercy called by the Father.

Revd.. Patrick Mukholi Advent 2020

Journeys or lockdown this Christmas?

by Lester Amann

Christmas is a busy time for travel, as many of us venture a great distance to see family or friends again. But this year coronavirus has put an end to all that. Seeing all our loved ones this Christmas will be difficult, if not impossible. Soon we may not be travelling anywhere very much at all.

Have you noticed that the Christmas story is about journeys? It begins with Mary and Joseph travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then, some shepherds receive news from an angel about a special birth. They travel through the night, across dark fields and down unlit streets to search for the baby Jesus.

After this, in an eastern country some wise men see a new star, one that heralds a new king. They leave home and set out with only the star to guide them, and their faith to reassure them that Someone special is waiting at the end of their journey.

All these travellers must have wondered what really lay ahead. Nothing was fully understood, carefully planned for, or safe. They all travelled with questions and uncertainties. But God had come unexpectedly into their lives, and suddenly they were given new roles to serve Him. Despite worldly circumstances that could have crushed them, they stood firm and trusted God all the way.

These travellers' tales tell us that God may suddenly enter into our familiar, or this year, unfamiliar circumstances. He may come in surprising ways, to prompt us into new avenues of service. At first His call on us may be uncomfortable and challenging.

If our response is anything like Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and wise men – to be obedient to His call in serving, witnessing and worshipping, we shall be greatly blessed and rewarded.

We are all on life's journey. If we travel with God, He will be faithful and lead us to His heavenly Home.

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my

watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Christmas Frustration????

Nigel Beeton writes: 'Sometimes Christmas can be a frustrating time. This year I fear may be worse than most, stressful and difficult. But maybe we need to get our frustrations into perspective. I said to God, upon my knees

"O Lord, I am so cross!

"That gift I sent to Aunt Denise

"Within the post is lost!

"That tree I bought for forty

pounds

"(Well, just a penny less)

"Its needles lie upon the ground

"It looks a total mess!"

"I know," said God, "I understand,

"I sent my Son, you know.

"He came to Earth, just as I'd

planned

"Two thousand years ago

"Was born within a stable bare –

"The cattle heard Him cry

"He spoke of love, men didn't care

"They led Him out to die."

"No gift was given with such love

"No higher price was paid.

"He left His throne of light above

"For sin His life to trade.

"But even after all these years

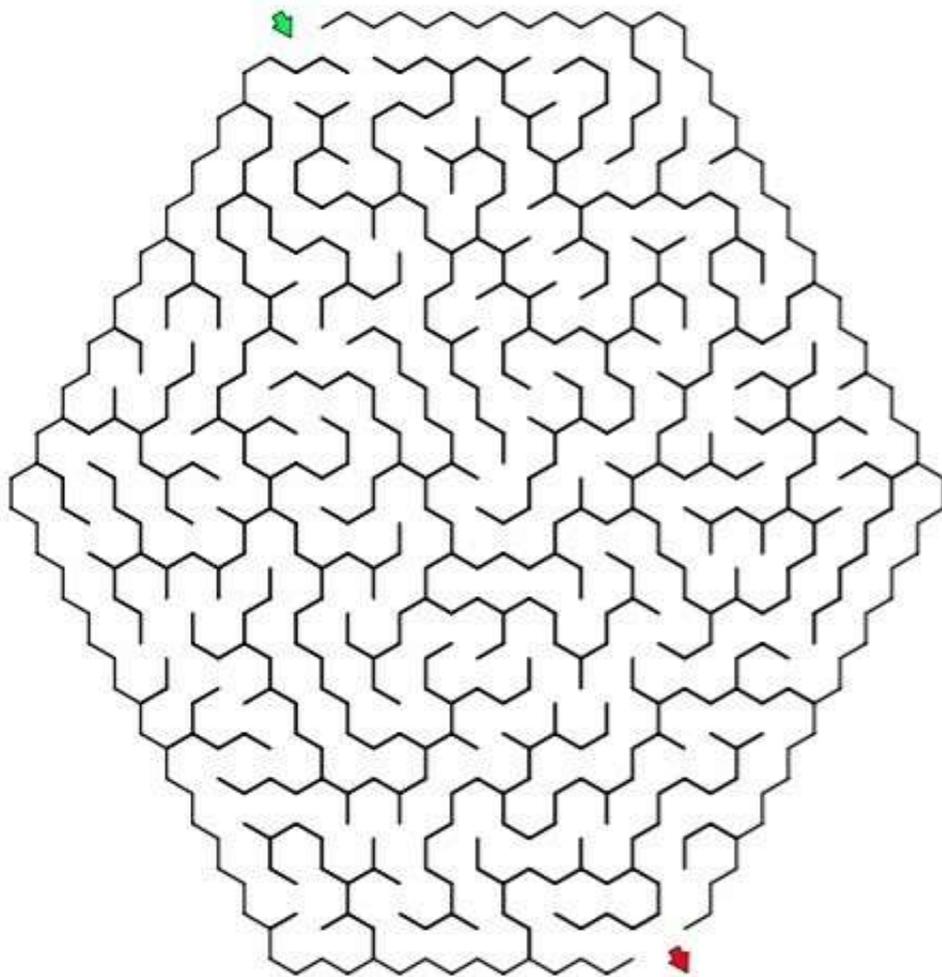
"This gift you men eschew,

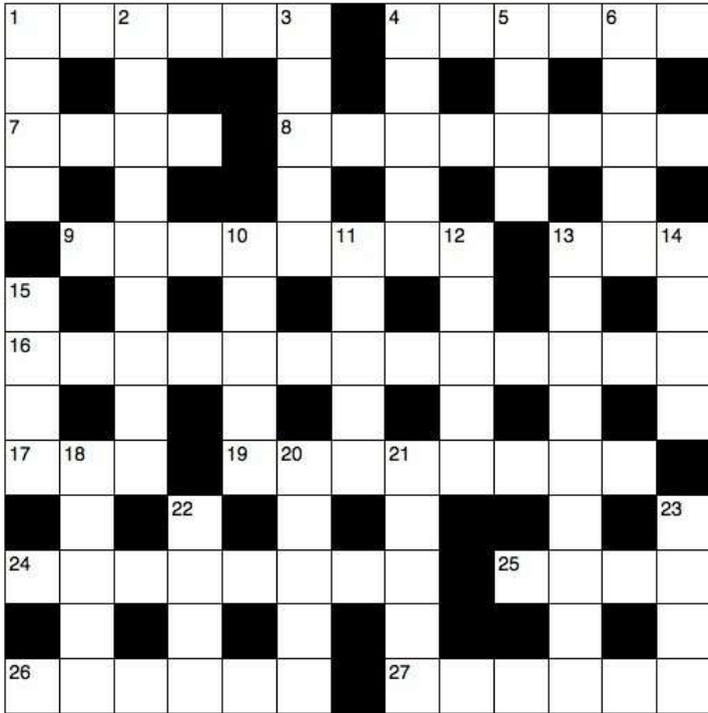
"So Christmas is a time of tears

"For Me, as well as you."

By Nigel Beeton

Puzzles





Crossword Clues and Answers

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)

- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

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

Children's Corner



JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE VERY SPECIAL BABY



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE BY THE CENSUS.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL... THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...



...WHICH IS WHERE THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY. AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAS BEEN BORN.

