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St George's Parish Church Stalybridge

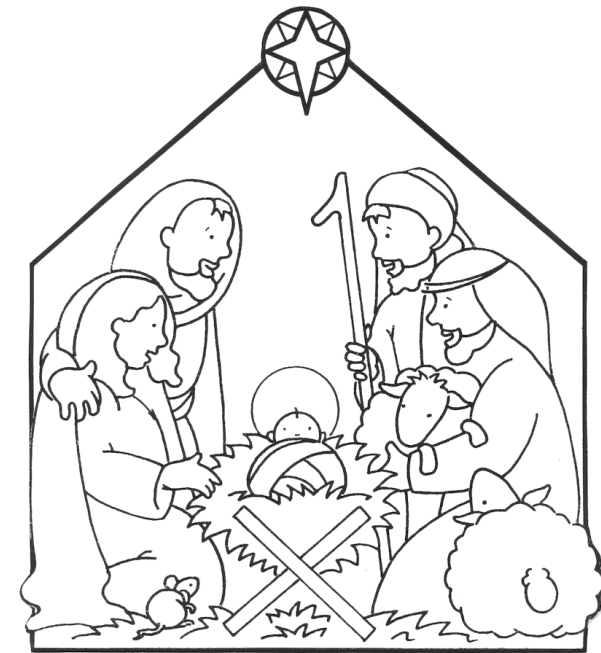


Diocese of Manchester

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

35p

Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men



December 2011

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Vicar		338 2368
Curates	Revd Philip Brierley	303 0809
	Revd Keith Stewart	303 7483

Associate Priest	Revd Doreen Broadbent	330 9085
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Wardens	Ms Janet Vidler	303 7689
	Mrs Gillian Cotton	303 2787

P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs Margaret Smith	338 3702
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Treasurer	Mrs Juliana Stewart	303 7483
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Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Hurst	330 0518
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Room Hire	Mr Norman Quest	338 4691
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Worship

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)
10.45 a.m.	Sung Communion and Sunday School (4 th Sunday – Family Service)
18.00 p.m.	Occasional Special Services as announced

Tuesday

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
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To receive Communion at home when you are sick or housebound, or to have the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance, please contact one of the clergy or Wardens.

For Baptisms, marriages and funerals please phone the Vicarage and follow the information given.

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From the Registers

Baptisms



6 November

Joshua James Smith, Cambridge Street, Stalybridge
Allisa Grace Blinston, Fraser Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

20 November

Lucas Shaun Reilly, Rutland Street, Ashton-under-Lyne
Sophia Rose Dowd, Rutland Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

Funerals



17 November

Norman Spacie (87) Westway, Droylsden

29 November

James Henson (71) Trowbridge Road, Haughton Green,
Denton

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Dec	Dean Stanley	1976	18 Dec	Martha Ireson	1937
2 Dec	Harriet Shenton	1976		Mary Lloyd	1999
	Harold Harrison Rowbottom	1988		Thelma Adnett	2005
	Harry Brayshaw	2001		Edith Brayshaw	2010
4 Dec	Ellen Wooley Lomas	1970	19 Dec	Jonas Ward	2000
7 Dec	Edgar Jones	1990	22 Dec	Jesse Wyld	1991
7 Dec	Moreen Branwood	1943		Gladys Jakeman	1999
9 Dec	Jack Fitchett	1951		Winifred Barnshaw	2005
10 Dec	Jane Anne Greenhalgh	1989	23 Dec	Emma Gudger	1962
	Malcolm James Donald	2008		James Stott	1983
12 Dec	George Woolley Buckley	1990		Sarah Hannah Hague	1981
	Joseph Kinder	1929	24 Dec	Mona Jefferson	1988
13 Dec	Frank Turner	1976	25 Dec	Frank Buckley	1974
14 Dec	Gertrude Barbara Fitchett	1938		James Reedy	1982
	Ernest Ives	1975		Derek Hibbert	1992
	Nora Grace Council	2008		David William Heap	1979
	Philip Edward Davenport	2010		Ivy Holt	2009
15 Dec	William Dyson Duckworth	2010	28 Dec	Emily Rosina Pendleton	1987
16 Dec	Eva Whittingham	1984		Alfred Wilde	1988
	John Hague	1968		Thomas Holt	2009
	Minnie Press	1984	29 Dec	Joan Pickles	2006
	Edith Longden	2008	31 Dec	Alice Shenton	1989
17 Dec	Anthony John David Gough	1993		Joseph Lees	2000
	Bertha Barnfield	1998		John White	2008
	Norman Quest	2001			

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

To have the name of a loved one entered into this special book, and remembered in our intercessions for their anniversary please have a word with one of the wardens or one of the clergy.

The cost for the special inscription is £7.50 per entry



Dear Friends

If you have ever been fortunate enough to travel on a large ship – be it a cruise liner, ferry or merchant ship – then you will know the reliance that these majestic vessels place on the smaller, seemingly less interesting pilot boats whose service is essential for the safe arrival in port.



The season of Advent is not unlike the pilot boat. It seems insignificant, dark and dull, like the failing light and fallen leaves that surround us. The church coverings and clergy vestments are purple. There is impatience for the bright Christmas tree lights, the rousing and joyful carols and the sense of goodwill that pervades the festive season.

However, far from being insignificant, Advent Sunday marks the church's New Year. We begin a new cycle of readings in our services and it is a time of expectant waiting and prayerful lead-up for the great celebration of Christmas. To reach Christmas without this quieter time of reflective preparation is like sailing into port without the pilot boat. The arrival will be buffered, bruised and scratched around the edges. The secular trappings and whirl of activity leave you wondering 'if it's all worth it?' In the words of Max Ehrmann, the American writer, we would do well to "Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence".

As we begin this 'New Year' at St. George's, we will be gaining the services of four new Eucharistic Assistants to help with the chalice at our Sunday services. They are Steve Fallows, Val Fallows, Freda Taylor and Ann Winstanley. The P.C.C. has approved their appointments and this has been confirmed by the Diocese. We hope, very much that they will be welcomed by all.

We are delighted by these appointments but are always in need of more help. Does anyone feel able to act as an Altar Server? At present there are only three people fulfilling this task which, obviously, places a great deal of pressure on them. Spreading the load makes life a little easier for everyone.

As most of you are probably aware, the likelihood of someone being appointed as our full-time parish priest has receded and the Diocese is looking at the possibility of St George's becoming part of a team with three other churches. This is not going to be imminent, however, and so the interregnum, already almost a year old, will be the longest that this church has faced since the mid 1950's.

We are truly blessed with our own 'pilot boats' - the many volunteers who have been maintaining our worship, fabric, practical arrangements, outreach, and financial/legal requirements and helping to steer us along. This working and pulling together fosters a sense of fellowship which is so important at any time, but especially so during a vacancy. At this point I would like to extend my own very grateful thanks to everyone who has supported and encouraged me personally during this past year, both in prayer and in deed – it has helped enormously.

May the eager expectation of Advent and the wondrous celebration of another Christmas bring joy and gladness to all our hearts.

Philip

+++++

Christmas Fair

Thank you to all who made the recent Christmas Fair so enjoyable and a very big thank you to Father Christmas for taking time out to visit us at his busiest time of year, as we had no snow this year his arrival in his modern day sleigh surprised everyone!

At the time of printing over £1200 had been raised with some money still to come in.

A very worthwhile event. Thank you

Wiped out

Just got home and found all the windows and doors open and everything has gone.

What kind of sick twisted person does that to someone's advent calendar?

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Readings and Psalms for December 2011

Sun 4 th	2nd Sunday of Advent	
	10.45	Isaiah 40.1-11; psalm 85.1-2,8-end; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8
Tues 6 th	10.30	Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 96.1,10-end; Matthew 18.12-14
Sun 11 th	3rd Sunday of Advent	
	8.30	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end; John 1.6-8, 19-28
	10.45	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28
	15.00	<i>The Christingle Service</i>
Tues 13 th	10.30	Zephaniah 3.1-2,9-13; Psalm 34.1-6,21-22; Matthew 21.28-32
Sun 18 th	4th Sunday of Advent	
	10.45	2. Samuel 7.1-11,16; Magnificat; Romans 16.25-end; Luke 1.26-38
	18.00	<i>A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols</i>
Tues 20 th	10.30	Isaiah 7.10-14; Psalm 24.1-6; Luke 1.26-38
Sat 24 th	Christmas Eve	
	18.00	<i>A Service of the Blessing of the Crib</i>
	23.45	Isaiah 62.6-end; Psalm 97; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.8-20
Sun 25 th	Christmas Day	
	10.45	Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1-4; John 1.1-14
Tues 27 th	10.30	Exodus 33.7-11a; Psalm 117; John 21.19b-end

8.30a.m. Holy Communion Service from February 2011

During the time that we are without a Vicar - the 8.30a.m. service of Holy Communion will be celebrated only on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Need some odd jobs doing?
Can't get round to finishing the decorating?



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wardens or contact the editor
on 0161 330 0518

Need The Police—Call 101

101—the national single non emergency number is coming to GMP.

From 23 November 101 will be the number that members of the public call when they want to contact GMP—when it's less urgent than 999.

The launch of the new single non-emergency number is part of a national project to make access to the police easier and reduce non-appropriate use of 999.

- *Calls to 101 will cost the local call rate, though mobile rates may vary.*
- *Callers will be connected automatically to their own police force.*
A message will tell them which force they are being connected to and ask them to confirm it is correct—this ensures that people in areas close to Force borders are connected correctly.
- *If callers find they are not being correctly connected an operator from the service provider, Cable and Wireless, will connect the call manually.*



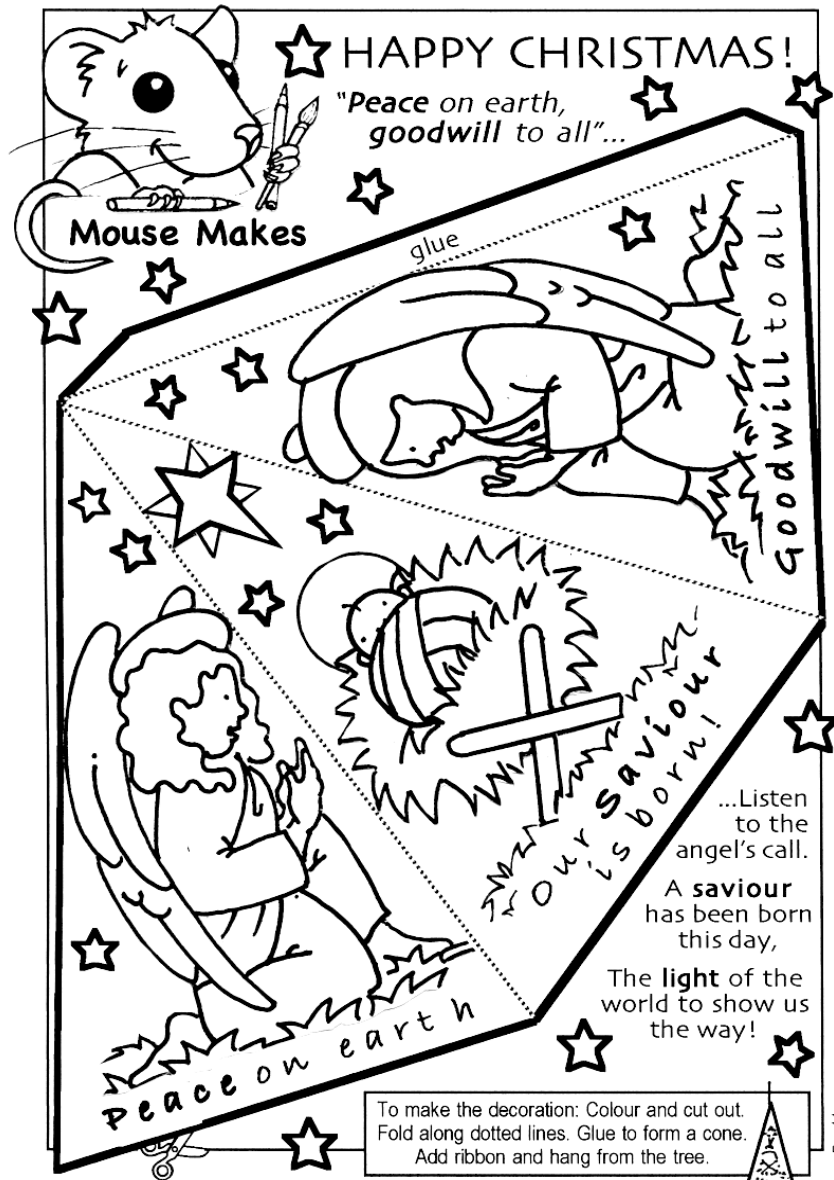
The highlight of Christmas at the vicarage was always 'name the hymn tune' played on comb and paper.

Some dates for your diary - December 2011

Thursday	1st	9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Friday	2nd	3.00pm to 4.00pm Cllr C. Patrick - Surgery
Saturday	3rd	7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Concert
Sunday	4th	Second Sunday of Advent 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist with Guest The Bishop of Middleton The Rt. Revd Mark Davies - Junior Church 12.30p.m. Holy Baptism x 2
Tuesday	6th	10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
Thursday	8th	9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sunday	11th	Third Sunday of Advent 8.30a.m. Holy Eucharist 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist with Guest: Revd. Canon Dr. Ron Cassidy 3.00p.m. Christingle & Toy Service 6.00p.m. Police Carol Service
Tuesday	13th	10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
Thursday	15th	9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sunday	18th	Fourth Sunday of Advent 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church 6.00p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Tuesday	20th	10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
Saturday	24th	CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00p.m. A Service of the Blessing of the Crib with Carols 11.45p.m. Christmas Midnight Eucharist
Sunday	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist
Tuesday	27th	No Morning Service

January 2012

Sunday	1st	10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist
Tuesday	3rd	No Morning Service





Some Christmas Questions Answered!

Christmas: Why does it begin at midnight with Holy Communion?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of his birth.

Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its “domestic convenience” in 1947: “for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time.” (So things don’t change, then!)

Christmas: Where did Christmas trees come from?

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8th century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: “This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you.”

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16th century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us.

Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.

Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

December Wordsearch

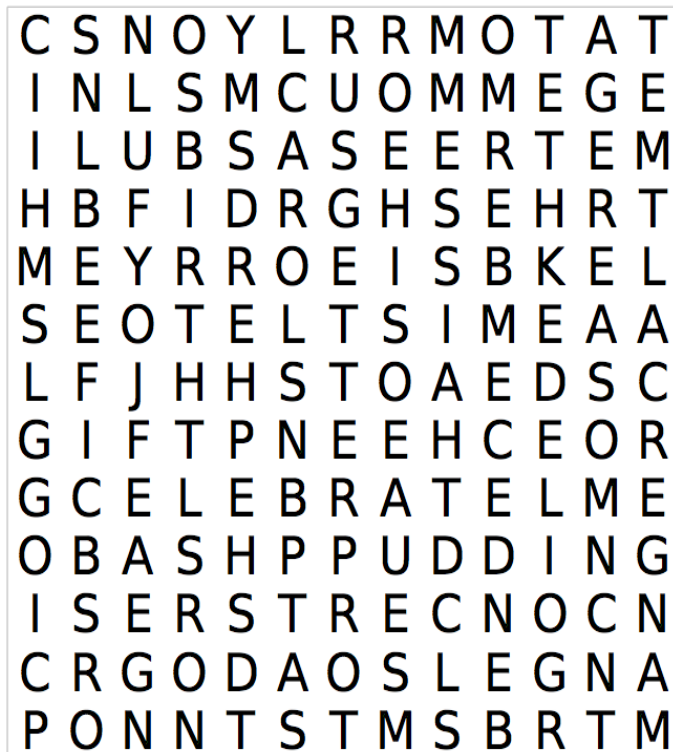
December again! The nights are long and cold, and the days short and dull. But Christmas lights are everywhere, and throughout the month anticipation grows: Christmas is coming! December is never dull: there are Christmas cards to write, Christmas presents to be bought and wrapped, Christmas trees to drag home and decorate, Christmas parties to attend, Christmas puddings and cakes to make, Christmas concerts and carols to enjoy. All to celebrate the coming of the most precious gift of all: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, God’s present to us.

December
Cold
Cards
Presents
Mistletoe

Trees
Concerts
Carols
Pudding
Cake

Messiah
Manger
Bethlehem
Angels
Shepherds

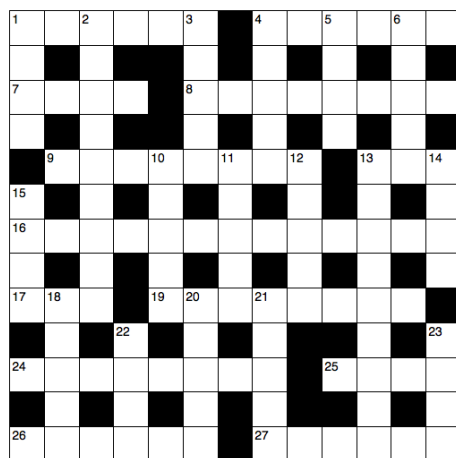
Birth
Busy
Joyful
Celebrate
Gift
Son
Magi



November Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 8, Indescribable. 9, Two. 10, Lying lips. 11, Ennui. 13, Greater. 16, Wrestle. 19, Image. 22, Loincloth. 24, Ebb. 25, Intentionally. DOWN: 1, Little. 2, Adjoin. 3, Psalmist. 4, Crying. 5, A big. 6, Oboist. 7, Censer. 12, Nor. 14, Epiphany. 15, Egg. 16, Welkin. 17, Exists. 18, Euodia. 20, Age-old. 21, Embryo. 23, Cana.

December Crossword



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)

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE AND RAISE MONEY FOR ST GEORGE'S CHURCH



Have you heard about easyfundraising yet?

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgsstalybridge>

It's the easiest way to help raise money for St George's Church Stalybridge.

Online shopping now accounts for over a tenth of total shopping in Britain. If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, M & S, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, Vodafone, Ebay, Boden and Play.com etc. then we need you to sign up for free to raise money while you shop!

So how does it work? - You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally, but if you sign up to—

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgsstalybridge> for free and use the links on the easyfunding site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to St George's at no extra cost to yourself.

How much can you raise? - Spending £100 with M & S online or Amazon raises £2.50 for church. £100 with WH Smith raises £2.00 and so on. There's over 2,000 retailers on their site and some of the donations can be as much as 15% of your purchase.

Save money too! - easyfundraising is FREE to use plus you'll get access to hundreds of exclusive discounts and voucher codes, so not only will you be helping us you'll be saving money yourself.

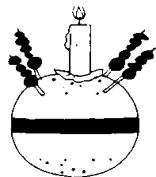
We need your help so sign up at

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgsstalybridge>

A few people spending a few pounds adds up to a lot of pounds so please pass the word to family and friends.

Thank You.

Christmas Services

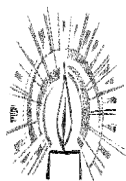


**Sunday 11th Dec at 3 p.m.
Christingle & Toy Service**

Bring a toy to put under the tree for
the Children's Society



**Sunday 11th Dec at 6 p.m.
Police Carol Service**

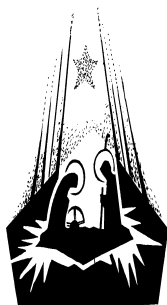


Sunday 18th Dec at 6 p.m.

**Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols by Candlelight**



**Saturday 24th Dec at 6 p.m.
A Service of
The Blessing of the Crib**



**Saturday 24th Dec at 11.45 p.m.
Midnight Eucharist**

**Sunday 25th Dec at 10.45 a.m.
Christmas Day Eucharist**

***Come and worship Christ
the New-born King***



**A
Happy, Joyous and Blessed
Christmas to
All Our Readers and Helpers**



***Carol Singing Round
the Parish***



**The Choir will be singing carols
around the Parish on the following dates.**

**Monday 12th December at 8 p.m.
Carol singing at Blandford House**

**Tuesday 20th December at 8.30 p.m.
Carol Singing at
The Old Fleece, Market Street**

**Wednesday 21st December at 7 p.m.
Carol singing in Heyrod**

