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29 Grosvenor Street, Stalybridge SK15 2JN

St George's Parish Church Stalybridge

Diocese of Manchester

35p



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



December 2014

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Priest-in-Charge Revd Philip Brierley 0161 338 2368

Assistant Priest

Associate Priest Revd Doreen Broadbent 0161 330 9085

Wardens Mrs Gillian Cotton 0161 303 2787

Mr Derek Redeyoff 0161 338 4779

Asst Warden Mrs Rose Hayward 0161 303 1731

P.C.C. Secretary Mrs Chris Crabtree 0161 285 1775

Treasurer Mr Michael Davies 0161 338 5998

Magazine Editor Mrs Linda Hurst 0161 330 0518

Room Hire Mr Norman Quest 0161 338 4691

Worship

Sunday

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)

10.30 a.m. Sung Communion and Junior Church
(4th Sunday – Family Service)

18.00 p.m. Occasional Special Services as
announced

Tuesday

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

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 or Funerals please phone Philip (Priest-in-Charge) on 0161 338 2368. Baptisms are usually conducted at 12.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Dec	Dean Stanley	1976	19 Dec	Jonas Ward	2000
2 Dec	Harriet Shenton	1976	22 Dec	Jesse Wylde	1991
	Harold Harrison Rowbottom	1988		Gladys Jakeman	1999
	Harry Brayshaw	2001		Winifred Barnshaw	2005
4 Dec	Ellen Wooley Lomas	1970	23 Dec	Emma Gudger	1962
7 Dec	Edgar Jones	1990		James Stott	1983
7 Dec	Moreen Branwood	1943		Sarah Hannah Hague	1981
9 Dec	Jack Fitchett	1951		Dorothy Stott	2012
10 Dec	Jane Anne Greenhalgh	1978	24 Dec	Mona Jefferson	1988
	Malcolm James Donald	2008		Audrey Fallows	2012
12 Dec	George Woolley Buckley	1990	25 Dec	Frank Buckley	1974
	Joseph Kinder	1929		James Reedy	1982
13 Dec	Frank Turner	1976		Derek Hibbert	1992
14 Dec	Gertrude Barbara Fitchett	1938		David William Heap	1979
	Ernest Ives	1975		Ivy Holt	2009
	Nora Grace Council	2008		Marion Beatrice Ogden	2013
	Philip Edward Davenport	2010	28 Dec	Emily Rosina Pendleton	1987
15 Dec	William Dyson Duckworth	2010		Alfred Wilde	1988
16 Dec	Eva Whittingham	1984		Thomas Holt	2009
	John Hague	1968		George Henry Burtoft	2010
	Minnie Press	1984		Alan Oldham Miller	2011
	Edith Longden	2008	29 Dec	Joan Pickles	2006
17 Dec	Anthony John David Gough	1993	31 Dec	Alice Shenton	1989
	Bertha Barnfield	1998		Joseph Lees	2000
	Norman Quest	2001		John White	2008
	William Hadfield	2012			
18 Dec	Martha Ireson	1937			
	Mary Lloyd	1999			
	Thelma Adnett	2005			
	Edith Brayshaw	2010			



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 £10 per entry

October Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod. **DOWN:** 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

23 November

Jessica Sarah Louise Vickers, Church Meadow, Hyde

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Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

11 November

Dorothy Mary Scholes (age 73 years) St Kilda's Avenue, Droylsden

13 November

Dorothy Cooper (age 88 years) Richmond House, Stalybridge

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If anyone would like to take up the bread and wine at the offertory—to celebrate a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or just to take part, please have a word with one of the wardens or clergy for any Sunday this year.

Prayer for Christmas Presence

Generous Father,

At this busy time of year, help us to remember the important things. In all the rush of sending cards and giving presents may we make time to be still, to acknowledge your sending and giving of the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Thank you that he didn't stay in the stable in Bethlehem, but lived and died and became the Saviour of all who put their trust in him. May we receive afresh the gift of your presence with us in Jesus, now and for ever, with great thankfulness. In his name, we pray. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR



In mid-November I had my Ministerial Development Review. All clergy in the Manchester Diocese are invited and required to participate in this scheme every eighteen months/two years or so. It is a chance to sit down with a senior member of the clergy to reflect and assess on what is good or bad, encouragements and frustrations and how best to plan the next year or two in ministry and parish life. Prior to the actual meeting, we are asked to submit a 360 degree review of how we see our ministry, together with assessments from two members of the congregation plus one from another priest.

It was at my last review, just over two years ago, that the suggestion that I might become Priest-in-Charge was raised and the process began for this to happen. How time flies!

In the course of the conversation I had with my reviewer, several key issues were discussed. Key issues not just for me, personally, but for the parish as a whole. As has been mentioned previously, with Keith's departure, the need to extend lay ministry, both informal and accredited, is even greater than before.

We are so very fortunate to have many people who assist in worship on a regular basis but there is scope for this to move forward into more formal roles. It is true that a large proportion of our congregation is made up of my "baby boomer" generation or even a little older but, to the best of my knowledge, there is no upper age limit for Authorised Lay Ministry.

The likelihood is that St. George's will, in the not too distant future, be part of a group of parishes who will have to share stipendiary clergy. We need, as a parish, to consider just what this will mean for us week by week. Our Parochial Church Council will be addressing these issues and working on a Mission Action Plan during 2015.

Our parish is still accredited for Ordained Local Ministry and, if and when any coming together of parishes takes place, there is more need than ever for this ministry. Job descriptions for both pastoral care and communication roles within the parish already exist. Are you being called to undertake such a role? Please think deeply and pray about this and don't hesitate to come and have a word with me.

We need to try to reach younger families – many of whom come for baptism, but do not continue with any regular church going. Are there ways in which we can attract them? Personal invitation is usually more effective than other forms of communication. Do you have neighbours who you think may respond if you were to ask?

Talking of neighbours, as we approach the winter, we need to be looking out for each other, especially the elderly. Why not knock on their door to check that they are OK, or if they need anything? On the same day as I had my review (which was where I started), I, personally, experienced two acts of good neighbourliness both as recipient and giver. A neighbour had noticed the light on in my car (trapped seat belt in the door) and didn't want me to face a flat battery the following morning. Later the same evening another neighbour's front door had, accidentally, been left open for a long period so I went to check everything was alright. We all need someone to look out for us.

Next year marks the 175th Anniversary of the consecration of St. George's and we plan to celebrate this milestone in many different ways. As well as looking back on the history and achievements of so many years, it is also an opportunity for renewal and a chance to re-dedicate ourselves to the service of God here in this place.

With my warmest wishes for a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a very happy and healthy year in 2015.

Philip

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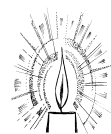
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Christmas Services and Carol Singing



**Sunday 30th Nov at 6 p.m.
Advent Carol Service by candlelight**

**Wednesday 17th December
5.00pm to 7.00p.m.**

Carol Singing at Stalybridge Station

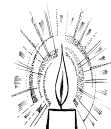
7.00pm

Carol Singing at Heyrod Village Hall



**Sunday 21st Dec at 10.30 a.m.
Christingle & Toy Service
Nativity Play**

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



**Sunday 21st Dec at 6.00 p.m.
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight**



**CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday 24th Dec at 4.00 p.m.
A Service of The Blessing of the Crib
with Carols**

**Wednesday 24th Dec at 11.45 p.m.
First Communion of Christmas**



**CHRISTMAS DAY
Wednesday 25th Dec at 10.30 a.m.
Christmas Day Eucharist**

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"Sometimes I wonder about the
Jones's attitude to Christmas."

CHURCH FINANCES

November 2014 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
2 Nov 2014	All Saint's Day	£77.65	£368.00	£445.65	
9 Nov 2014	Remembrance Sunday	£40.10	£229.60	£269.70	
16 Nov 2014	2nd before Advent	£33.45	£340.50	£373.95	
	Standing Orders etc		£909.00	£909.00	
	Monthly Total			£1998.30	-£1501.70

** Assuming £10 per adult per week needed for running the church this means we need £3,500 per month*

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November 200 Club Winners

The 200 Club winners for November are:

1st Prize	£30	52	Jojo Sykes
2nd Prize	£15	44	Sheila Finan
3rd Prize	£ 5	31	Christine Amsdon

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Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.



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NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!



***Now open Willow Wood's new Coffee Shop is situated at
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***Cappuccinos, lattes and even just a good old cup of tea
are all available together with biscuits, home made cakes
and scones.***



***Why not call in for a cuppa and a light snack and
pick up a bargain at the same time?!***
Open 10.00am—3.30pm Monday—Saturday

Readings and Psalms for December 2014

Tues 2 nd	10.30	Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-4,18-19; Luke 10.21-24
Sun 7 th	2nd Sunday of Advent	
	10.30	Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2,8-end; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8
Tues 9 th	10.30	Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 96.1,10-end; Matthew 18.12-14
Sun 14 th	3rd Sunday of Advent	
	8.30	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end; John 1.6-8,19-28
	10.30	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28
Tues 16 th	10.30	Zephaniah 3.1-2,9-13; Psalm 34.1-6,21-22; Matthew 21.28-32
Sun 21 st	4th Sunday of Advent	
	10.30	Luke 1.26-38 Christingle, Toy and Nativity Play
	18.00	A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Tues 23 rd	10.30	Malachi 3.1-4,4.5-end; Psalm 25.3-9; Luke 1.57-66
Wed 24 th	Christmas Eve	
	16.00	A Service of the Blessing of the Crib
	23.45	Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14
Thurs 25 th	Christmas Day	
	10.30	Isaiah 62.6-end; Psalm 97; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.1-20
Sun 28 th	The Holy Innocents	
	8.30	Jeremiah 31.15-17; Matthew 2.13-18
	10.30	Jeremiah 31.15-17; Psalm 124; 1 Corinthians 1.26-29; Matthew 2.13-18
Tues 30 th	10.30	1 John 2.12-17; Psalm 96.7-10; Luke 2.36-40

Why Rudolph really does have a red nose

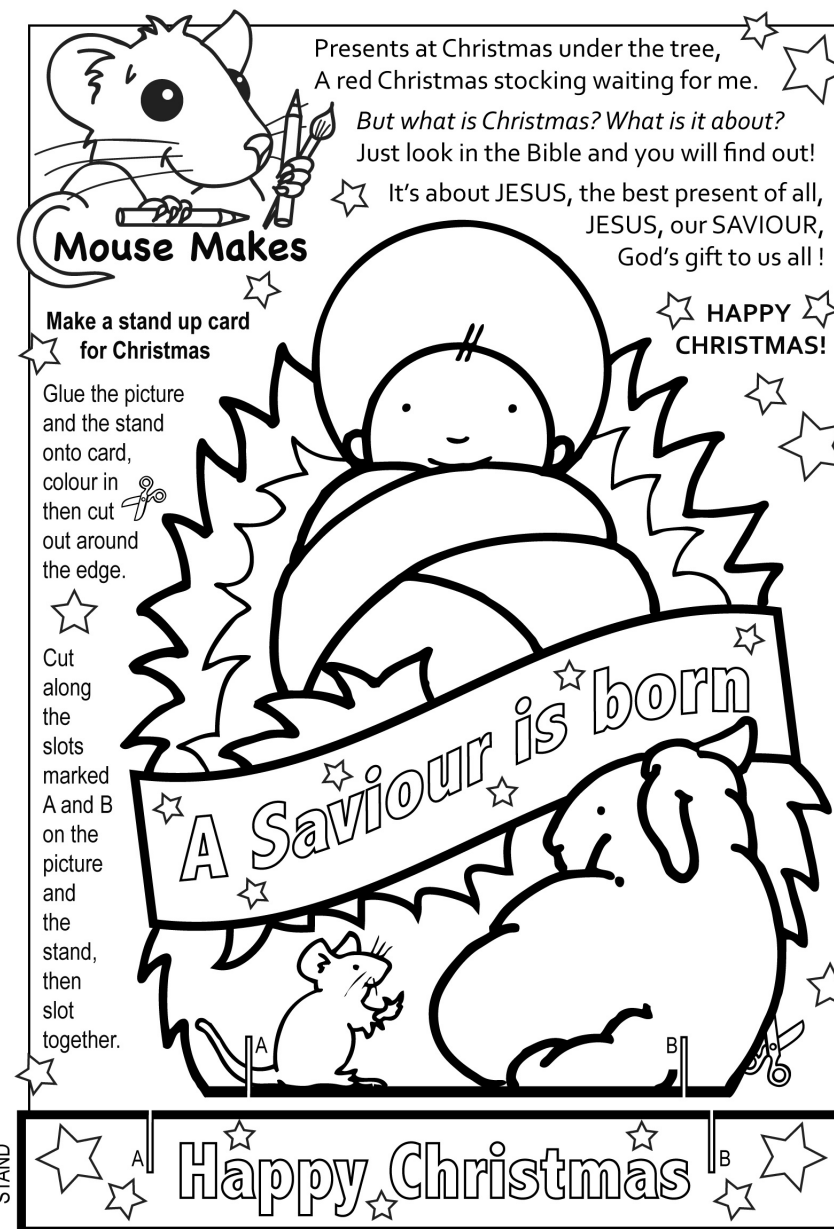
As Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer celebrates his 75th birthday this month, it has been discovered that the red nose may well have some basis in scientific fact.

Researchers in Sweden have used thermal imaging cameras to capture the heat from reindeer as they graze, and discovered that while most of a reindeer body is well insulated, their noses glow bright orange, due to the large amounts of heat that they release. The reason is simple: reindeer have a high concentration of blood vessels in their nose and lips to help keep those areas warm and sensitive as they rummage through snow, looking for food.

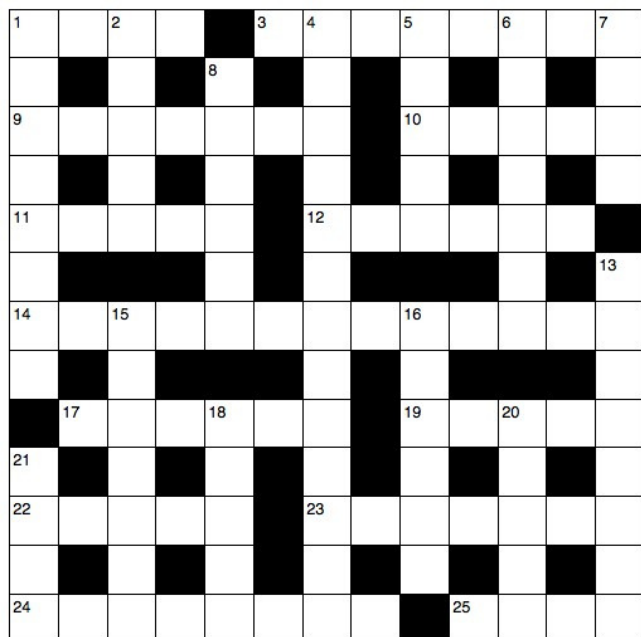
A colouring page for Rudolph's birthday



Children's page



December Crossword



Across

1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4), 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8), 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7), 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5), 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5), 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6), 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13), 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6), 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2), 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5), 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7), 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8), 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

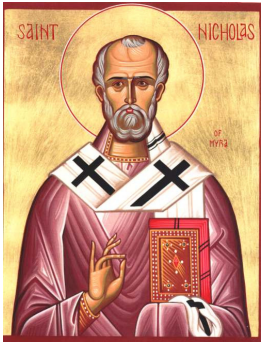
Down

1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — —' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5), 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3), 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13), 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5), 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7), 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4), 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6), 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8), 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7), 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6), 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5), 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5), 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

Some dates for your diary - December 2014

Mon	1st	7.00p.m.	New Seekers Bible Group
		7.30p.m.	Deanery Synod at St. Mary, Droylsden
Tues	2nd	7.30p.m.	Willow Wood Choir - Christmas Musical Extravaganza
Thurs	4th	7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	7th	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 1
Tues	9th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Thurs	11th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sat	13th	1.00p.m. to 2.00pm	Tameside Community Voices singing in The Arcades Shopping Centre, Ashton
Sun	14th	8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Mon	15th	7.30p.m.	Memorial Service hosted by Elizabeth Way Funeral Services
Tues	16th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	17th	5.00p.m. to 7.00p.m.	Carol Singing on Stalybridge Railway Station
		7.00p.m.	Carol singing in Heyrod
Thurs	18th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
		7.30p.m.	Deanery Mission & Pastoral Committee
Sat	20th	10.00a.m.	Making the Christingles
Sun	21st	10.30a.m.	Christingle and Toy Service with Nativity Play
		6.00p.m.	A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight
Tues	23rd	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	24th	CHRISTMAS EVE	
		4.00p.m.	A Service of the Blessing of the Crib with Carols
		11.45p.m.	Christmas Midnight Eucharist
Thurs	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY	
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist
Sun	28th	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist
Tues	30th	No Service of Holy Communion today	

For more information please go to our website www.stg.org.uk



Saint of the Month

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326

6 December

Nicholas, one of the most popular saints in both Greek and Latin Churches, is something of a mystery. All that can be said for certain is that he was Bishop of Myra, (Lycia in modern Turkey) at the beginning of the fourth century. He was buried outside of his city, facing towards the sea. His legend says that he was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution of 303–4, and was one of the signatories of the Council of Nicea, although there is no record of his name on any of the lists of bishops at the Council.

Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors and of children. His legend speaks of him giving three girls a dowry to prevent them having to enter prostitution when their family fell on hard times. He delivered the gifts at night to avoid detection. He is also believed to have raised to life three drowned boys, and saved three unjustly convicted sailors from death.

Nicholas was honoured from early after his death, being buried in an artistic mausoleum, which became a place of pilgrimage. His legend can be traced back to the sixth century, and was embellished in the mid ninth century. His remains were translated to Bari in the Puglia region of Italy in 1087, and his cult became popular in the West from that time onwards. His relics are still held in Bari.

He is especially popular in Russia. In Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands Nicholas is customarily known as the provider of gifts to children on 6 December (his feast day). Dutch settlers in North America merged this legend to Nordic folklore that tells of a magician who punished naughty children and rewarded good ones, to create the modern figure of Santa Claus (Dutch for Saint Nicholas).

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Angels from the realms of glory!

Angels will be making an appearance on streets and in night-clubs across the country this Christmas.

Not the dressed in white, halo and wing type you see on Christmas cards and in Nativity plays but more like the 'here to help you' type!

Street Angels first landed on the streets of Halifax in West Yorkshire in November 2005. With a vision to do something within the weekend of the night-time town centre, that had gained a Wild West of West Yorkshire reputation, a few local Christians set out to open a 'safe place café' on Friday and Saturday's between 9pm and 3am. Amazingly 50 people also turned up to help, and the group took flight out of the cafe into the town centre to help and connect with those out and about.

The scheme worked - hundreds of people received help, violent crime was reduced by 42% in the first 12 months and the Street Angels became a massive part of the answer in changing the culture of Halifax town centre.

Other towns started to look at Street Angels for themselves. By 2008, Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Network was launched to support and resource anything the church was doing to reach out to the night-time economy. We discovered a group in Belfast who had put a table out serving hot drinks since 1995, and a group in Dundee patrolling the centre since 2000.

CNI Network linked projects now operate in 120 towns across the UK and in Spain. Each week we are out with flip-flops, lollipops and water offering safe people and safe places to the tens of thousands of people who enjoy a night out. We are there for anyone - those wanting a chat, the vulnerable (be it elderly people leaving a theatre to a young person waiting for the last bus home), the homeless, those who work in town centres at night as well as the clubbers. These angelic teams are making the difference and have changed a culture - recent reports show that over the last decade alcohol related violence and A&E admissions have reduced year on year.

So as you sing "Angels from the realms of glory" this Christmas spare a thought and a prayer for those teams of Angels on the streets, in the night-clubs and in the parks who are modern-day shepherds watching over the flocks by night!

For more information and to download the eBook visit: www.cninetwork.org.uk