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## St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

35p

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**December 2016**

# St George's Church Stalybridge



## Clergy

**Vicar** Revd Philip Brierley 0161 338 2368

**Wardens** Mr Derek Redeyoff 0161 338 4779

Mrs Janet Vidler 0161 303 7689

**Deputy Wardens** Mrs Rose Hayward 0161 303 1731

Mrs Gillian Cotton 0161 303 2787

**P.C.C. Secretary** Mrs Lynn Moon 0161 338 5773

**Treasurer** Mr Michael Davies 0161 338 5998

**Magazine Editor** Mrs Linda Hurst 0161 330 0518

**Room Hire** Mrs Janet Vidler 0161 303 7689  
email: stgwarden@hotmail.co.uk

## Worship

### Sunday

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

10.30 a.m. Sung Communion and Junior Church  
(4<sup>th</sup> 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 Philip or one of the Wardens.

**For Baptisms, Marriages or Funerals please phone Philip (Vicar) 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
11 Dec	Neil Kershaw	2013	25 Dec	Frank Buckley	1974
12 Dec	George Woolley Buckley	1990		James Reedy	1982
	Joseph Kinder	1929		Derek Hibbert	1992
13 Dec	Frank Turner	1976		David William Heap	1979
14 Dec	Gertrude Barbara Fitchett	1938		Ivy Holt	2009
	Ernest Ives	1975		Marion Beatrice Ogden	2013
	Nora Grace Council	2008	28 Dec	Emily Rosina Pendleton	1987
	Philip Edward Davenport	2010		Alfred Wilde	1988
15 Dec	William Dyson Duckworth	2010		Thomas Holt	2009
16 Dec	Eva Whittingham	1984		George Henry Burtoft	2010
	John Hague	1968		Alan Oldham Miller	2011
	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			
	William Hadfield	2012			
18 Dec	Martha Ireson	1937			
	Mary Lloyd	1999			
	Thelma Adnett	2005			
	Edith Brayshaw	2010			

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## 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 Philip.

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

*We welcome into the Lord's family*

#### **20 November**

Amy Leigh Booth, Minto Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

Oscar Joshua Dean Booth, Minto Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

Harry Joshua Richard Booth, Minto Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

### Funerals

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord*

#### **14 November**

Verena May Moore (aged 92 years) Stamford Court Nursing Home  
formerly of Blandford House, Stalybridge

#### **17 November**

Sophie Alexandra Moura (aged 30 years) Bayley Close, Hyde



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 for any Sunday this year.

### **Christmas Prayer**

Loving, giving Father,

Thank you for Jesus, Emmanuel. Thank you that he came at Christmas and is alive and just as relevant today as he was all those years ago, and will be forever. As many of us celebrate your coming to us, with our families, in warm, safe homes, in a democratic country, we pray for everyone who has left their homeland because of persecution, for everyone who is without shelter, or food, or family. Give us compassionate hearts, like yours, Lord. Help us, as Christ's body here on earth, to love and serve and make room for each other this Christmas. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dear Friends,

This month's article comes courtesy of John Betjeman whose poem (despite bearing the date 1955) expresses perfectly the way in which Advent and the lead up to Christmas is seen by many who ignore the true meaning of these seasons.



## **ADVENT 1955**

The Advent wind begins to stir  
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,  
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,  
And in between we only see  
Clouds hurrying across the sky  
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry  
And branches bending to the gale  
Against great skies all silver pale  
The world seems travelling into space,  
And travelling at a faster pace  
Than in the leisured summer weather  
When we and it sit out together,  
For now we feel the world spin round  
On some momentous journey bound -  
Journey to what? to whom? to where?  
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,  
Your world is journeying to the birth  
Of God made Man for us on earth.'

And how, in fact, do we prepare  
The great day that waits us there -  
For the twenty-fifth day of December,  
The birth of Christ? For some it means  
An interchange of hunting scenes  
On coloured cards, And I remember  
Last year I sent out twenty yards,  
Laid end to end, of Christmas cards  
To people that I scarcely know -  
They'd sent a card to me, and so  
I had to send one back. Oh dear!  
Is this a form of Christmas cheer?  
Or is it, which is less surprising,  
My pride gone in for advertising?  
The only cards that really count

Are that extremely small amount  
From real friends who keep in touch  
And are not rich but love us much  
Some ways indeed are very odd  
By which we hail the birth of God.

We raise the price of things in shops,  
We give plain boxes fancy tops  
And lines which traders cannot sell  
Thus parcell'd go extremely well  
We dole out bribes we call a present  
To those to whom we must be pleasant  
For business reasons. Our defence is  
These bribes are charged against expenses  
And bring relief in Income Tax  
Enough of these unworthy cracks!  
'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.  
A present that cannot be priced  
Given two thousand years ago  
Yet if God had not given so  
He still would be a distant stranger  
And not the Baby in the manger.  
© The Estate of John Betjeman 1988

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May I take this opportunity to wish you all a contemplative Advent  
and a joyful and very happy Christmas.

*Philip*

#### **If God does not exist**

An outspoken atheist went on a tour of a local monastery during his  
vacation. □□At the end of the tour, he  
remarked ++++++ sarcastically to the  
monk who had been his guide,  
"Imagine, if God doesn't exist - and I believe He doesn't - you will have  
wasted your whole life here in this place." □□The monk replied: "If I am  
wrong, I shall have wasted only 60 to 80 years. But if you are wrong, you  
will waste eternity."

#### **The Old Russian Shoemaker**

will be performed by the Junior Church  
on Sunday, 18th December at the 10.30am

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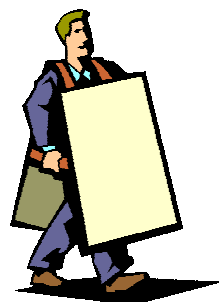
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help St George's.**

**For more information see church wardens or  
ring the editor on 0161 330 0518**

Service at St. George's Church. This service will also be the Christingle Celebration and the giving of toys for children less fortunate. Please come along and enjoy. Bring your family, friends and a toy to give. A wonderful way to start your Christmas celebrations.



### **The Most Beautiful Story**

Earlier this year a well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. In the course of an enlightening chat he was asked how he spent Christmas, and he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. 'But you're an atheist', his interviewer protested. 'Yes', he replied, 'but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told'.

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That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

During 2016 we have all become familiar with probably the best-known statue in the world, Christ the Redeemer, towering over the Olympic city of Rio, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough. His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.

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

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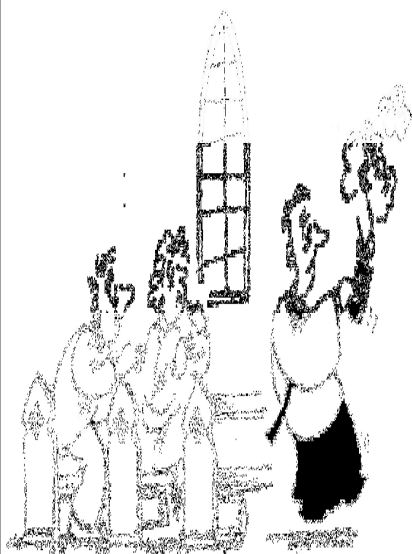
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**Janette McLean**  
BSc (Hons) Podiatry

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...and the people... but it's not immediately obvious - but it  
just goes to show please with a friendly factory!

## CHURCH FINANCES

### October 2016 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
06 Nov 2016	3 Before Advent	£59.79	£649.15	£708.94	
13 Nov 2016	Remembrance Sunday	£52.70	£419.00	£471.70	
20 Nov 2016	Sunday next before Advent	£54.44	£351.00	£405.44	
27 Nov 2016	Advent Sunday	£34.70	£339.00	£373.70	
Standing Orders etc			£864.00	£864.00	
<b>Monthly Total</b>		<b>£201.63</b>	<b>£2622.15</b>	<b>£2823.78</b>	<b>-£3777.23</b>

\* Assuming £13 per adult per week needed for running the church this means we need £6,601.00 per month

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### 200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for November 2016 are:

1st Prize	£25	101	Kathleen Gough
2nd Prize	£15		Freda Taylor
3rd Prize	£10		Joan Gough

The cost is £12 per year per number. There are still some spare numbers available and new members are always welcome.

If you would like to join please see Rose Hayward or ring 303 1731.

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**Saint of the Month**  
**4 December**  
**Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon,**  
**Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637**

Born in London in 1592, Nicholas Ferrar was educated at Clare Hall, Cambridge, where he was elected a Fellow in 1610. In 1613 he left Cambridge for reasons of health and spent five years travelling in Europe. When he returned he began work for the ailing Virginia Company (in which his family was heavily involved), becoming its Deputy Treasurer in 1622. He was elected to Parliament 1624, possibly in order to use parliamentary influence to support the company, but all efforts were unsuccessful and its Royal Charter was revoked.

Ferrar's motives can only be guessed at, but in 1625 he left Parliament. Then with his brother, brother-in-law and their families and a number of friends, he settled at Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire, a rural estate deserted since the Black Death in the fourteenth century. The community occupied the manor house and restored the abandoned church building. Ferrar was ordained deacon by Bishop William Laud.

The community read the regular daily offices of *The Book of Common Prayer*, including a daily recital of the complete Psalter. A continuous vigil of prayer was always maintained in the sanctuary. Community members wrote books and stories dealing with various aspects of Christian faith and practice. They fasted with great rigour, and in other ways embraced voluntary poverty, so that they might have as much money as possible for the relief of the poor. They taught the local children, and cared for the health and well-being of the people of the district. Possibly prompted by Laud, King Charles I made several private visits to the community.

Nicholas Ferrar died in 1637 and the life of the community continued under the leadership of his brother John. But with militant Puritanism in the ascendant and the lawlessness of the Civil War prevailing in England, the days of the community were numbered and, denounced as 'an Arminian nunnery', it was forcibly dissolved by Parliamentary troops in 1646.

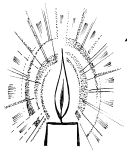
Though a comparatively short-lived experiment, Little Gidding was a uniquely Anglican community – open, family-friendly, with its spirituality centred on *The Book of Common Prayer*, and held together by ties that did not require monastic vows. The memory of the community survived to inspire and influence later undertakings in Christian communal living, and the name of Little Gidding was given a literary place of honour in the twentieth century as the title of the last of T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*.

**Readings and Psalms for December 2016**

Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	2nd Sunday of Advent
10.30	<b>Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12</b>
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 96.1,10-end; Matthew 18.12-14
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	3rd Sunday of Advent
8.30	Isaiah 35.1-10; Matthew 11.2-11
10.30	<b>Isaiah 35.1-10; Cantic: Magnificat; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11</b>
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 Zephaniah 3.1-2,9-13; Psalm 34.1-6,21-22; Matthew 21.28-32
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	4th Sunday of Advent
10.30	<b>Matthew 25.31-40</b>
	<b>Christingle Service &amp; Nativity Play</b>
18.00	<b>A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 Isaiah 7.10-14; Psalm 24.1-6; Luke 1.26-38
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve
16.00	<b>A Service of the Blessing of the Crib</b>
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day
23.45	Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20
10.30	<b>Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14</b>
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 Exodus 33.7-11a; Psalm 117; 1 John 1; John 21.19b-end

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## Christmas Services and Carol Singing



Sunday 27th November at 6 p.m.  
Advent Carol Service by candlelight

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Wednesday 14th December at 8.30pm  
Carol Singing at Heyrod Village Hall

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Thursday 15th December 5.00pm - 7.00pm  
Carol Singing at Stalybridge Station

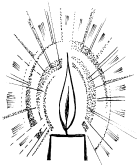
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Sunday 18th December at 10.30 a.m.  
Christingle & Toy Service  
Nativity Play

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

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Sunday 18th December at 6.00 p.m.  
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
by Candlelight

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### CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday 24th December at 4.00 p.m.  
Service of The Blessing of the Crib  
with Carols

Saturday 24th December at 11.45 p.m.  
Christmas Midnight Eucharist

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### CHRISTMAS DAY

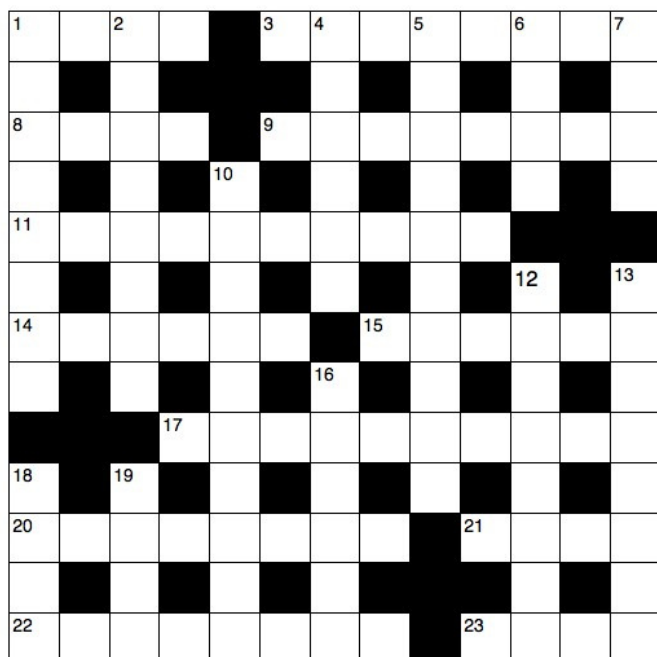
Sunday 25th December at 10.30 a.m.  
Christmas Day Eucharist

*Come and worship Christ the New-born King*





## December Crossword



### 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 Crossword Solution

**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.

## Some dates for your diary - December 2016

Thurs	1st	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sat	3rd	3.30p.m.	Wedding Blessing
Sun	4th	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
		10.30a.m.	<b>Parish Eucharist &amp; Junior Church</b>
		12.30p.m.	<b>Holy Baptism x 4</b>
Tues	6th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Thurs	8th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
Sun	11th	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
		8.30a.m.	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		10.30a.m.	<b>Parish Eucharist &amp; Junior Church</b>
Mon	12th	7.00p.m.	Memorial Service - Elizabeth Way Funeral Directors
Tues	13th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	14th	8.30p.m.	Carol Singing in Heyrod Village Hall
Thurs	15th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		5.00-7.00p.m.	Carol singing on Stalybridge Railway Station
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	18th	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
		10.30a.m.	<b>Christingle Service &amp; Nativity Play</b>
		<b>Bring a Toy to put under Tree for the 'Childrens Society'</b>	
		6.00p.m.	<b>Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
Tues	20th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Parochial Church Council Party
Sat	24th	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
		4.00p.m.	<b>A Service of the Blessing of the Crib with Carols</b>
		11.45p.m.	<b>Midnight Holy Communion</b>
Sun	25th	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
		10.30a.m.	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
Tues	27th	10.30a.m.	No Holy Communion

For more information please go to our website [www.stg.org.uk](http://www.stg.org.uk)

# Wishing You All a Joyful and Happy Christmas

## Christmas Smile Lines

Christmas carols as mis-heard by children

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly  
We three kings of porridge and tar  
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me  
Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.  
He's makin a list, chicken and rice.  
Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.  
With the jelly toast proclaim  
Olive, the other reindeer  
Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say  
Sleep in heavenly peas  
In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is  
sparse and brown  
You'll go down in listerine ...  
Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay  
O come, froggy faithful.

## Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was her reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"  
"Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"

## No room

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of the Nativity, and had just finished the part about there being 'no room at the inn'. A small voice piped up: 'I blame Joseph. He should have booked.'

## Don't eat

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?  
Tinselitus.

## Rudolph the Red

There was once a great Czar in Russia named Rudolph the Red. He stood looking out the windows of his palace one day while his wife, the Czarina Katerina, sat nearby knitting. He turned to her and

said, "Look my dear, it has begun to rain!" Without even looking up from her knitting she replied, "It's too cold to rain. It must be sleeting." The Czar shook his head and said, "I am the Czar of all the Russias, and Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

## Let's play

Four-year-old to her two-year-old sister: "Let's play Christmas. I'll be Santa Claus and you can be a present and I'll give you away."

## 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!"

## Some to make you groan.... think Christmas crackers!

What did the snowman and his wife hang over their baby's crib?  
A snow mobile.  
What's brown and sneaks round the kitchen?  
Mince spies.  
What do you call a snowman with a suntan?  
A puddle.  
What carol is heard in the desert?  
Camel ye faithful!  
Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?  
They both drop needles.



"Of all the cheek! Rides up on his sleigh in his flashy red suit, pushes to the front of the queue to the stable shouting 'Ho! Ho! Ho!'... who DOES he think he is?!"