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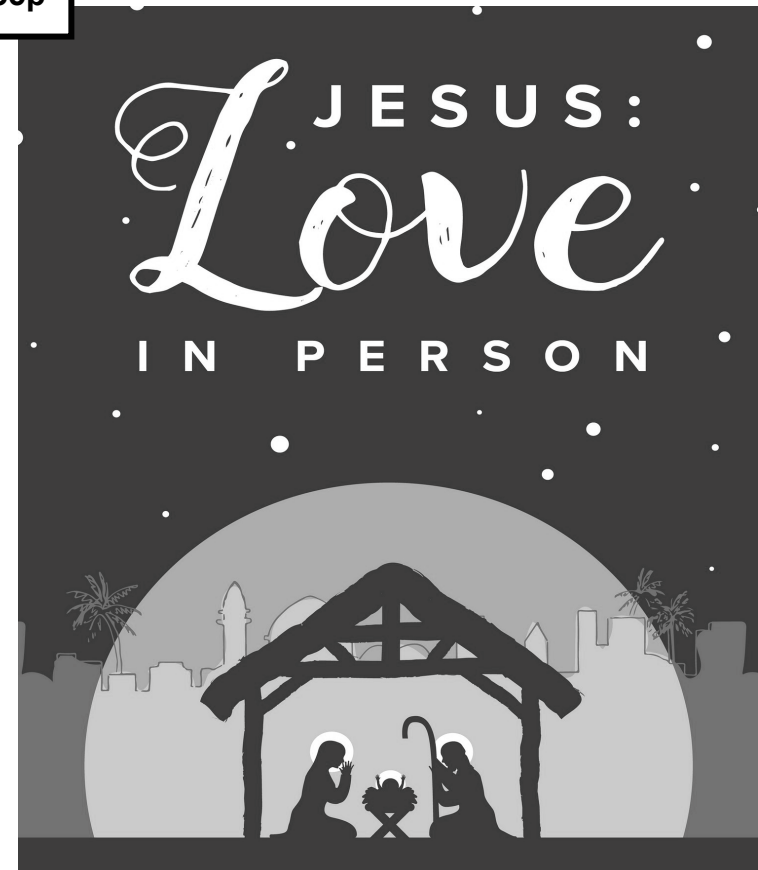
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester



35p



December 2017

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 5112

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 (4th Sunday only) *****

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 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
	Walter Charles Aves	2016	25 Dec	Frank Buckley	1974
11 Dec	Neil Kershaw	2013		James Reedy	1982
12 Dec	George Woolley Buckley	1990		Derek Hibbert	1992
	Joseph Kinder	1929		David William Heap	1979
13 Dec	Frank Turner	1976		Ivy Holt	2009
14 Dec	Gertrude Barbara Fitchett	1938		Marion Beatrice Ogden	2013
	Ernest Ives	1975	28 Dec	Emily Rosina Pendleton	1987
	Nora Grace Council	2008		Alfred Wilde	1988
	Philip Edward Davenport	2010		Thomas Holt	2009
15 Dec	William Dyson Duckworth	2010		George Henry Burtoft	2010
16 Dec	Eva Whittingham	1984		Alan Oldham Miller	2011
	John Hague	1968	29 Dec	Joan Pickles	2006
	Minnie Press	1984	31 Dec	Alice Shenton	1989
	Edith Longden	2008		Joseph Lees	2000
17 Dec	Anthony John David Gough	1993		John White	2008
	Bertha Barnfield	1998			
	Norman Quest	2001			
	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 Philip.

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

19 November

Poppy Ann Green, Springs Lane, Stalybridge
Roman John Lomas, Lakes View, Stalybridge

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

2 November

Alan Postings (aged 71 years) Crescent Close, Dukinfield

7 November

Agnes Walker (aged 85 years) Lakes Care Centre, formerly of Springs Lane, Stalybridge

16 November

Ronald Joseph Collins, (aged 75 years) Crantock Drive, Stalybridge

21 November

Joyce Choulerton (aged 65 years) Dunkirk Street, Droylsden
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23 November

Beryl Gertrude Wykes (aged 95 years) Harrison Street, Stalybridge



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.

A Time to be Born



The Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament has these words 'there is a time to be born (Ecclesiastes 3.2), and 25 December is the time for Jesus to be born. I imagine that both Mary and Joseph, may not have thought it the most appropriate time: away from home, Bethlehem crammed to the doors, bedding down in a stable, among strangers, with animals as silent witnesses. Is this how Jesus finds our welcome today I wonder – with our homes and lives at sixes and sevens, and the usual activities surrounding Christmas threatening to crowd out the little child?

A child can easily be swamped, but Jesus meets us more than a child. The Jesus who meets us today is the Jesus of miracles and teaching; the Last Supper and Gethsemane; Calvary and Easter morning. Christmas and these other events cannot be separated – they make up the whole. As the song goes, "you can't have one without the other".

When the tinsel has been taken down, and the tree and decorations have had their brief glory, the only gift of Christmas which is worth having, will still be with us. Jesus has passed through time, while we are still in it. The time of Advent is leading up to this earth-shattering moment – the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

If Christmas is to mean anything, we must, like the shepherds, like the wise men, come to the baby, worship and adore him, and then go out enriched and re-vitalised, to share what we have experienced.

May I then commend to you the services which will take place throughout Advent and at Christmas itself. You may like to come to one or two of them, but it would be wonderful if you could come to them all.

On Advent Sunday evening, 3 December at 6.00pm, we hold our annual service of readings and hymns for Advent, where the choir process around church, stopping at each particular place to listen to a reading and sing a hymn. At the time of writing, the church is full of scaffolding, which makes it, currently, impossible to go to the East end, but nevertheless, the service will go ahead and we are hopeful that the scaffolding may have gone by then.

Whilst not in the church itself, on 14 December between 5.00-7.00pm we join with other churches to sing carols on Stalybridge Railway Station, accompanied as in past years by some members of West Hill School Band. If you plan to come, then wrap up warm, because the wind can blow horizontally through the station, just like an express train!

At the Christingle and Toy service on 17 December at 10.30am, our Junior Church will be performing the 'Star of Wonder' – a Christmas Musical for children. In the service, there will also be an opportunity to lay a gift under the Christmas tree, which will be then given to children less fortunate than ourselves. In the evening of the same day, we hold our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight – each carol amplifying the reading from the bible which tells us of the story of God's intervention in the world, leading up to the birth of Jesus.

At 4.00pm on Christmas Eve, there is a service especially for the younger ones where we sing carols, listen to the story of the birth of Jesus, and assemble the crib, as each part of the story unfolds. The service ends in the blessing of the crib.

Our main services of Christmas, are the Midnight Eucharist at 11.45pm on Christmas Eve and at 10.30am on Christmas Day – a service for all the family.

May I then take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.

Yours
Philip

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Prayer at Christmas

Father of all good gifts,

Thank you for the greatest gift of all – your precious Son, Jesus. Thank you that He chose to live with us so that all who trust Him will one day live with you in peace and wholeness.

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Help us Father, this Christmas, to keep you at the centre of our celebrations and, in the midst of all the busy-ness and rush, to know your presence and the peace that only you can give. And Lord, may we reflect your love to those who don't yet know that you are real and alive and able to help, whatever their situation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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By Daphne Kitching

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help St George's.** ++++++

**For more information see church wardens or
ring the editor on 0161 330 0518**
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In praise of The Nutcracker – a Christmas favourite

Tchaikovsky's ballet The Nutcracker was performed for the first time 125 years ago, on 18 December 1892 at the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg, Russia.

It was not well received. The choreography was dismissed as 'confusing' in some scenes, and the libretto was described as 'lopsided'. But today it is extraordinarily popular – perhaps partly because Walt Disney used Tchaikovsky's entire score in Fantasia in 1940, making the music instantly recognisable.

But it is also popular as a ballet because it portrays children, is for children and makes use of children, providing the ideal showcase for ballet schools.

Today more people have seen it, and more companies have performed it, than any other ballet. It has the unusual distinction of being classical Christmas music that has nothing to do with Christianity.

The ballet is based on The Nutcracker and the King of Mice, written by E T A Hoffman and revised by Alexander Dumas. The story is of a young German girl who dreams of a Nutcracker Prince and a fierce battle against a Mouse King with seven heads.

The first complete performance outside Russia took place in London on 30th January 1934, at the Sadler's Wells Theatre.

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Foundation for Peace

Tim has now sold his initial order of books. Thank you to all who showed an interest and supported him in this venture.

More books will be available in December if anyone else wanted a copy. Just let me know.

Anne Hanson

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



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on
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Janette McLean
BSc (Hons) Podiatry

Tel: 0161 338 8950
Mobile: 07961 583 668



HPC registered Podiatrist



The Church roof was a matter
of urgent concern

CHURCH FINANCES

November 2017 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
29 Oct 2017	Bible Sunday	£53.85	£411.00	£464.85	
05 Nov 2017	All Saints' Day	£37.52	£401.50	£439.02	
12 Nov 2017	Remembrance Sunday	£83.80	£337.50	£421.30	
19 Nov 2017	2nd Sunday before Advent	£60.28	£445.77	£506.05	
26 Nov 2017	Christ the King	£72.69	£286.23	£358.92	
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
	Monthly Total	£308.14	£2746.00	£3054.14	-£411.86

* Assuming £10 per adult per week needed for running the church this means we need £3,466 per month

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200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for November 2017 are:

1st Prize	£25	68	Joan Reynolds
2nd Prize	£15	45	Sharon Billington
3rd Prize	£10	60	Pat Booth

The cost is £12 per year per number and 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
13 December
Samuel Johnson, Moralism, 1784



Samuel Johnson was born in Lichfield in 1709, the son of a bookseller. He attended the local school, and, probably more importantly, eagerly read the books in his father's shop. In 1728 he entered Pembroke College, Oxford, but left without taking a degree. It was perhaps appropriate that it was through reading that he came to faith. Boswell recalls him saying:

I became a sort of lax talker against religion, for I did not think much against it; and this lasted until I went to Oxford, where it would not be suffered. When at Oxford, I took up Law's Serious Call, expecting to find it a dull book (as such books generally are), and perhaps to laugh at it. But I found Law quite an overmatch for me; and this was the first occasion of my thinking in earnest of religion after I became capable of rational inquiry.

In an age of generally lax religious observance, Johnson was a dutiful son of the Church of England. A strong High Churchman, in the pre-Tractarian sense of that term, he was tolerant towards Roman Catholicism though not of Nonconformity.

After an unsuccessful teaching career in Lichfield, Johnson went up to London in 1737. He was best known for his dictionary, which, after eight years in the making, was published in 1755 with around 40,000 entries. He was the subject of one of the greatest biographies ever written, James Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*, published in 1791.

Some uncertainty surrounds the question of whether Johnson experienced an evangelical conversion in February 1784 in the last year of his life. There is no written record by either Johnson or Boswell, but William Cowper was clearly aware of it since he wrote to John Newton on 11 May 1784 that news of Johnson's conversion was 'a singular proof of the omnipotence of Grace'. Throughout his life Johnson suffered from depression and had a terrible fear of death and judgement and it may have been that at the last he received the assurance of forgiveness and salvation. Certainly, he received Communion eight days before his death in December 1784 and is said to have prayed:

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Grant O Lord that my whole hope and confidence may be in his merits and in thy mercy: forgive and accept my late conversion, enforce and accept my imperfect repentance . . . and make the death of thy son Jesus effectual to my redemption.

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Readings and Psalms for December 2017

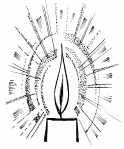
- Sun 3rd 1st Sunday of Advent**
10.30 Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-8,18-20; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-end
18.00 Service of Readings and Hymns for Advent
- Tues 5th 10.30 Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-4,18-19; Luke 10.21-24**
- Sun 10th 2nd Sunday of Advent**
10.30 Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2,8-end; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8
- Tues 12th 10.30 Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 96.1,10-end; Matthew 18.12-14**
- Sun 17th 3rd Sunday of Advent**
10.30 Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end
Christingle Service and Nativity Play
18.00 Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols
- Tues 19th 10.30 Judges 13.2-7,24-end; Psalm 71.3-8; Luke 1.5-25**
- Sun 24th 4th Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve**
10.30 Canticle: Magnificat; Luke 1.26-38
Worship For All
- Mon 25th Christmas Day**
23.45 Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14
10.30 Isaiah 62.6-end; Psalm 97; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.1-20
- Sun 31st 1st Sunday of Christmas**
10.30 Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21
- Tues 2nd 10.30 1 John 2.22-28; Psalm 98.1-4; John 1.19-28**

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November Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.
DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

Christmas Services and Carol Singing



**Sunday 3rd December at 6 p.m.
Advent Carol Service by candlelight**

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**Tuesday 12th December at 8.30pm
Carol Singing at Heyrod Village Hall**

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**Thursday 14th December 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Carol Singing at Stalybridge Station**

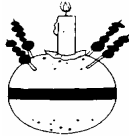
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**Sunday 17th December at 10.30 a.m.
Christingle & Toy Service
Nativity Play**

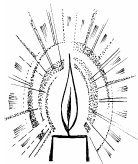
**Bring a toy to put under the tree
for the Children's Society**

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**Sunday 17th December at 6.00 p.m.
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight**

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CHRISTMAS EVE

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

**Sunday 24th December at 11.45 p.m.
Christmas Midnight Eucharist**

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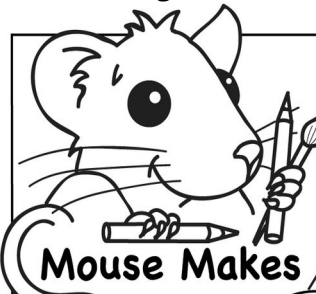
CHRISTMAS DAY

**Monday 25th December at 10.30 a.m.
Christmas Day Eucharist**



Come and worship Christ the New-born King

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

Colour in one star a day as you countdown to Christmas

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour has been born today! ... Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

CHRISTMAS

B A B Y T H O L Y J U D E A R T H

B J P E A C E S O N O F L O C K P U S

R O F I E L D E G A S H E P H E R D S

I Y O N B O R N O Z E G M A R Y A A A

N M R N A T O Z O A P A A L I R I V V

G O D S C H I L D R H L N A S O S I I

L J E S U S H O N E L I G H T O E D O

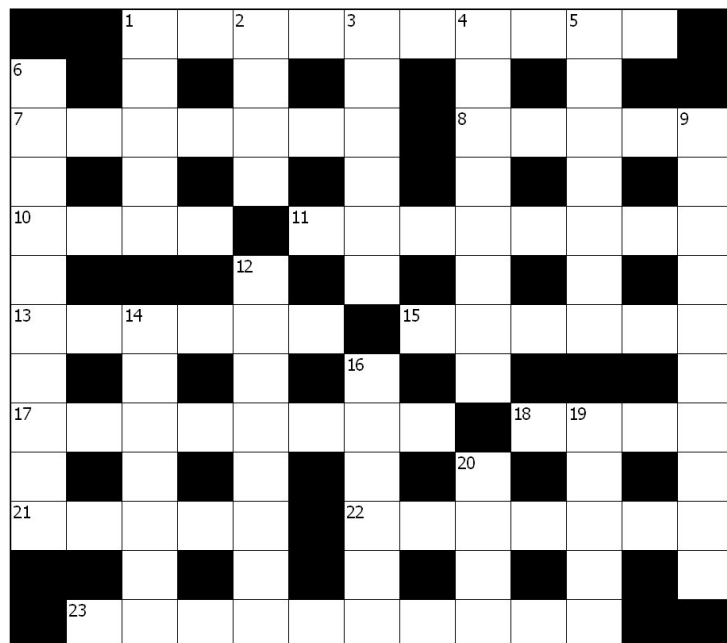
O G U A R D I B E T H L E H E M Z S U

R S L S H E E P W H Y E R L O R D O R

Y N N A N G E L S B H E A V E N A M E

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
 HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
 SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
 GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
 PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

December Crossword



Across

1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10), 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7), 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5), 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4), 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8), 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6), 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6), 17 Stormy (8), 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4), 21 Arson (anag.) (5), 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7), 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5), 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4), 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6), 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8), 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7), 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10), 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10), 12 One who accepts government by God (8), 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7), 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6), 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5), 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Some dates for your diary - December 2017

- Sat 2nd 7.30p.m. Greenfield Brass Band Concert
- Sun 3rd **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
12.30p.m. Holy Baptism
6.00p.m. Service of Readings and Hymns for Advent
- Tues 5th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion
- Thurs 7th 9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Sun 10th **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
- Mon 11th 7.00p.m. Elizabeth Way Funeral Directors' Memorial Service
- Tues 12th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion
 8.30p.m. Carol Singing at Heyrod Village Hall
- Thurs 14th 9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Sun 17th **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
10.30a.m. Christingle Service & Nativity Play
Bring a Toy to put under the Tree for the 'Childrens Society'
6.00p.m. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
- Tues 19th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion
 7.45p.m. Parochial Church Council Christmas Soiree
- Thurs 21st 9.00a.m. School Holiday - No meeting of Time 4 Fun (0 to 5)
 7.30p.m. School Holiday - No Tameside Community Voices Praticce
- Sun 24th **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
CHRISTMAS EVE
8.30a.m. No service of Holy Communion
10.30a.m. Worship For All
4.00p.m. A Service of the Blessing of the Crib with Carols
11.45p.m. First Holy Communion of Christmas
- Mon 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.30a.m. Christmas Day Eucharist for all the Family
- Tues 26th NO Service of Holy Communion
- Sun 31st **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist

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

Wishing You All a Joyful and Happy Christmas

Christmas Smile Lines

Prompting

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas drama presentation. His mother, sitting in the front row, tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, 'I am the angel Gabriel!' The child beamed with acknowledgment, and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the audience could hear him say: 'My Mummy is the angel Gabriel!'

Christmas pageant

My three children were in the Christmas pageant. I was so proud. My daughter was playing Mary. One son was a shepherd. And my other son was a Wise Man. My shepherd son had practised his lines over and over, but when the time came, he was nervous and said, 'We found the babe wrapped in wrinkled clothes.'

To which Mary replied, 'That's not wrinkled clothes, that's dirty rotten clothes!' Giggles from the audience followed, but the play went on. Until my Wise Man son, wearing his father's bath robe and paper crown knelt by the manger and said, 'We are the three Wise Men and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur.'

Angels, explained by children

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. - Gregory, aged 5++++++

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it. - Olive, aged 9

Turkey

It was Christmas Eve in a supermarket and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation, she called over a shop assistant and said 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?' He patiently replied: 'No, sorry, they're all dead.'

Christmas turkey

A gentleman walked into a restaurant and asked the maitre d', 'Can you please tell me how you prepare your Christmas turkeys?'
The maitre d' solemnly replied: 'Yes. Well, we let them know right up front they're

not going to make it.'

Wiped Out

Just got home and found all the windows and doors open and everything has gone. What kind of sick person does that to someone's Advent calendar?

Facebook

Thank the Lord for Facebook. Otherwise I'd have to call 674 people today to tell them I just went Christmas shopping.

Why Bethlehem?

A minister asked his Bible class: 'Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?'
A student replied, 'Because his mother was there.'

Christmas presents

Catching her in the act, I confronted our three-year-old granddaughter. 'Are you opening your little sister's presents?' I demanded. 'No,' she innocently replied, 'I'm just helping her learn to share.'

If you are travelling this Christmas, look out...

In a Swiss mountain inn: Special today - no ice cream.

At an airport in Denmark: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

In a New York restaurant: Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

On the door of a Moscow hotel room: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.



*...no I don't think you're the real Father Christmas!
I think you're up there pinching lead off my roof!!*