

# Parish Magazine

December 2023 / January 2024

30p



## St. John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens  
(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

## Magazine Contents:

Letter from Rev'd Rebecca Clarke	Page 3
Rotas	Page 4
Sudoku	Page 5
Wordsearch	Page 7
Children's section	Page 8

## Church Contacts:

Team Rector: Rev'd Rebecca Clarke, [revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk), 01704 233738

Reader: Mrs Karen Corbett, 40 New Lane, Crossens. Tel: 220192

Churchwardens: Mr Bill Donohoe, 145 Rufford Road, Crossens, Tel: 231434  
Mrs Chris Jowett, 25 Brook St, Crossens. Tel: 227507

Treasurer: Mrs Louise James

PCC Secretary: Mrs Chrissy Gregory

Rainbows: Mrs Nicola Macdonald Tel: 233580

Brownies: Mrs Lynn Harrison Tel: 07595 423734

Guides: Mrs Tracy Boden Tel: 228189

Mumford Room Bookings:  
Mr Andrew Boden Tel: 228189

### Service times:

#### Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 21<sup>st</sup> Jan

Morning Prayer 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### Christmas Day

14<sup>th</sup> January

Holy Communion 10am

Team service at St Cuthberts 10:30am

#### Wednesday (10am)

Holy Communion 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan,  
24<sup>th</sup> Jan, 31<sup>st</sup> Jan

#### No Service

27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## *A letter from Rev'd Rebecca.....*

Dear Friends,

The wonderful story of Christmas consists of the coming of the Christ child, the shepherds, the Magi, the angel song and a very ordinary couple, Mary and Joseph, called of God to an extraordinary journey. This ageless story is the true meaning of Christmas, so different from the commercial 'Christmas' we see and hear about and one in which we all get caught up year after year.



This year in the Christmas story I want us to think a little bit about the song of the angels who appear in a glorious heavenly host to the shepherds on the hillsides of Bethlehem. Their song is of peace.

I'm sure we all agree that we desperately need peace in our world. The war in Ukraine, the conflict between Israel and Hamas and there are so many more conflicts around the world we never hear about. Each and every one bringing death, destruction, and suffering on an immense scale, destruction also to nature in all its beauty and diversity. It is a depressing scene.

But there is also a lack of peace within our own communities, where people are struggling with the cost of living, trying to make ends meet especially for those who, through no fault of their own and certainly not in any way a 'lifestyle choice' find themselves living or should I say merely surviving on our streets. Into all this and more comes the angel's song. The song heard by the shepherds thousands of years ago but also heard at every Christmas carol service in readings from the Bible and in the very carols we sing.

It is the message of peace which we need to hear again and to embrace it. The angels sang a simple but profound melody to the shepherds. 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth' It's an invitation in our day and age to embrace and accept the peace of God into our lives and become peacemakers ourselves; actively looking to be people of peace and reconciliation where we go. But also, to be people who intentionally pray for peace to come among us and into our world.

Jesus, the Christ child born at Bethlehem in a stable holds the title 'The Prince of Peace', and he is close to us but He longs for us to take on the task of being bearers of peace wherever we go. It really is down to us.

So, to help us on the journey to peace you might like to offer this prayer over Christmastide and indeed throughout the coming year:

## A Prayer for Peace

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust;  
Lead me from hate to peace, from war to peace;  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe  
Amen.

And finally, here is a Christmas blessing for you and all your family and friends and may I also wish you all a very Merry and Peaceful Christmastide.

May the joy of the angels,  
The gladness of the shepherds,  
The worship of the wisemen  
And the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmastide and always  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with  
you now and evermore  
Amen.

Rev Rebecca Clarke Team Rector North Meols Team



Time to see what our three Churches are up to in the weeks leading up to  
Christmas

by signing in to our Team's YouTube Channel  
"NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT"

This December's Quarterly Magazine includes:

Christmas Fairs - Thinking about peace - Men's Supper Club -

A new Lay Reader joins the Team - St. John's School -

The Food Bank - Christmas Service Schedule - The Nativity in a window

# ROTAS

## SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Kath & Jane
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Nicola & Andrew
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Brenda & Mavis
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Chris D & Bill
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Chris J & Bill
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Kath & Jane
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Nicola & Andrew
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Brenda & Mavis



Help is urgently needed to maintain a weekly rota. If you are willing to volunteer, please see me. Chris Jowett

## WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

29 <sup>th</sup> November	Eileen & Trish
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Jean & Mavis
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Brenda & June
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Chris & Jane
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Eileen & Trish
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Jean & Mavis
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Brenda & June
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Chris & Janet
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Eileen & Trish
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Jean & Mavis

## **Sanctuary Flowers**

3 <sup>rd</sup> December	No flowers in Advent
10 <sup>th</sup> December	_____
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas flowers
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas flowers
31 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas flowers

Thank you to all who have supported our Flower Fund during the past year. ECB.

7 <sup>th</sup> January	In memory of Mrs D Jackson
14 <sup>th</sup> January	In memory of Mrs S Harding
21 <sup>st</sup> January	_____
28 <sup>th</sup> January	_____

A happy New Year to all who support our Flower Fund. ECB.



# CHRISTMAS

## Christmas Services

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10am

Toy, Gift and Chocolate Service - Please bring unwrapped gifts for local children.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Eve - Holy Communion

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Day - Holy Communion



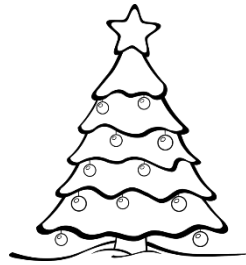
# **Toy, Gift and Chocolate Service**

**HELP MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS**  
Please bring a new toy  
and a small bar of chocolate  
to Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**All donations will be distributed to  
families in need.**



# Christmas Brunch



St John's Church

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December



10am – 1pm



Cakes & Raffle

## PUZZLES - SUDOKU

5		7				3		6
			4	9	6			
						2	1	
2		5		8	9	6		
4	8		2		7		9	5
		1	3	4		7		2
	2	8						
			7	3	8			
3		9				8		7

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

*Easy*

*Medium*

### "SCHOOL - RESCUE ME!"

As part of their work to support charities, school are supporting an animal rescue centre called "Rescue Me". The children have been asked to collect postage stamps from envelopes, unwanted foreign currency and any pre-decimal or pre-euro currency people may have hidden in old socks!!!

If you have any such items, please can you pass them to Karen Corbett and she will take them into school.

# **Churches Together**

*(in North Meols)*

***Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023***

***7.30 p.m.***

***at Cornerstone Methodist Church***

**Everyone is very  
welcome!**

***The meeting will be led by:***

***Cornerstone Methodist Church***

***"Be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose."  
[1 Corinthians 1: 106]***

# WORDSEARCH

## The story of 'Silent Night'

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent  
Night  
Loved  
Carol  
Austria

First  
Sung  
Stille  
Nacht  
Heilige

Christmas  
Eve  
Father  
Joseph  
Mohr

Young  
Priest  
Organist  
Midnight  
Mass

Melody  
Single  
Bing  
Version  
Third



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

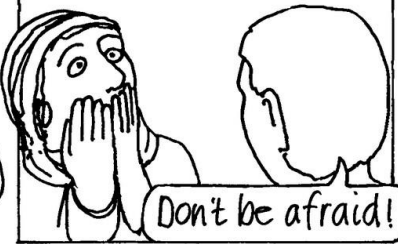
It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 1:26-56 & Matthew 1:18-25

In Israel, about 2000 years ago, a young woman, Mary, was going to marry Joseph. The weddings were in two stages.

In one year we will complete our wedding



Then God's messenger angel came to see Mary.



Don't be afraid!

You will have God's baby, and call him Jesus, 'God saves,' because he will save people



from what they do wrong.

How can this happen?



With God, nothing is impossible

Your cousin Elizabeth, who couldn't have children, is now 6 months pregnant.



Mary visited Elizabeth.



When Joseph heard that Mary was pregnant, he was very upset



This will bring shame on me and my family.



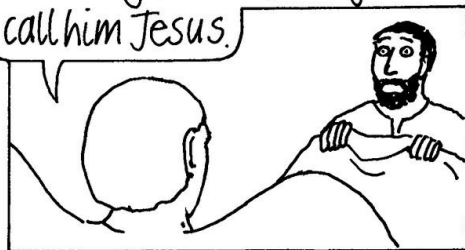
He always did what was right so he decided to end their marriage, but quietly.



But the angel came to him in a dream.



Don't be afraid to marry Mary. The baby is God's, and you will call him Jesus.



So Joseph and Mary completed their marriage.



# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS



OH!  
NO!!

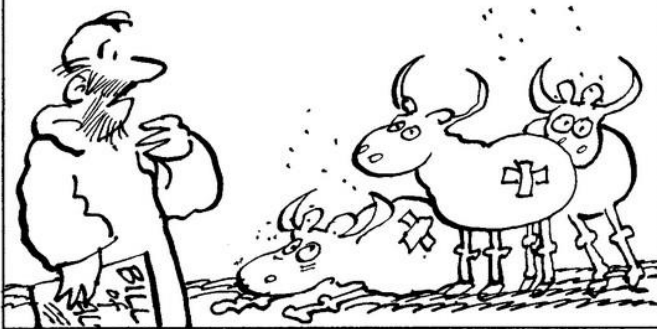


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

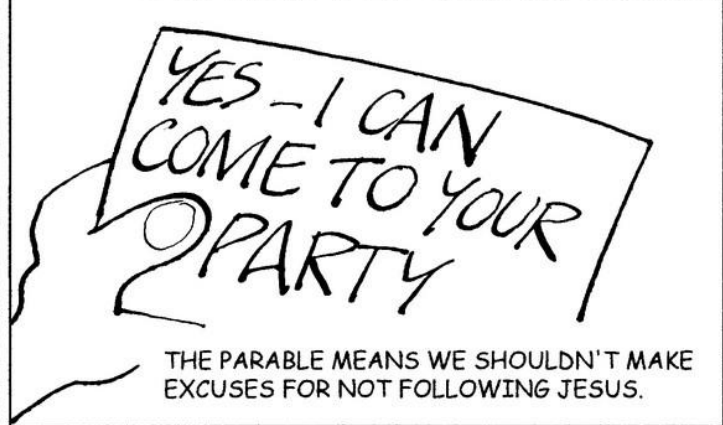


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR

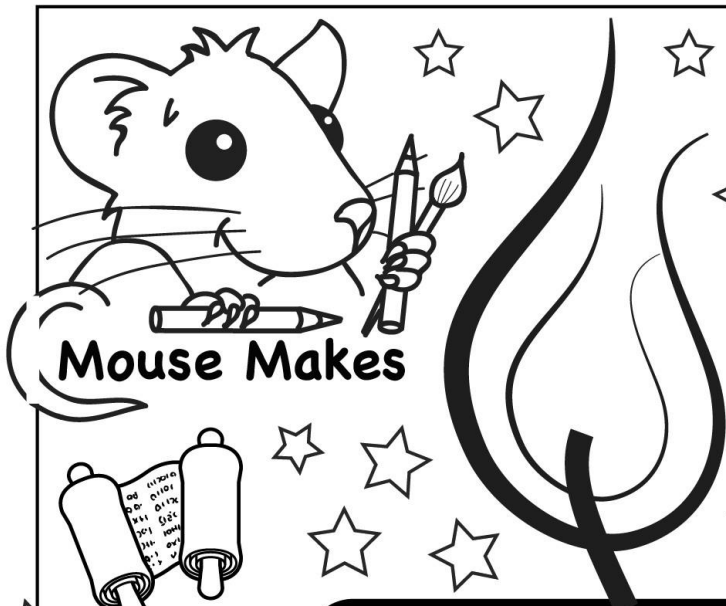


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

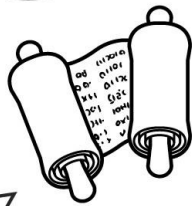
SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



**Mouse Makes**



**GOD'S PROMISE**

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.



**A LONG JOURNEY**

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**

*John 3:16*

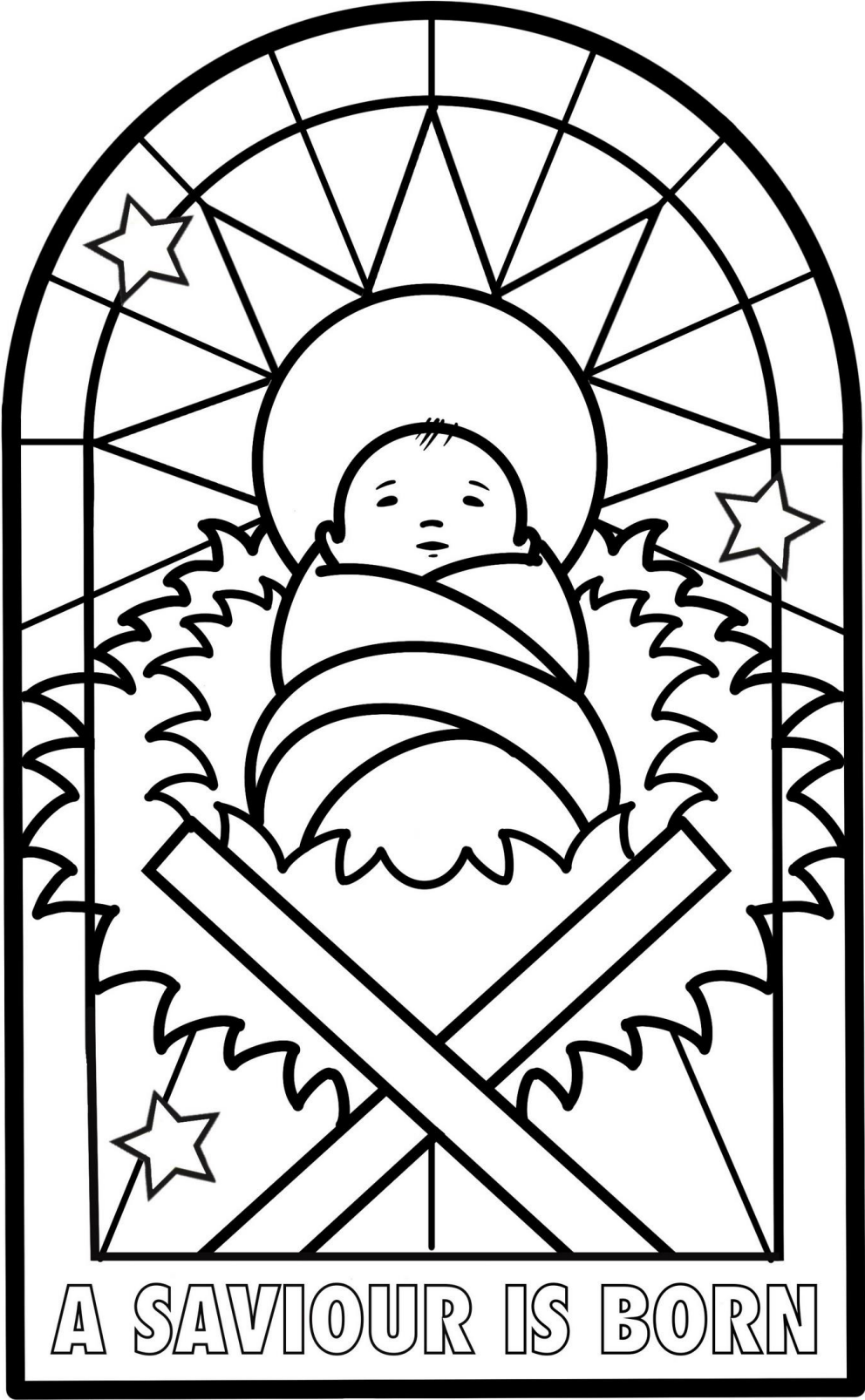
GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
F	P	G	I	V	E	N	A	H	U	O	A
E	E	H	G	A	V	E	S	R	W	N	R
S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	N	J	O
N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Some colouring for all ages....



# M. RUSHTON

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*24 Hour Personal,  
Professional Service*



*Independent & Family Owned*

Serving  
the Bereaved  
with Dignity and  
Respect Since  
1986



Michelle & Michael Rushton Dip.Fd

*Monumental Masonry • Funeral Plans Arranged*

**100 Marshside Road, Southport PR9 9TG**

**Tel: 01704 214118**

**[www.rushtonfuneraldirectors.co.uk](http://www.rushtonfuneraldirectors.co.uk)**