

St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

December 2024/January 2025—50p

St Giles' Parish Church, Exhall - www.stgileschurchexhall.info

The Parish Office at St Giles' Church Hall, St Giles' Road, Ash Green, CV7 9GZ
Telephone/answerphone: 024 7636 8008

Office email: office@stgileschurchexhall.info

The Parish Office is open Tuesday to Thursday, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm.

Sunday Worship

**Please see the Christmas services and worship pattern
for January on pages 8 and 9**

Other Useful Information

Ministry to the sick and housebound

We are always pleased to visit, at home or in hospital. But we need to know who would welcome a visit. Contact the office on (024) 76 368008.

Christenings and Weddings

Enquiries should be made to the office (024) 76 368008.

Bereavement and funerals

We will always take funerals for anyone in the parish, either at church or at the crematorium. Burials are performed in St Giles' Meadow. Enquiries should be made to the office (024) 76 368008.

The Bereavement Drop-In is open on alternate Thursdays in the Small Hall. Please contact Sue Barnes on 07946 051122.

Foodbank

Help is now available through the Bedworth Community Grocery,
The Harbour Centre,
12 Congreve Walk, Bedworth CV12 8LY
Tel: 02477 331511 Bedworth@community.grocery.org.uk

New members of any age are always welcome at the following:

Bell ringing

Thursdays 7.30-9pm (except 3rd Thursday)

Choir

Fridays at 7pm.

Worship Band

Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

Front Cover : Parish Pump

Back Cover: Christmas Tree Festival Poster

Any news, reflections, stories, pictures, jokes or brainteasers to share within these pages? I'd love to have them! Please email them to **tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com** or drop them into the parish office or "W" pigeonhole in church.

The next magazine will cover February and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 19th January**.

Welcome to your December/January magazine!



We're all looking forward to the many Christmas services and events that are going on over the next few weeks. You can find all the details on pages 8 and 9 and we hope to see you as we all join together to celebrate our Saviour's birth. There's something for everyone, from quiet Christmas remembering to the lively Christingle services on Christmas Eve. Don't forget the Christmas Tree Festival in the churchyard, which starts on 7th December.

Looking further ahead, we have our next Hospice Coffee Morning on 18th January and into February, our annual pantomime!

It just remains for me to thank you for your continued support of our magazine and to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Tina Watkins

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St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 125th year.

With love from the Vicar

Our theme for Christmas this year at St Giles is Follow the Star: Calm and Bright. This is taken of course from one of the most famous and popular Christmas carols, 'Silent Night' – always a firm favourite in my experience. But did you know that, as legend has it, this carol was born out of crisis. With its references to 'all is calm, all is bright', we might well have imagined it being penned gradually, slowly thoughtfully, perhaps by someone serenely sitting with chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Think again.



We sometimes have an issue with mice at St Giles. It's particularly vital that we defend our organ from them. Those of you who know this will have a wry smile when you hear that 'Silent night' was apparently written in frantic haste by an Austrian parish priest, Joseph Mohr. Far from finding things all 'calm and bright', he discovered to his horror on Christmas Eve that the bellows of the organ had been nibbled by mice. This meant no organ and no music for such a major festival. It seemed like a disaster!

Undeterred, Mohr suddenly remembered a poem he had written a while before. But it seemed such a simple poem. Would it be too simple for such an important festival? He rushed round to see his friend Franz Gruber explaining his dilemma. Gruber picked up his guitar and, within a short time had composed one of the most beautiful and haunting melodies of Christmas past and present. Out of a frantic crisis, when it seemed that all might be lost, 'Silent Night', one of the most poignant carols of all time was born. Legend goes on to say that the carol lay lost and forgotten for years until the manuscript was discovered in 1825 by workmen repairing the church.

This 'Silent Night' story really encourages me. I don't know about you, but I often struggle to find calm through the Advent and Christmas period. It often feels like a marathon of preparation and celebration. I'm often quite concerned about what I might forget, overlook, what might go wrong! And yet, as is so often the way in which God works - out of crisis can come new creativity, new opportunity and we can begin to focus on what is really important – not all the frills and spills, but the heart of Christmas that is Jesus, Immanuel, God with us. It probably wasn't very 'calm and bright'

when Jesus was born, but a new day had dawned – the light and hope of the world wrapped in the form of a tiny baby.

We've tried to build in moments of both calm and bright into our Advent and Christmas programme this year. Why not join us on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm for quiet prayer and Advent Reflection, or at the Quiet Christmas Remembering on Thursday 19th December at 2pm. This is a special opportunity for those who find Christmas a particularly tough time, perhaps through bereavement or for other reasons. Of course, we will also have the 'bright' of many different celebrations, including our Carol Service on December 15th at 5 pm and our Christingles at 3 pm and 5 pm on Christmas Eve. You'll find our full Christmas programme in the magazine. We look forward to seeing you if you can make it. If your 'calm and bright' needs to be much more 'home based' these days, please know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers over this very special season.

With love,
Gail

Carol Singing 2024

**We are going carol singing again this year to raise money
for The Children's Society.**

Monday December 16th at 7pm

by the chip shop in Trelawney Road on the Cedars estate

Tuesday December 17th at 7pm

at the corner of Deansway and Vicarage Lane

Everyone is welcome to join us. We need singers and people who are willing to take the collecting tins door to door. Refreshments are provided each evening after we have finished our route.

In recent years we have raised hundreds of pounds for the society and of course we have also shared the good news of Christmas with the local community. Please contact Kathryn Unsworth on 024 76673325/07512 850604 if you wish to know more.



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★★★★★

U.K. Caredaughter of a Resident's family on the.co.uk Review, April 2018

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Standard 12 review



Richmond Villages Bede

Nursing | Residential | Dementia | Respite

Ansley Church Christmas Tree Festival 2023

Saturday 7th December	11.00 am - 5.00 pm
Sunday 8th December	12.00 noon - 5.00 pm
Saturday 14th December	11.00 am - 5.00 pm
Sunday 15th December	12.00 noon - 5.00 pm
Saturday 21st December	11.00 am - 5.00 pm
Sunday 22nd December	12.00 noon - 6.00 pm

**Admission £2. All accompanied children free.
60 Christmas Trees decorated by the community**

Light refreshments available

Exhall Over 50s Club

We're a place to meet together, make friends and generally have a good time...

We run a monthly buffet, a monthly pub lunch, occasional coach and theatre trips, and weekly table games, discussions, music and sing-alongs, bingo, a raffle, talks, demos, films and of course refreshments...

We are a warm, friendly group always happy to welcome new members!



**Every Tuesday in St Giles Main Hall,
1-3pm.**

**Membership £12/year, sessions £3.00
Further info: Patricia Munro 024 7664 4507**



Advent Tuesday Time Outs 7 pm at Church December 3rd, 10th & 17th

Sunday 1st Dec Advent 1	10.00 am 11.45 am 5.00 pm	Service of Holy Communion Sunday Celebration! All Age worship Advent Songs of Praise
Saturday 7th Dec	From 2.00 pm	Outdoor Christmas Tree Festival Available in churchyard until early Jan
Sunday 8th Dec Advent 2	8.00 am 10.00 am 11.45 am	Quiet Communion Service of Holy Communion Sunday Celebration! All Age worship
Sunday 15th Dec Advent 3	10.00 am 5.00 pm	Service of Holy Communion CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE
Thursday 19th Dec	2.00 pm	Quiet Christmas Remembering <i>A quiet time to remember those we love but see no longer</i>
Sunday 22nd Dec Advent 4	8.00 am 10.00 am 11.45 am	Quiet Communion Service of Holy Communion Crib Service
Tuesday 24th Dec Christmas Eve	3.00pm 5.00 pm 11.00 pm	All Age Christingle All Age Christingle Midnight Communion 
Wed 25th Dec Christmas Day	8.00 am	Joint Communion Service
Sun 29th Dec	10.30 am	Joint Communion Service

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2025

Sunday 5th January	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration	<u>5.00 pm</u> Evensong
Wednesday 8th January	<u>10.30 am</u> Communion		
Sunday 12th January	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration
Sunday 19th November	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration	<u>5.00 pm</u> Evensong
Sunday 26th January	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.30 am</u> Joint Service of Holy Communion	

All Hallows Fun!

On 27th October our young people (and their helpers) enjoyed an afternoon of fun that included pumpkin carving, biscuit decorating—and eating!

Thanks to all our organisers and helpers.



Rev Jo Parker becomes Rector of Arden Valley Benefice



Rev Jo's (left) licensing service took place on 6th November at St James the Great Church, Snitterfield, a beautiful 13th century church that provided a fitting venue for this amazing, thought-provoking, good-humoured service led by the Rt Rev Ruth Worsley, Acting Bishop of Coventry. The service was very well represented by Rev Jo's family and parishioners from St Giles church, who

were warmly welcomed by the Church Wardens and parishioners of Arden Valley Benefice. Our very own Rev Gail Phillip (right) was part of clergy representatives joining Rev Jo in processing, prayers and generally celebrating the next chapter in her faith journey. It was truly a joyous evening enjoyed by all—a real privilege being part of such a significant milestone.

THANK YOU Rev Jo! THANK YOU Arden Valley Benefice!



Rt Rev Ruth Worsley attends last Coventry Diocesan Synod meeting

On Saturday 16th November the new Coventry Diocesan Synod (for the next three years) met at Harris Academy, Rugby. In summary, the new Synod was welcomed by Bishop Ruth and other officials; ways of working of the Synod were shared; Diocesan strategy overview provided; the importance of safeguarding highlighted; key priorities for 2025 discussed; the 2025 budget approved and net zero carbon ambitions emphasised.

The most important news of the meeting was that this was to be Bishop Ruth's last meeting. Bishop Ruth embraced the role of Acting Bishop of Coventry about a year ago, after Bishop Christopher Cocksworth took up the position of Dean of Windsor at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in 2023.



During the meeting Bishop Ruth (pictured left with Neva) was thanked for all that she had done and Bishop Ruth expressed that it had “been a year of joy” where she had learnt a lot from all. Bishop Ruth will be returning to the Diocese of Bath and Wells after the Christmas Eve service at Coventry Cathedral. Bishop Tim Thornton will then fill the interim role until the new Bishop of Coventry, the Rt Reverend Sophie Jelly, joins the Diocese. On being appointed Bishop of Coventry, Bishop Sophie said: “I am really delighted to be called to serve as the next Bishop of Coventry.

With its rich diversity of people and significant heritage of culture and industry, I know there will be great opportunities to join in sharing the story of God’s love with the people of Coventry and Warwickshire.”

As one of the representatives for Nuneaton Deanery, I had the privilege of being at this meeting and over the year have engaged with Bishop Ruth on many an occasion. THANK YOU Bishop Ruth for your leadership, worship, guidance and support provided throughout this year! Our prayers and best wishes are with you and your family.

Karen Morris, Mothers’ Union President for Coventry Diocese, (pictured right with Neva) was also at this meeting and as a member of Exhall Mothers’ Union Committee, it was a great opportunity to catch up.



Neva Khan, Churchwarden



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"



We don't sing carols no more... you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

At the time of writing we are about to enter the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; but most all a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ; when He comes again in glory.



So let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

There are two types of light in the world. Firstly, physical light, and by it we learn of our Creator's handiwork in the things we see. However, although that light is very good, there is another Light, a Light so important that the Son of God had to come in order to reveal it, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life.'" (John 8:12) This verse speaks of the light of the Truth, the light of His Word, the light of eternal Life. Those who know the true Light will never walk in spiritual darkness.

The Light of Jesus Christ has to be taken into the darkness that engulfs the hearts and lives of those who are not following Him. That's the condition behind having this Light; that we follow Him and share it. If we do not follow Him, we will not have this light, this truth, this eternal life. Physical light is necessary for physical life. The light of Jesus is necessary for spiritual life, and this can be a good test of our standing in Christ. Is this evident in our fellowship, prayer and obedience to the Word of God?

There are two promises here when we follow Jesus. First, His followers will *never* walk in darkness. As true followers of the Light, we will walk in His ways and obey His commandments. The second promise is that we will reflect the Light of Christ. Just as Jesus came as the Light of the world, He commands us to be "lights," too. Like the moon that has no light of its own, but reflects the light of the sun, so believers are to reflect the Light of Christ

so that everyone can see it. The Light is evident to others by the good deeds that we do in faith and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel Light we have is not to be covered up, but is to be made obvious for all to see and benefit from, that they, too, may leave the darkness and come into the Light.

This Christmas and New Year may our lights so shine that “others will see the good we do and will praise our Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Many blessings, Chris.

“And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night.”

Can you help?

We’ve had a request from one of our local schools for Christmas Hampers for families who may particularly need support this Christmas. We’d really appreciate donations of the following items:

Christmas cake or pudding (non-alcoholic)	Selection boxes
Boxes of biscuits or chocolates	Dried stuffing mix
Jam or cranberry sauce	Cooking sauces
Custard	Instant mashed potato
Instant gravy	Tea bags and coffee
Tinned soup, veg, fruit, rice pudding, meat	

You can drop items at Church, at the Parish Office, or at the Vicarage. They must be with us by Monday 18th December. If you’d like to make a cash donation, please place in an envelope clearly marked ‘Christmas Hampers’.

Thank you so much for your support.

We’re hoping to make up over 40 hampers.

Life by the River

How do I finish this last month of 2024? Where has this year gone, it just seemed to rush by. We have had some wonderful weather the last few months with a good deal of sunshine; it always seems better to have the sun on your face, the leaves are gently falling and the glorious Autumn colours ranging from brown, red, gold all add a certain pleasure before we experience the colder winter months.

The river is much the same although a few changes have occurred. The cygnet born earlier this year has gone to pastures new, left home if you like, but both his parents still swim around. There are two moorhens, they are very timid and swim quickly away as soon as they see you. Jemima my lovely goose is still coming morning and evening for a feed. She comes talking to me but sometimes the ducks swim to get a bit of food but I have to stop feeding her as the ducks are a lot faster than Jemima, plus a fish always tries to grab a pellet—by next year he is going to be quite large. And just this afternoon I happened to glance out of my patio door and there on the bank in full sight was a kingfisher in full resplendent colour ... but ... on the other hand we have a sly Mr Fox roaming around in the night and taking a likeness to our small green food bins. He knocks the handle lock off and drags them down to see what's inside. I just pray that Jemima keeps out of the way.

We had a really good Mothers' Union meeting this month. A lady from our church was a standard bearer for the British Legion and she recalled all the events she attended during her many years here in Stratford and London.

Welford marked Remembrance Sunday with a service around the maypole. The children wrote letters that were put out on the fences



outside the memorial hall, and a good few people gathered on this special day to mark the act of remembering.

We have so many things to look forward to, the Tractor Run coming through Welford on November 30th, all the Advent services coming up, and I have not one but four Christmas meals all before Christmas, phew! But I am sure they all will be lovely and tasty and the bonus is we will be with friends.

This last month has been a difficult month for me not feeling well and the loss of a very dear friend who died very suddenly, all in all difficult things to cope with.

We have come to the last month in the Church calendar before we move onto and through Advent so let us pray that the Lord open's our hearts and minds to all that God has to shower on us.

I wish you peace, love and hope this Christmas time
Every Blessing, Jane Smith x



The annual Act of Remembrance around Exhall's War Memorial was held on Sunday 10th November. The turnout was fantastic.

Many thanks to Peter Cogley for the PA system and to Chris Marlow and his brass ensemble that enhanced the music.



Wreaths were laid by local dignitaries and our children laid small wooden crosses to commemorate the sacrifices made by individuals who lost their lives to gain our freedom.

The poppy collage above was created by students of Harris Academy in Rugby.



Season's Greetings



Jackie and Robert West would like to wish everyone at St Giles a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a very Happy New Year.
Best wishes always.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.
Irene and John Tyler



Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and peace-filled Christmas.
With love from Hilary.



Wishing all at St Giles a joyous Christmas and peaceful, healthy New Year.
Irene Prideaux

*Wishing you and all your loved ones God's peace, joy and hope this Christmas and throughout the New Year to come. Let's keep following the star, led by the Light of the World!
Every blessing,
Rev Gail*

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
Cynthia



A wildlife tale

On 26th October my car needed a new clutch, so off I went to Midland Autos, Goodyers End Lane, to see my friendly beekeeping garage man, Tony. When I went back later to collect my car all the mechanics were having a good laugh. To replace the clutch you need to take out part of the engine—big job—and when they came to the engine filter there is a long tray underneath. To their surprise this tray was filled with wheat, straw, leaves and bits of paper. It turned out to be a mouse's food store and nest. My car is kept in the garage at home where I also keep sacks of bird food. The mouse had found the wheat, filled the tray with food and built a cosy home for himself. So what happens when I get the car out to go to church—does he go with me or wait until I get back? I can't believe it's been like this for several years now. Strange goings on.

Happy Christmas everyone.

Stella Bunting

We want to say a special 'thank you' to Rev Gail for her support during Nicky's illness and her service.



Also Kathryn, Mothers' Union, Craft and all the members of St Giles for your cards of sympathy and support on the loss of Nicky. It was so lovely to see so many in Church.

Peter, Laura and Cynthia

Christmas Flowers

As you know, part of the Christmas celebrations at St Giles includes decorating the church with flowers.

Contributions towards the cost of the flowers would be very welcome! Please pass any donations to Irene Prideaux.

Thank you.





We support the 16 Days of Activism campaign which runs from 25th November to 10th December. Throughout this campaign, we join with over 6000 organisations from over 185 countries to raise awareness of and call for an end to

gender based violence and abuse in all forms and in all societies. This year the Global Day of Action against Gender-Based Violence is Saturday 30th November.

Gender based violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It can affect anyone at any time and it takes many forms. It can be part of a damaging cultural norm or hidden behind closed doors. But we believe that we must bring this out into the light.

In Britain and Ireland, our members offer invaluable support, from providing essential items for refugees, organising workshops on gender-based issues in schools and prisons to supporting the families of survivors to heal and rebuild important family bonds through its 'Away From It All holidays'; our members are constantly looking for ways to **put their faith into action**.

We work in partnership with local domestic abuse organisations and parishes to raise awareness about the prevalence of all forms of abuse in our communities and give practical examples of how we can all be part of the change.

The Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse campaign is just one of the steps in our ongoing commitment to support and strengthen communities and families. We believe that by joining our membership, church and community together we can address this issue head-on, raising awareness and reducing incidents of domestic abuse through simple steps that scale up to create churches that are informed and able to support members and the wider community to combat domestic abuse.

We invite others to join us in this challenge or any of our campaigns and projects that seek to combat domestic abuse here or around the world. We believe that together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by domestic abuse and create a brighter, more secure future for everyone.

A Prayer

Dear Lord, we bring our concerns to you, for all, who in their weakness are worn down by abuse, we ask for comfort and rebuilding of their strength. for acceptance of themselves for confidence to grow, for courage to speak out, to seek help. To feel hope and a fresh beginning, to turning the corner in time, to a new life ahead, healed in body, mind and spirit, We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Locally we will be supporting the Church Bazaar by providing refreshments. Thanks to everyone who has supported us this year and Peace and Blessings for Christmas and the New Year,

Our first meeting of 2025 will be a Social Evening and Bring and Share Supper on 16th January 7.30pm in the Small Hall.

**If you would like to know more about Mothers' Union please contact
Viv Hopkins 02476 645161 or Yvonne Knowles 02476 749511**



MARY ANN EVANS HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING



We have now held our final coffee morning for 2024.

The total amount raised for this year is £2,417.

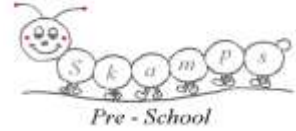
Thanks go to everyone who contributes to these events, our team of volunteers who cover many tasks on the day, the cake makers, raffle prize providers and those who make things for our sales table, and of course our customers—we couldn't do it without you all.

**The next coffee morning will be on 18th January,
10.00 am to 12.00 noon in the Small Hall.**

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, please don't hesitate to contact Viv Hopkins on 024 76645161 or Jackie West on 024 76362168.

Skamps Pre-school Day Nursery offers full day care for babies from 6 weeks to school age at St Andrews House, Smorrall Lane, Bedworth CV12 0JP

- **30 and 15 hour** funding available
- Opening hours **8 am to 4 pm** but earlier or later times are available subject to demand
- **Emergency cover** and **School Holiday cover** available
- **See Facebook and Website for more information**



Please contact Gaynor 07714 326706
skampspreschool@hotmail.co.uk, www.skampspreschooldaynursery.com



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We publish 10 editions of the magazine each year.
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A half page advert is £20 per month or £200 per year
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For further details please contact Tina Watkins on 02476 645278, 07905 297713
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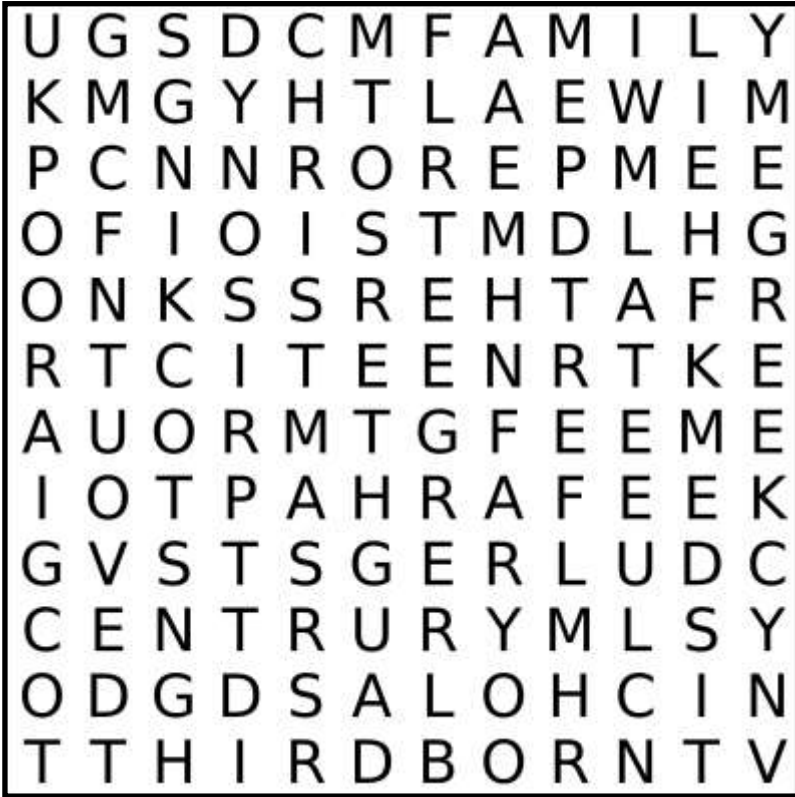
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WORD SEARCH

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians.



FATHER	CHRISTMAS	NICHOLAS	BORN	THIRD
CENTURY	GREEK	VILLAGE	DEVOUT	WEALTHY
NEEDY	SICK	SUFFERING	PRISON	EMPEROR
POOR	FAMILY	THREE	DAUGHTERS	STOCKINGS
MONEY				

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING



Please join us on
18th January
in the Small Hall



10.00 am - 12.00 noon

All proceeds to Mary Ann Evans Hospice

Tea, Coffee,
Cakes, Raffle
and Sales Table



A Goose's Tale

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''.* Matthew 1:23.

St. Giles' Drama Club is Proud to Present:

The King's New Clothes



19th—22nd February
2025, at 7:30pm

Matinee 22nd February, 2:30 pm

St Giles' Church Hall,
CV7 9GZ

A Pantomime by Peter Bond
& Bob Heather
By kind permission of Lazy Bee Scripts

Tickets £8 (Concessions £6) From 024 7664 5278 or 07905 297713

024 7632 5870 or 07952 345412

At a Glance - December 2024/JANUARY 2025

MORNING PRAYER TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS at 8am in Church

December

Tuesday 3rd	1.00 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Over 50s—Main Hall (weekly) Compline Advent Reflection (weekly) Vicarage Home Group (final)
Thursday 7th	2.30 pm	Bereavement Drop-in—Small Hall (fortnightly)
Tuesday 10th	10.30 am 11.15 am	Service at Bede Village Service at Richmond Lodge
Weds 11th	10.30 am 11.00 am	Coffee, Craft & Conversation—Small Hall (weekly apart from 1st Wednesday) Funeral—Marie Windridge
Thursday 12th	2.00 pm	Service at Fairfield Home
Monday 16th	7.00 pm	Carol Singing—Cedars Estate
Tuesday 17th	9.30 pm 7.00 pm	Hamper Packing—Small Hall Carol Singing—Ash Green
Thursday 19th	2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Quiet Christmas Remembering Mothers' Union

January

Tuesday 7th	1.00 pm 7.00 pm	Over 50s—Main Hall (weekly) Compline (weekly)
Weds 15th	10.30 am	Coffee, Craft & Conversation— Small Hall (weekly apart from 1st Wednesday)
Thursday 16th	2.30 pm 7.30 pm	Bereavement Drop-in-Small Hall (fortnightly) Mothers' Union—Small Hall
Saturday 18th	10.00 am	Hospice Coffee Morning—Small Hall
Monday 20th	7.30 pm	PCC—Small Hall

Weddings

*Marriage is never to be undertaken carelessly,
lightly or selfishly.*

**Steven Kenneth Vallance and Sasha Marie Elkin
on 16th November**



Funerals

*In the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil, for you are with me.*

Robert Keith Gregory, who died on 22nd October aged 79

Marie Patricia Irene Windridge, who died on 30th October aged 80

St Giles Christmas Tree Festival

OUR TREE IS YOUR TREE



The Churchwardens' Team invites you once again to join us to co-create a Christmas tree that celebrates the **gifts of life and love**. To do so, we **invite you to create weather-proof, environmentally friendly Christmas decorations for your loved ones** who may not be with us physically but are in our hearts, thoughts, prayers; be it because of health reasons, in memory of loved ones who have passed away, or for some other reason.

The Churchwardens have claimed the **tree nearest to the main Church entrance** to be our Christmas Memory Tree.

Your completed decorations can be placed on the tree from 7th December, ready for the start of the Festival.

Should you wish to keep your Christmas decoration(s) after the Festival, please **reclaim by 5th January 2025**. Thank you.

Should you have any questions, require clarification or wish a member of the Churchwardens' Team to collect/place your decoration(s) on the tree, please contact Neva Khan on 07496 859598.

Ministry and Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Wardens	Neil Harris Neva Khan	07432 414798 07496 859598
Readers	John Owen Chris Wilson	0247636 6111 07717 523512
Administrator/Rotas	Penny Pallett	0247636 8008
Bereavement Drop-In	Sue Barnes	07946 051122
Electoral Roll	Beryl Owen	0247636 6111
Halls Bookings	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Parish Magazine	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Pastoral Care	Neva Khan	07496 859598
Readers	John Owen	0247636 6111
PCC Secretary	Carol Gough	027631 8219
PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid	Stephen Carter	0247631 2831
Safeguarding	Muriel Ganley	07988 477659
Website	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980

Church and Worship

Bell Ringing	Steve Watkins	0247664 5278 07926 989686
Brass cleaning	Chrissie Hughes	0247631 5468
Choir/Organist	Kathryn Unsworth	0247667 3325
11.30 Worship Band	Roy Edwards	0247664 4916
Flowers in Church	Irene Prideaux	0247636 1321
Prayer Chain	Chris Wilson	07717 523512
Verger	Mandy Williams	02476 337188

Young People, Nurture and Discipleship

Home Groups	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
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Other Groups and Activities

Drama Club	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Hospice Coffee Morning	Viv Hopkins	0247664 5161
Mothers' Union	Mandy Williams	0247633 7188
Over 50s Club	Patricia Munro	0247664 4507
Green Genies	Robert and Jackie West	0247636 2168

St Giles Church, Exhall Christmas Tree Festival

Re-use and recycle!

The festival will open on
Saturday 7th December at 2.00 pm,
and will be open until 5th January.

Come and explore the grounds around

St Giles Church and see the
environmentally-friendly Christmas trees that
have all been decorated by local individuals,
schools, groups, businesses and organisations!

This is a free festival but donations are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you!

