

The Ven. David Garnett
The Vicarage, Edensor, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1PH Tel: 01246 582130
(Church website - www.stpetersedensor.org)



December 2009

Dear Friends,

The clocks have been put back and the first plastic Santas are already on display in the shops! In our Edensor garden, the final falling horse-chestnut leaves whirl across a slate grey sky, and the wind has a definite nip in it. It's time to empty the summer flower pots, and prepare the greenhouse for frost. So block out the draughts and turn on the lamps, snuggle down by the fire with a hot mug of cocoa, and enjoy the darkness.

Advent has a rich history and was fully celebrated in medieval times with fasting, prayer and time for quiet contemplation. We are allowed to rest, to be expectant, to listen. As autumn finally begins to turn into winter, the Church's ancient liturgy encourages us to enter a period of deeper reflection, to look inside ourselves and thinking back over the last few months of hustle and bustle, find again the still voice of God speaking to our inmost soul.

But Advent leads us to Christmas, and how wonderful it will be if we can regain a true spirit of joy and peace in our hearts and in our relationships at this time of year. The older one gets, the more challenges there seem to be in accomplishing this. The youthful sense of absolute joy one might have had as a child, can so often be tarnished by life's events and their legacy. Whether it is through bereavement, divorce, loss, physical pain or anxiety, our joy can be corroded by a rust of "wear and tear". Sometimes we can almost feel guilty if we seem too happy!

Advent is a good time to deal with some of this melancholy, to apply a good coat of spiritual "rust proofing", to pray again for a blessing of joy in our lives. Then as we come together to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we can feel again the shining happiness most of us felt at some time as children. Our "Floral Fanfare" will highlight some of the beauty of creation, of design and of music. The generosity of our visitors and volunteers will also support important charitable work. So let's really say to ourselves each morning throughout Advent and into Christmas, "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be

glad in it!" There is so much to celebrate in our world, in each other and in the blessings of God.

With our love and prayers,
David and Susanne

FROM THE REGISTERS

THE CHAPEL AT CHATSWORTH

Baptism

24th October 2009 *Maud Elizabeth Cavendish*

ST. PETER'S EDENSOR

Weddings

24th October 2009 *Anna Louise Billard & Barnaby Nicholas Franklin*

13th November 2009 *Johanna Margaret Rose Tofield & Simon Jason Toft*

Funeral service followed by burial

6th November 2009 *Captain David Anthony Statham (Tony) aged 74 yrs*

ST. ANNE'S BEELEY

Interment of Ashes

7th November 2009 *Jean Macaulay aged 95 yrs*

12th November 2009 *Margaret Annie Morten aged 90 yrs*

St. Peter's Church - Floral Fanfare

4 - 11 December 2009

Christmas Flower Festival

by Robert Young

Open Saturday 5th - Friday 11th

10.30am - 5.30pm

Sunday 6th | Family Communion 10.30am

Advent Carol Service 4pm

Everyone welcome

Refreshments 11am - 4pm daily

Dates to Note

- 3 - 9 Dec Bakewell Parish Church 'Christmas Tree Spectacular'
- 4 - 11 Dec St. Peter's Church 'Floral Fanfare' -Christmas Flower Festival by Robert Young.
- 6 Dec 4pm Advent Carol Service - St. Peter's, Edensor
- 8 Dec BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Christmas Party, mulled wine and mince pies
- 11 Dec Thornhill House Festival of Lights 6.30pm
- 12 Dec **SKIP:** Baslow Council Houses 7.45-8.15
Nether End Car Park 8.20-10.45
- 16 Dec CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Cavendish Annexe
Christmas Party - Buffet & Wine, Social Time, Lucky Dip
Competition: Christmas cracker (hand made)
Flowers: Mrs Brewer
CHRISTMAS HAMPER
- 24 Dec 6pm Nine Lessons & Carols - St. Anne's, Beeley
- Christmas Eve 11.45pm Midnight Mass - St. Peter's, Edensor
- 25 Dec 9.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day - St. Anne's
- Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day - St Peter's
- 9 Jan **SKIP:** Edensor The Green 7.45-9.30
Pilsley Garage Yard 9.45-10.45
- 9/23 Jan **SKIP:** Baslow Council Houses 7.45-8.15
Nether End Car Park 8.20-10.45
- 16 Jan **SKIP:** Beeley Devonshire Square 7.45-8.45
- 21/22/23 Jan 'The Shoestring Players' present 'Aladdin', Bakewell's first
Community Pantomime in the Town Hall - 7.30pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on
23rd. TICKETS ON SALE FROM 1st DECEMBER - Bakewell Bookshop. Adults
£5 children £2.50



Useful Telephone Numbers

St. Anne's	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Vernon Mather	01629 732317
<u>St. Peter's</u>	Treasurer:-	Gloria Sherwood	01629 732983
	Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw	01246 582421
		Duncan Gordon	01629 734099
	Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton	01246 582245
		e-mail: mtitterton@btinternet.com	

THANK YOU

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has helped in any way at all at our two churches this past year. The people who clean (special thanks to all those stalwarts who came to get St. Peter's clean and tidy for special events/weddings during the re-roofing - it was quite a task!). Those who make coffee, arrange flowers, read lessons, do sterling work as sidesmen, our organists Lynn & Jo who give us such beautiful music despite the state of the organ, to Clive Robinson who winds the clock, those who have helped to keep the churchyards tidy and to David and Vernon and our visiting preachers.

I do hope I haven't forgotten anyone!

PLEASE NOTE

Because of the Floral Fanfare and Christmas the deadline for the January Magazine copy is

MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER!

e-mail: lizbradshaw@onetel.com

St. Peter's Church 100 Club
October 2009

1st Prize £30 no 20 Margaret Nelson

2nd Prize £20 no. 2 Barrie Bateman

Funds to church this month - £48

Magazine Subscriptions

Your magazine subscription for 2010 is due at the end of the year - £7.20 and if I post it to you a book of 12 x 2nd class stamps brings the total to £10.80 (or give me a book of stamps!) Thank you for your continued support.

Cheques should be made payable to
Edensor PCC

Smile.....Wise men?

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus.

Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ST. PETER'S & ST. ANNE'S



Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to friends & fellow members of the congregations and readers of The Bridge #from:5

Liz & Ray Bradshaw; Pauline & Vernon Mather; Janet & Peter Machin; Clive & Joy Thrower; Gloria & Roger Sherwood; Vilna Kembery; Jean Tindale; Christine & Clive Robinson; Doreen Gaynor; Ann Eaton; Pat & Roy Bosett; Margaret Thomas; Mary Anderson; Margaret Clamp; Molly Marshall; Charles Illingworth; Stan Liddicot; Dorothy Cooper; Jean Clarke; Ken Rimmington; Dorothea Owen; Josephine Daubney; Pauline & John Dunkley; Ann & David Hall; Di & Brian Homer; Jill & Michael Gowdey;

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honor and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!



anon



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

When most people hear '*The 12 days of Christmas*' they think of the song of the same name. It is believed by many that this song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly, so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. The song '*The Twelve Days of Christmas*' is one example of how many people believe that they did it.

The song goes, "*On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...*"

The 'true love' represents God and the 'me' who receives these presents is the Christian.

The '*partridge in a pear tree*' was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The '*two turtle doves*' were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.

The '*three French hens*' were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1 Corinthians 13). The '*four calling birds*' were the four Gospels, which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The '*five golden rings*' were the first five books of the Bible, also called the 'Book of Moses'.

The '*six geese a-laying*' were the six days of creation.

The '*seven swans a swimming*' were 'seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.' (1 Corinthians 12:9-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4:10-11.)

The '*eight maids a milking*' were the eight beatitudes.

The '*nine ladies dancing*' were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The '*ten lords a-leaping*' were the Ten Commandments.

The '*eleven pipers piping*' were the eleven faithful disciples.

The '*twelve drummers drumming*' were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

So the next time you hear '*The 12 Days of Christmas*' you can make up your own mind: could this non-religious sounding song really have had its origins in the Christian Faith, or not?



On the first day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me,
A partridge in a pear tree.

CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF ST MATTHEW (MATTHEW 2: 1 - 11)



NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a

Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.



All I didn't want for Christmas....

What will you do with those ghastly socks, unwanted 'gizmos' for car and home, and sickly-smelling cosmetics that well-meaning family and friends inflict on you this year? After you have accepted them with good grace, and politely thanked the giver (most important – they meant you well!) – will you keep them, or not?

Last year something like 1.7 million of us in the UK tried to swap about £110 million worth of unwanted Christmas gifts, and the trend looks set to grow even larger this year. Many people use 'swapping' websites. Two years ago the online auctioneer eBay claimed to have listed two million unwanted Christmas gifts. Other popular sites are uk.freecycle.org and www.recycleagift.com.

I wonder if the givers buy them back and present them again the following year??



DON'T LET YOURSELF BE STOLEN!

When you go Christmas shopping this month, be careful; identity fraud has increased by more than a third this past year alone. Britain, it seems, now has the highest level of identity fraud in Europe. CIFAS, a fraud prevention service, reports that in just the first nine months of the year, there were 59,000 recorded victims of impersonation, nearly equalling last year's total of 62,658.

Account takeovers, where a third party simply hacks into an existing account, have more than tripled in the past two years, with most victims having their credit cards as the target.

CIFAS warns people to be careful when purchasing online and in shops – “be careful with whom you share your credit card details”. But CIFAS is also concerned that some companies are not careful enough with customer data.

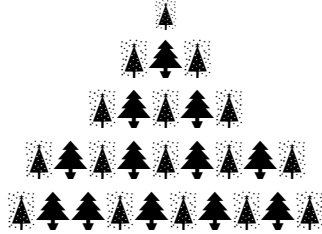
Good advice

If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: 'Take two aspirin' and 'Keep away from children!'

CHRISTMAS: WHERE DID CHRISTMAS TREES COME FROM?

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8th century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: "This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you."

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16th century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.



The little round button

At a clearance sale, the wife of a senior judge found the perfect green tie to match one of her husband's sport jackets. Soon after, while the couple was relaxing at a resort to get his mind off a complicated cocaine-conspiracy case, he noticed a small, round disc sewn into the tie. The judge showed it to the police, who were equally suspicious that it might be a 'bug', planted by the conspiracy defendants.

The police took the tie away for some serious analysis. Two weeks later, the judge phoned Scotland Yard to find out the results of their tests. "Well, we're not really sure where the disc came from," the police told him. "But we did discover that if you press it, it plays Jingle Bells."

CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

What future is there for the Christian faith in our countryside? Next year a major conference is to bring together leading thinkers on rural economies, planning, policy and mission to explore the sustainability of rural communities and their churches to consider the question.

'Faith and the Future of the Countryside – 2010' will also mark 20 years from the publication of Faith in the Countryside, the seminal report of the Archbishop's Commission on Rural Areas chaired by Lord Prior. Four conference themes of rural communities, economy, environment and rural church reflect the breadth of issues covered in the original report.

Four keynote speakers will include Professor Michael Winter, Director of the Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter, and

Professor Mark Shucksmith, Professor of Planning at the University of Newcastle. The keynote addresses will be backed up by 20 seminars on the four themes of rural communities, economy, environment and rural church and a range of poster sessions.

Faith and the Future of the Countryside – 2010, organised by the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Division, will be held from 3 – 5 November 2010 at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Details and a booking form are available at www.rural20.org or from: Faith and the Future of the Countryside Conference, The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG, email katrinas@rase.org.uk or tel: 024 7685 3075.



WHAT WAKES YOU UP IN THE MORNING?

Stuck on what to buy someone for Christmas? Don't bother with an alarm clock – chances are that they use their mobile phone instead these days. Recent research by Rightmobilephone.co.uk has found that more than half of all people who own mobile phones use them as alarm clocks.

This could signal the beginning of the end for the humble alarm clock – a device which has helped us to get to work on time for more than 100 years. It was in 1876 that the Seth Thomas Clock Company was granted a patent for a small bedside alarm clock, believed to be the first of its type.

A PRETTY GOOD MIRACLE

The Rev William Mather, a vicar near Hull, offers a Christmas reflection...

Many of us have wonderful childhood memories of Christmas. For some of us, it was the wonderful Midnight Communion of Christmas Eve, when we visited our candle-lit country church nestled among snowy fields, under a starlit sky.

Special memories of Christmas can move us to tears. Perhaps it is when certain carols are sung, or tables are laden for meals. Faces glowing by candlelight during 'Silent Night' is hard to beat. Christmas is indeed full of wonderful emotions, yet there is so much more to this special day. For the warm emotions are built on rock-solid truths that will stand for ever. For the events were historic, and the miracles really happened.

To the normal, logical, rational, 21st century mind it is all bizarre. An angel came to a girl who was not even married telling her she was going to have a baby. To cap it all, the "father" was not her boy-friend but the Holy Spirit. The girl - Mary - not only bought the story but then told her cousin Elizabeth who was promptly filled with the Holy Spirit. She then told Mary she was unbelievably blessed. Mary then sang

an amazing song that people have been singing every since.

It gets still more crazy and complicated because Elizabeth's husband had had an extraordinary meeting with an angel and been struck dumb ever since. It was only when the baby was born and he wrote down: "His name is John", that he got his voice back. He started praising God.

The miracles heap up with the birth of Mary's child. Shepherds in a field saw the sky full of angels who told them to go and see a baby in nearby Bethlehem. They believed it was God telling them to go. They came back praising God. Others went too, some of them poor, others very rich - but they all came away praising God and wanting to tell others.

These were supernatural stories of people meeting Jesus and believing in him. Their lives were radically changed. Amazingly, Jesus continues to do the same today. In John 1:12 we read that for those who did receive him and believe in him "he gave them the right to become God's Children."



Let all of us make this Christmas a chance to receive him and believe in him. That in itself is a pretty good miracle.

GOING GREY

The world is turning grey. The number of people aged over 65 is soon to overtake the number of infants, for the first time EVER in history. With every passing month, another 870,000 people turn 65. Thanks to better standards of living, soon their ranks will be growing by almost two million people a month. By 2040, more than 1.3 billion people will be 65 or over.

The US Census Bureau predicts that by 2020 the world will have more pensioners than infants under the age of five. The populations of Europe and North America have been steadily ageing for decades, and now the trend is reaching Asia, from China to South Korea, from Japan to Singapore.

EVER DECREASING....?

This Christmas if you get lost trying to visit far-flung family, find unfamiliar concert venues or parties, or locate new shops for shopping, you may get the feeling that you are going around in circles. That's because you probably are.

Recent research has discovered that when people are lost they tend to return to the place they started when they lost their bearings. In fact, when deprived of a compass or reference points, we seem to find it impossible to walk in a straight line. (Mulled wine, or not!)

PRE-RAPHAELITE STAINED GLASS FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS STAMPS

The iridescent beauty of stained glass has told the nativity story for more than a thousand years, and it is now the inspiration for this year's Royal Mail Christmas stamps.

The seven stamps, issued in early November, feature characters from the nativity depicted in pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows selected from churches around the UK. Artists include William Morris, Henry Holiday and Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Stamp designer Andrew Ross researched hundreds of photographs of stained glass windows before finally making his selection.

Review

SILENT NIGHT

By VICKI HOWIE, KRISZTINA KALLAI NAGY BRF, £7.99

Long ago, in the Church of St Nicholas in Oberndorf in Austria, Joseph Mohr wrote the words to the Christmas carol, 'Silent Night'. The music was composed by his friend Franz Gruber, to be played on a guitar... because mice had eaten through the organ bellows! This is the beautiful story of the mice that inspired the writing and singing of the famous song, Silent Night is ideal for Children ages 5-7. It also makes an ideal gift from parents, grandparents or godparents, or as a gift or prize from church or Sunday School.

Review

Five Impossible Things to Believe Before Christmas

By Kevin Scully, BRF, £4.99

Are you looking for a fresh look at things that we sometimes take for granted, skirt around or ignore completely - a dip-in book for Advent that sharpens our appreciation of and wonder at the season?

From the angel appearing to a teenage girl to give her the shocking news of an unexpected pregnancy, to the sudden appearance of mysterious 'wise men' following a star in search of a king, the Christmas story can feel so familiar that we can forget just how outrageous - and, humanly speaking, impossible - its many twists and turns really are.

Five Impossible Things to Believe Before Christmas provokes Christians to consider afresh the shock of what we are asking people to believe. Each chapter concludes with questions for personal reflection, exercises for group use and a prayer.

Sheep ... How do sheep greet each other at Christmas?
A merry Christmas to ewe!

THE TRUMPET WILL SOUND... AND WE SHALL BE CHANGED':

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

The Rev Michael Burgess

It is hard to imagine Christmas without the great hymn, 'Hark! The herald-angels sing.' Julian wrote in his dictionary of hymnody in 1891 that it was one of the four hymns that stood at the head of all the hymns in the English language.

Mendelssohn wrote the music for this hymn, but originally to different words. It was part of two special works to celebrate the invention of printing. He knew that the melody would go well to other words and wrote to his publishers to say so. 'But it will never do to sacred words. There must be a national and merry subject found out, something to which the soldier-like and buxom motion of the piece has some relation,' he wrote.

Dr W H Cummings, the organist at Waltham Abbey, proved the composer wrong when he set the music to Charles Wesley's words, ensuring that this joyous, bright melody – perhaps even buxom – would become part of Christmas services up and down the land.

Seven years later, Mendelssohn's composing mood was very different. In 1847 his beloved sister, Fanny, died. He poured out his grief and anguish into a string quartet in F minor whose slow movement has become known as the Requiem for Fanny. This elegiac music is a far world from the exuberance of that hymn.

A few months after composing that work, Mendelssohn himself died at the age of 38. His funeral service included choruses from his own oratorio, 'St Paul' and the final chorus from Bach's St Matthew Passion. He had admired Bach's music from childhood days, and in March 1829 he conducted the first performance of the Matthew Passion since Bach's day. Mendelssohn found his own sense of duty and devotion to composing mirrored in Bach. But more than that he found his own faith reflected in Bach's Passions and Cantatas.

In 1816 as a boy of 7, he had been baptised with his brother and sister. Felix became a passionate Christian, but was also a great admirer of the humanist philosophy of his grandfather, Moses Mendelssohn, an important figure in the German Enlightenment. These two poles – Christian faith and Jewish antecedents – provided the creative tension that resulted in the oratorio 'St Paul' describing Saul's dramatic

conversion from Judaism to Christianity.

That tension is vividly described in the overture, where the Lutheran chorale, 'Wachet auf,' vies with fugal episodes depicting the saint's inner struggles. The Jewish anger at the Christian message erupts in the stoning of Stephen and later at Lystra, but it cannot halt Paul's conversion. His final words in the work are 'Be faithful unto death.'

This work was written when Mendelssohn's father was still alive, and the text, which he prepared with the local pastor, was sent to Abraham, his father, for approval. Abraham wanted his son to stress the cruciality of the Damascus experience which uprooted Paul from his Jewish background. Ten years afterwards with his father dead, Mendelssohn composed 'Elijah.' Here the two faiths are not in conflict, but one becomes the forerunner of the other as Elijah is cast as a precursor of Christ.

'Elijah' was first performed in Birmingham in August 1846. The reception was overwhelming, and four of the choruses and four arias had to be encoed. The work went on to become the most popular oratorio after 'Messiah.' The composer wanted the dramatic element to dominate and that may explain the work's popularity. But

lyricism constantly shines through the drama, no more so than in the angel's radiant aria, 'Oh, rest in the Lord.'

We can see how the world of salvation was vital in his composing life as he responded to texts in both Old and New Testaments. That is why at the age of 30 he was delighted to accept the commission to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press.

Gutenberg had made possible the spread of the Christian faith through the production of bibles: printed words witnessing to Jesus the Word. Those words inspired his 'Hymn of Praise' which begins with Psalm 150 calling on musical instruments to praise the Lord and ends with voices proclaiming the glory of God in the final chorale.

In this 200th anniversary year of the birth of Mendelssohn, we rejoice in his music that has continued to thrill and inspire. And we rejoice in his faith, which through his music calls on all of us to sing of God's glory not just at Christmas time with 'Hark! The herald-angels sing' but for evermore.



MORE THAN A CHRISTMAS CAROL

*The Rev Paul Hardingham muses on
A Christmas Carol*

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, is one of the best-loved stories to be associated with Christmas. Although a familiar tale, it's worth closer inspection as we ask what it has to say to us in the 21st century.

The book's main character is the mean and intimidating Ebenezer Scrooge, who lives to make money and little else. He particularly detests Christmas, which he views as *'a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer'*.

Scrooge is visited on Christmas Eve by the ghost of his former partner, Jacob Marley, who died seven Christmas Eves ago. Marley, a miser like Scrooge, is suffering the consequences in the afterlife and hopes to help Scrooge avoid his fate. He tells Scrooge that he will be haunted by three spirits: the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. They succeed in showing Scrooge the error of his ways and reforming him.

Christmas morning finds Scrooge sending a Christmas turkey to his long-suffering clerk, Bob Cratchit, and spending Christmas day in the company of his nephew, Fred, whom

he had earlier spurned. He goes on to raise Cratchit's salary and assists his family, including Bob's crippled son, Tiny Tim. In the end Scrooge became *'as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew'*.

In the 21st Century we can fall into a similar trap as Scrooge, despite the credit crunch! We can see money, and the things it buys, as the answer to our problems. We can lose sight of the value of relationships; consistently choosing our career over family and being driven by an insatiable desire for success.

Like Scrooge, the dawn of Christmas morning can be an opportunity for us to change our perspective, as we remember the birth of the hero of the greatest Christmas story, Jesus Christ. Just as the spirits of Christmas wanted Scrooge to change for good, so God knows us better than we know ourselves, and loves us enough to help us to change and make a difference.

We have the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness, renew our faith, release our fears and rebuild friendships. Yet, like Scrooge, we have to choose to change! In fact, Jesus alone can give us a new outlook on life, as we commemorate the past, consecrate the present and contemplate the future.

smile....

CHRISTMAS CONVERSATIONS

The monks at a remote monastery deep in the woods followed a rigid vow of silence. Their vow could only be broken once a year - on Christmas Day - by one monk. That monk could speak only one sentence. One Christmas, Brother Thomas had his turn to speak and said, "I love the delightful mashed potatoes we have every year with

the Christmas roast!" Then he sat down. Silence ensued for 365 days.

The next Christmas, Brother Michael got his turn and said, "I think the mashed potatoes are lumpy, and I truly despise them!" Once again, silence ensued for 365 days.

The following Christmas, Brother Paul rose and said, "I am fed up with this constant bickering!"

ARE YOU COLD?

During the winter months (October to March) the NHS Winter Warmth Advice Line provides help and support for people who are particularly vulnerable to the cold. Please ring Winter Warmth Advice Line Freephone 0800 085 7000 (8.00am to 8.00pm Monday – Friday)

Carol

What carol is heard in the desert?
Camel you faithful!

Snow

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Snow.
Snow who?
Snow use – I've forgotten my name

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

November solution

December Sudoku

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

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SERVICES & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2009

St., Anne's, Beeley

Flowers

6 Dec	9.30am Holy Communion		Advent noflowers
13 Dec	9.30am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	" "
20 Dec	9.30am Holy Communion		" "
24 Dec	6pm 9 Lessons & Carols		Mrs Hopkins
25 Dec	9.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day		Christmas flowers
27 Dec	9.30am Holy Communion		" "
3 Jan	9.30am Holy Communion		Mrs Turner

St. Peter's, Edensor

Sidesmen

6 Dec	10.30am Family Communion		Mr & Mrs Jackson
	4pm Advent Carol Service		Mr & Mrs Machin
13 Dec	10.30am Holy Communion		Mr & Mrs Wardle
20 Dec	10.30am Matins	R S Sherwood/Diana Walters	
24 Dec	11.30pm Midnight Mass		to be arranged
25 Dec	10.30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day		to be arranged
27 Dec	10.30am Holy Communion		R A Gray/J Bowns
3 Jan	10.30am Holy Communion		Mrs Thomas/S Liddicot

Coffee

Cleaning

Flowers

6 Dec	FF rota	Mr & Mrs Jackson	Floral Fanfare
13 Dec	Mrs Bradshaw	-----	Advent - no flowers
20 Dec	No Coffee	Mr & Mrs Wardle	" "
27 Dec	Mr & Mrs Dempsey	-----	Christmas Flowers
3 Jan	Rev. & Mrs Thrower	Mrs Bateman/Mrs Robinson	Wedding flowers

Readings

St. Peter's

St. Anne's & Sunday School

6 Dec	Isaiah 55. 1-11 Luke 4. 14-21	Molly Marshall	Di Homer Sarah Porter	Lynda H-A
13 Dec	Phillippians 4.4-7 Luke 3. 7-18	Doreen Gaynor	Rupert Turner Judith F-M	Fiona Swain
20 Dec	Micah 5. 2-5a Luke 1. 39-55	Diana Walters	Lynda H-A Fiona Swain	Sarah Porter
24 Dec	Isaiah 9. 2-7 John 1. 1-14	To be arranged	Judith F-M Di Homer	
25 Dec	Micah 5. 2-4 Luke 2. 1-14	To be arranged " "	To be arranged " "	not on
27 Dec	1 Samuel 2. 18-26 John 1. 1-14	Margaret Thomas	Fiona Swain Sarah Porter	Lynda H-A
3 Jan	Ephesians 1. 3-14 John 1. 10-18	Molly Marshall	Di Homer Rupert Turner	Sarah Porter