

In This Issue...

Diary for December	2
Winter chill to Christmas cheer	4
Christ Church First School.....	5
Faith in Dark Times	7
Choral Society Concert.....	7
Friends and Family	8
Kidz Korner	Insert
From the Mission Field	9
Who are . . . Interserve?	10
Joscelynes' Prayer requests	10
Musical Celebration	11
Puzzle pages.....	12
Off the Wall.....	14
Puzzle solutions	14
Streets of Prayer	15
A Christmas meditation	15
From the Registers.....	16

Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the January magazine to the editor by Friday 16th December.

Well, we've made it through another 12 months! So it's time to say a huge "Thank You" to our contributors, the production team and distributors - the unsung heroes of this magazine.

Ed.

Cover Story

As we settle into Winter it's nice to have a reminder of Summer, so this month's picture gives us a view across the canal to Whitebridge Manor.

New Web site

Look carefully in the panel below and you will see that the Parish website address has changed - update your favourites today!

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website: www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc

Parish Office email: christchurchcentre@pgen.net

Magazine contributions: christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

December

2005

Fr	2	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Sa	3	8.30 am	Prayers followed at 9.00 am by Breakfast
Su	4	Advent 2 Bible Sunday	
		9.15 am Parish Communion	Sermon text: Isaiah 6: "meet his Holiness"
		6.00 pm Evening Prayer	Sermon text: Romans 15:1-13 "Get Ready"
Tu	6	9.30 am	Assembly at Christ Church First School
		12.30 am	Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School
We	7	1.00 pm	Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch
		1.10 pm	Assembly at Alleyne's School
Th	8	10.30 am	Holy Communion in church
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Home
		8.00 pm	20s' Growth Group a 27 Oulton Road
Fr	9	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Su	11	Advent 3	
		9.15 am Morning Prayer	Sermon text: Isaiah 7 "the sign of Immanuel"
		6.00 pm Parish Communion	Sermon text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12 - 28
Tu	13	7.00 pm	Christ Church First School Nativity Service in church
We	14	1.10 pm	Assembly at Alleyne's School
Th	15	7.30 pm	Stone Choral Society "Christmas Carols" in church
Fr	16	2.00 pm	Christ Church Middle School Christmas service in church
		7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Sa	17	12.00 noon	to 1.00 pm Carols in Stone Market Square
		4.00 pm	Christingle craft activities in the Centre followed by
		4.30 pm	Christingle service in church
Su	18	Advent 4	
		9.15 am Parish Communion	Sermon text: Isaiah 8 "O Immanuel"
		5.00 pm Carol Service - followed by refreshments	Sermon text: Romans 16: 25 - 27 & Isaiah 9:2 - 7
			"Unto us . . ."

Tu	20	10.30 am	Causeway Prospects service in church followed by coffee & mince pies in the Centre
We	21	10.00 am	Men's Fellowship - carols and mince pies
Th	22	10.30 am	Holy Communion in church
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Oulton Abbey
Fr	23	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre

Sa 24 Christmas Eve

11.30 pm Holy Communion

Sermon text: 1 Timothy 1: 15 - 17 "why Jesus came"

Su 25 Christmas Day

9.15 am Holy Communion

Sermon text: Isaiah 9:6 "WCMGEFPP"

NO EVENING SERVICE

January

2006

Su 1 Circumcision of Christ

10.30 am Holy Communion

Note the time! Sermon text: Isaiah 10:20 - 34 "only a remnant"
This service is for the whole Benefice.

NO EVENING SERVICE

The following Activities take place every week in the centre during school term time:

Monday Toddlers

9.30 am

Friday Little Fishes

11.00 am

Activities for children and young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday (except on the fourth Sunday of the month, which is family service):

Climbers 3-7 years

Explorers 7-11 years

Pathfinders 11-14 years

All children are welcome



From winter chill to Christmas cheer

The winter chill is something we want to avoid. The cold blasts of last month led us to push up the thermostat and put on warmer clothes. Part of our success as humans is that there are some aspects of our environment we have learned to control. But what if winter never ended? It makes you shudder to think about it. This imagined situation is the setting behind a famous story.

This December brings the welcome arrival of a new film adaptation of C. S. Lewis' famous work from his series called the Narnia Chronicles. 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' hits the cinemas early in December. It is the land of the White Witch – the Queen of Narnia – where it is 'always winter, but never Christmas.' The Queen of Narnia is a terrifying figure. Her generosity to the young boy Edmund makes the reader shiver:

'Perhaps something hot to drink?' said the Queen. 'Should you like that?' 'Yes, please, your Majesty' said Edmund, whose teeth were chattering. The Queen took from somewhere among her wrappings a very small bottle which looked as if it were made of copper....Edmund felt much better as he began to sip the hot drink....it warmed him right down to his toes.' [*The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* 1996, Harper Collins p.36].

Everything in the witch's land is frozen and lifeless, full of creatures that have been turned to stone. The only one with the power to break the spell is Aslan the Lion. The arrival of Christmas is the first sign that Aslan is on the move, and that the witch's magic is weakening.

The story (I won't spoil the ending!) is a great allegory of how the power of evil turns us all to stone in relation to God. It is only the transforming power of Jesus Christ that can change us. This is why Christmas is a key festival to celebrate. At this time we rejoice that Jesus Christ entered the world that he had made, in order be our rescuer.



I hope that you can join me in entering the joy of the first Christmas: *'the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means God with us'* (Matthew 1v23). I look forward to seeing you at one of our services (see details in this magazine).

Paul Kingman

Christ Church First School News

Wednesday November 2nd proved to be a memorable day in the history of our school. It was a day of great excitement as our school web site -

www.christchurch-stone.staffs.school.uk

went live on line—thanks to many hours of work by our computer expert Mr. Hindhaugh.



We now have a comprehensive web site, featuring an overview of the school—beginning with a detailed account of our long and eventful history. Other areas highlighted are— curriculum content, details of after-school clubs, information for parents and evidence of children's work, including photographs. The site is updated on a regular basis by Mr. Hindhaugh, encouraging parents and children to visit as often as possible and enabling us to showcase our school and its achievements to a wider community. If you have a home computer, a visit to the site compares very favourably to an evening spent watching TV!

Pilot Scheme To continue on this theme—we as a school are very proud to have been awarded the opportunity to become a pilot school to develop the use of Video Conferencing. This initiative has been funded by the Small Schools' Network. It is a rewarding and challenging project to be involved in —enabling us to link with schools and educational organizations both locally and on a global scale. Our children are certainly fortunate to be able to develop their IT skills in such innovative ways!

Artwork Year 4 children spent a very interesting morning visiting Newcastle Museum to view 31 original sketches by Pablo Picasso. The prints featured animals and plants sketched from his imagination. The children participated in a workshop to create their own works of art, which now form an impressive exhibition in our entrance hall. Well done Year 4!

Outdoor study Year 2 children also spent an informative day at the Outdoor Education Centre on Cannock Chase. They were complementing their work studying animal habitats and plant life. They certainly enjoyed their field study trip and conversations with the children reveal that the adventure playground was pretty exciting too!

Musical events Lastly our choir children are representing our school on many occasions over the Christmas season. We will be singing in the

6

Market Square on Thursday November 24th at 5.30am and again on Saturday December 17th at 11.00am. □□

On Sunday December 4th, we are singing at The Victoria Hall to support the Light up a Life appeal by The Douglas Macmillan Hospice. We are privileged to be one of only two schools in the whole of Staffordshire to be adopted by the Hospice to sing at this Celebration each year. It is an honour for us to be able to support the Hospice, whose work touches the lives of so many. If you wish to obtain a ticket, **we are singing at the 4.00pm service.**

On Thursday December 8th, we will be returning to The Victoria Hall to take part in a Christmas Celebration Concert along with other schools from all over the County. Our final visit to The Victoria Hall takes place on Tuesday December 20th when we attend 'A Christmas Cracker Concert', to sit back, be entertained and to participate in the usual favourite festive songs in an informal way—a well earned treat for our Choir children!

Christmas celebrations The term draws to a close as Reception children perform their Nativity presentation on two occasions, once to parents and again to the Day Visitors at the Day Centre in Berkeley Street. Reception children also make a visit to Cannock chase to look for animals and their tracks.... and there could be a possibility of them sighting a seasonal figure dressed in red....!

Parties, discos, Christmas Fair, all have their date in our calendar, filling children's days with excitement and providing lasting vivid memories of this time of year.

Finally, our traditional Nativity will take place in Church on **Tuesday December 13th at 7.00pm** to which you are warmly invited. Following this our Christmas boxes will be collected by Operation Christmas Child to begin their journey to take our love to the children of Eastern European countries...each box to a special little boy or girl...

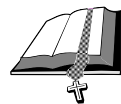


The children, Staff and Governors of Christ Church First School wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and joyful New Year.

Janet Booth
Early Years' Co-ordinator

v v v

You are probably familiar with the Nativity story, but do you know where to find it in the Bible? The story is in two



sections; the first is in **Matthew** from chapter 1 verse 18 to chapter 2 verse 12, and the second is in **Luke**, chapter 2 verses 1 to 20.

Faith in Dark Times

The sole survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed desperately for God to rescue him, and every day scanned the horizon for help, but none came. He eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day after scavenging for food, he came back to find his little hut in flames. The worst had happened - everything was lost. Stunned with grief and anger, he cried out "God, how could you do this to me?".

Next morning he was woken by the sound of a ship's siren. Then he saw a boat approaching the island; it had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" he asked his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It is easy to be overwhelmed when tragedy strikes, especially when things seem to go from bad to worse. If we could see into the future how things eventually turn out we could have peace of mind, but we only see the bad that is happening now. It not easy to trust God that everything will work out in time, right now we just want to know "Why?".

In the Bible, it was a shock for Joseph to be sold into slavery in Egypt; he did not know how it would turn out. Another example from the Bible who can be an inspiration to us is the prophet Habakkuk. After his times of questioning, his prophecy closes with a beautiful expression of faith - Habakkuk 3:17-18 - that is worth reading if you need encouragement.

Allow God to be the Lord of the good days and the bad days.



Stone Choral Society



Conductor: Simon Dearsley

“Christmas Carols at Christ Church”



Thursday 15th December
7.30 pm



A varied selection of the old and the new
and a chance to join in.

Wine and mince pies are included in the entrance price of **£5. Children free.** Tickets at the door on the night. θ H

Friends and Family

Hilary Dumelow - Encouraging News

Hilary is making good progress following the operation 3 weeks ago. One of her friends suggested that it might be a good idea to send out an email periodically with an update.

We were concerned to hear that shortly after the Dumelows left Stone Hilary was diagnosed with bowel cancer. Happily the news that husband Mike has sent us is good.

Firstly, we wanted to say a huge thank you to you all for all the love and kindness you have shown us over recent weeks. It has helped us all so much to know that so many people are thinking and praying for Hilary and provided her with enormous strength in the short lead up and also after the operation. So thank you all - it means so much to us. So, Hilary's operation went very well. She left hospital 8 days after the operation having been cared for superbly by the staff of Warwick General hospital. Alice and Kate made about 4 visits in the latter half of her stay. Hilary has the home environment to contend with now and it has taken a few days to get used to sleeping enough in the day such that she can pleasantly enjoy the day. Even a few minutes from a visit still tires her. But progress is being made and I suppose this can be expected based on what she has gone through. Since writing this bit of the e-mail Hilary is much stronger and fitter.

The next stage of treatment is next Wednesday 16th when we will meet the Oncologist. At this appointment we hope to find out all the options for the chemotherapy treatment.

While we wait to hear more we want Hilary to become as strong and fit as she can do in readiness for the treatment so your thoughts and prayers please that she is able to do this and also be in a positive frame of mind for the follow on treatment.

V V V

CONGRATULATIONS



We offer our very best wishes to **Becky Cooper** and **Dan Guerrard** on their engagement.

So guess who's doing most of the editing this month, and DON'T mention how much it's going to cost me! Ed.

From the Mission Field

Grace is doing fine and is such a good sleeper which is a relief as James was a nightmare when he was younger. I am recovering from the caesarian and am now able to be up and about which is good as I'm not very good at staying in bed.



Please pray that God will protect Grace in these first few weeks of life from disease and sickness and that she will grow strong and able to cope with the heat and pollution that's here.

Tim and Kate Lees are in Manila. 'Grace Emily' arrived by caesarian section on 15th October 2005, weighing in at 6lbs 8oz. Tim says she is 'very beautiful'.

Another prayer request and kind of **advert** too is that we are coming home on leave for 6 months at the end of March. We would love for someone to come out here to oversee the project in our absence. We are looking for either a couple or single person who has perhaps had overseas experience to come out a month before we leave so that we can show them around and then they can stay in our house and manage the projects while we are away. If you know of anyone who'd be interested please ask them to contact us.

The children's ministry is going very well but unfortunately Tim has had to go back to the UK to look after his dad who is not well. We would value your prayers both for Tim trying to find out the situation and make plans with his sisters as to what to do, and for me here with the three kids - that they won't miss their dad too much and won't drive me mad! All of Tim's family live overseas, so someone had to go home to see what was happening as the other relatives in UK are very old and unable to help. Its been the year of family problems this year but we do know God is in it and is sovereign.

We also need prayer for the kids ministry while Tim is away. We have Brother Jolly who is left in charge and we are confident that all the programs can run in Tim's absence. Just pray that Brother Jolly will have the necessary authority and that this time will give all the children's workers a chance to show they can do it - which is what Tim has always wanted, a project run by the local people for the local people. We have left the project before in the hands of Brother Jolly for a week and it went fine so lets pray that his confidence and skills will be developed.

All our love,
The Lees

Who are . . . Interserve?

Interserve is a network of Christians from all over the world who work using their professional skills to serve people of Asia and the Arab world - getting alongside them in tackling material, physical, mental and spiritual needs.

*You probably know that, as a church, we support a number of Interserve Partners – the **Baron and Humphreys families at Hebron School in South India and Rebecca in Pakistan**. So we thought it might be a good idea to find out a bit more about the organisation.*

Interserve's purpose is ***"..... to make Jesus Christ known through integrated ministry, in partnership with the global church, amongst the neediest peoples of Asia and the Arab World."***

Origins and Growth From its roots in India in 1852, when its vision was to train women teachers, Interserve has grown and developed and now has approximately 600 mission Partners, from 19 different sending countries, in Asia and the Arab world and also among communities who are living in other countries but with roots in these regions of the world. Partners use their professional skills, such as in medicine or teaching, to share the love of Christ with the people they live and work with.

Interserve England and Wales Interserve England and Wales has about 150 Partners, 30 of whom work in England and Wales with **Urban Vision**. Our mission is to serve the churches in England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, so that they may play their full part in serving Christ across cultures. We work through two teams, one for the South and East Anglia, and one for the North, Wales and the Midlands.

Praying, sending, going, giving If you want to share with us in our work, or want us to help you promote mission, our two link teams are here to help. Each member has particular responsibilities and skills, but they all work together to serve the people and churches linked with Interserve in their area.'

*If you would like to know more about Interserve, pick up a leaflet on the shelf under the Overseas Mission notice board and/or have a word with Cecilia, or visit their website at **www.interserveonline.org.uk**.*

Prayer Requests - Dom & Clare Joscelyne (S. India)



The monsoons are over and the sun is very intense at this height. Pray that Erica, with her fair skin, is protected from the sun's rays.



12



Pray that we recharge our batteries in Mysore before Christmas. Also pray that Erica's Grandparents' preparations for a trip to see us go well and they have a safe journey at the beginning of January.



Pray that we will be able to get up to speed with the teaching and computer work we have been given. Dominic has helped with two schemes of work (electronics and control) and has taught some of this. Praise God that this has gone well



We are trying to sell our narrowboat through a broker back in the UK. We are getting a little anxious over this and would appreciate your prayers.

National Celebration of Bach's famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor - 18th December

&

The BBC are organising a festival of Bach's music, and as part of this on the 18th December performances of the Toccata and Fugue in D Minor are being arranged throughout the country. You will have the opportunity of hearing this piece played by me after the morning service as part of the national event. This will be great fun for all the family with some explanation of this very dramatic and popular piece of music.

There will be no charge for this but I am hoping to use the performance to raise some funds for the Youth Project by donations.

&

Further information on the national event can be found on the BBC website - **www.bbc.co.uk/radio3**

I look forward to seeing you on 18th December

Peter Nisbeck

v v v

Carol Singing Around the Wards

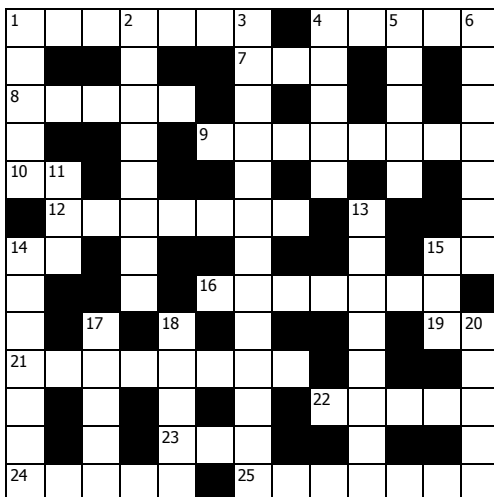
University Hospital of North Staffordshire
(former NSRI, City General etc)

Tuesday 20th December - meet at the Main Entrance at **7.00 pm**.

For further information ring the **Chaplains** on **01782 552252**.

Clues Across

- 1 Unbeatable serve around this time? My, you could learn something here. (7)
- 4 Blemishes in the mirror? The last thing you need! (5)
- 7 Being just off the boil makes things run smoothly. (3)
- 9 Detectives in a spa town? You could be looking for a stripper! (4,4)
- 10 Even flow in Washington? (2)
- 12 When the noise is very loud, this could be trying! (7)
- 14 Did Lawrence discover element 52? (2)
- 15 1st and last of five are symbolic of victory. (2)
- 16 Masters at sea can end up in rivers. (7)
- 19 Inoffensive computer perhaps in force. (2)
- 21 Carl keys into a sign of a frost, source of amazement when blue. (5,3)
- 22 Single out the learner to get too hot for comfort. (5)
- 23 Augmented force contains Agents. (3)
- 24 Clock runs backward to give terms of reference. (5)
- 25 Taste gets the French in confusion. (7)

**Clues Down**

- 1 Notice containing 'greenback' wins a prize. (5)
- 2 Confused cook with bike (not the French) serves up tasty morsel. (8)
- 3&6 Tuck tie away in youth to find "You have to leave it behind!" (3,4,4,2,4,3)
- 4 Novice in team makes performance slip. (5)
- 5 Dance around and go over it again. (5)
- 6 See 3D
- 11 She sings? Not right! He's revolutionary. (3)
- 13 When big name rings a bell, it's beginning.
- 14 Religious pamphlet or agricultural machine.
- 15 If it bites, you'll need treatment with an extra 'a'! (3)
- 17 A sweeper could be somebody, partly. (5)
- 18 All at sea? Not a mindless movement. (5)
- 20 Almost reach the top, then one more bend sees something sprouting. (5)

CHAIN GANG

*Find a word to link
each pair of words.*

Page - Scout
Wedding - Tone
Dead - Business
Writing - Tiger
Window - Gown

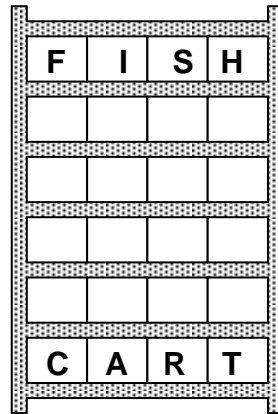
In response to the popular craze for these puzzles we have had our own created, exclusively for readers of Christ Church and People!

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

Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3X3 square contains the digits 1 - 9

Word Ladder

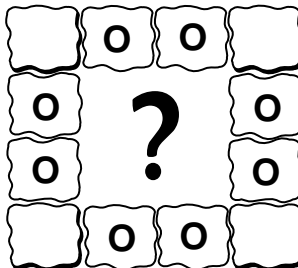
Molly Malone was famous for wheeling her cart through the streets of Dublin, but can you turn "Fish" into "Cart" by changing one letter at a time, making a new word at each move?



CORNERSTONES



Put the missing letters in the corners of this square to make four words that match the clues.



Swimming table

Bald bird

Handy item

Laying room

Animal
Cracker

How did the farmer
know his cows were
on the move?

The herd
them
coming!

Off the Wall

Wot's all this 'ere?

Reclaim The Day

As Christmas approaches we will be hearing of “chestnuts roasting on an open fire . . .”, and nowadays another old chestnut about councils banning religious references in Christmas. These stories lend themselves to exaggerated reporting, of course, so we have to be careful how we react, but there does seem to be genuine cause for concern. Perhaps some Councils are concerned that if they spend money on celebrations for one religious festival they will have to do the same for others. However, given the capacity of shops to turn any celebration into a marketing opportunity they should see it as a business investment!

Some reports say that Christmas has been thought to be offensive to other faiths, but has anybody actually asked them? Surely it is far more offensive to make such assumptions without actually consulting people. It is more likely that people of any faith will be offended by the idea that religion should be kept out of public life.

Actually there is one group of people who may take genuine offence at a lot of the public celebrations of Christmas, and that is Christians! Crass materialism, over indulgence and drunkenness are not appropriate ways to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. By all means brighten up mid-winter with festivities and let the shop-keepers have the benefit of some extra sales if that's what people want, but please don't insult our faith by claiming to do it in the name of Our Lord.

*Something to say? Get it off your chest!
Post it on The Wall.*

Crossword **Across:** 1 Academy, 4 Straw, 7 Oil, 8 Angle, 9 Acid bath, 10 DC, 12 Hearing, 14 TE, 15 AU, 16 Streams, 19 PC, 21 Clear sky, 22 Singe, 23 FBI, 24 Remit, 25 Tangles. **Down:** 1 Award, 2 Delicacy, 3&6 You cant take it with you, 4 Slide, 5 Recap, 11 Che, 13 Starting, 14 Tractor, 15 Asp, 17 Besom, 18 Drift, 20 Cress.

Chain Gang: Page/**Boy**/Scout, Wedding/**Ring**/Tone, Dead/**Funny**/Business, Writing/**Paper**/Tiger, Window/**Dressing**/Gown

Su Doku

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

Word Ladder *One solution is:*

Fish, Dish, Dash, Cash, Cast, Cart.

Cornerstones

The P and T can be swapped over.

C	O	O	T
O			O
O			O
P	O	O	L

Streets of Prayer

*Please pray this
month for all the
people living in
these streets in our
Parish.*



4th December
Mount Street
Old Road
Stonefield Court
Stonefield Square

11th December
Victor Street
Victoria Street
Whitebridge Lane
Alma Street

18th December
Bromfield Court
Dominic Court
Granville Terrace
King's Avenue

25th December
Longton Road
Margaret Street
Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street

Christmas Past, Christmas Present

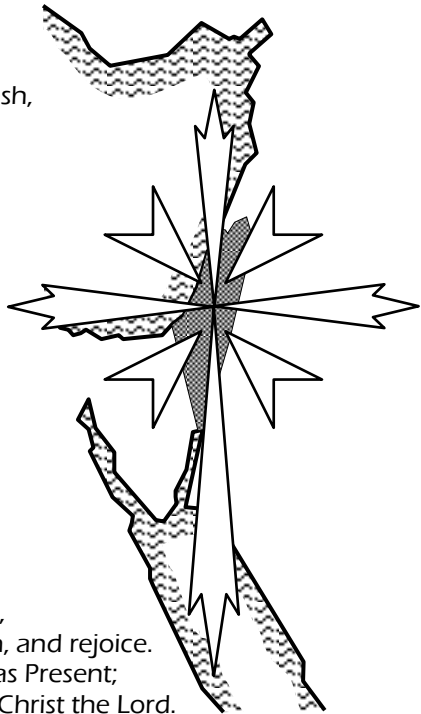
At the crossroads of the continents,
Where the tides of history have ebbed and flowed
With the rise and fall of empires,
Time and eternity meet.

The Immortal one is born of human flesh,
The Almighty as a helpless babe;
The Creator of the world has come
In great humility.

From this beginning
He will come to a terrible death,
But it will not be the end.
His death will win a victory,
More glorious than any other,
The victory over sin and death itself.

Through him and in him
Our lives will become
That for which they were created,
An everlasting fellowship with God.

Listen again to the story of this miracle,
Take it to your heart, make it your own, and rejoice.
This is our Christmas past, our Christmas Present;
In Bethlehem is born a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.



From the Registers



Funerals

28th October
2nd November

Valerie Ann Inskip
Michael Benbow

Aged 67 yrs
Aged 55 yrs

Baptisms

30th October

Oliver Joseph Scarrott

Sidespersons for December

9.15 am

6.00 pm

4th

V. Ledward, J. Cooper
A. West, T. MacFarlane

D. Shemilt

11th

B. Hutchinson, M. Hutchinson
T. Lockett, D. Wilson

J. Cooper

18th

S. Hallam, D. Pickles
S. Gerrard, P. Tunstall

Carol Service

25th

P. Hipkiss, C. Wilding
M. Holden, G. Holden

No Service

Jan

10.30 am

1st

J. Cooper, T. Lockett
B. Hutchinson, M. Hutchinson

No Service

Flower Rota for December

4th

Mrs B Boote

11th

Mrs B Ewart

18th

Christmas

25th

Flower Guild

