



Holy Trinity WATERHEAD

holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk

December 2025

barnabas-oldham.co.uk

SAINT
Barnabas
CLARKSFIELD

SERVICES AT OUR CHURCHES

Sunday 9:30 am	Worship at St Barnabas
Sunday 11:00 am	Worship at Holy Trinity Last Sunday all age worship
Wednesday 10:00 am	Bible Study at St Barnabas Led by Robin Wilding
Wednesday 7:00pm	Worship on Wednesday (WOW) at Holy Trinity (not last Weds. of month)

PEOPLE AT OUR CHURCHES

Vicar Post vacant

Lay Readers	Peter Haslam	0161 345 0215
	Lucie Reilly	07880 861751

Wardens	Peter Haslam (StB)	0161 345 0215
	Val Crane (HT)	07544 770887
	John Wolstencroft (HT)	0161 620 2401

StB Administrator	Sarah Gura	07708 714813
HT Church Secretary	Zoe Liles	07765 963899
Community Worker	MaryAnne Oduntan	07492 849158
Treasurer & Gift-Aid	Mrs Vicky Heaton	07906 077058
HT Parish Hall Manager	Daniel Reilly	07788 860764
StB Centre Manager	MaryAnne Oduntan	07492 849158

To sign up for the magazine online, or to send contributions, please email Sarah Wilding at sarah.churchmag@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor

Dear lovely people

We get used to the nativity story, do we not? So many church and school nativities blend into one another to leave a general impression. Two of the ones I have attended stand out for me, one of which being when our daughter fell off the stage!

The other, though, contained a quite significant moment. We were fortunate to have a 'live' baby Jesus who was old enough to sit quietly on her mother's lap (yes, it was a girl, but you can't tell the difference at that age, can you?) So baby 'Jesus' sat, in her white Babygro, looking around and apparently quite interested in what was going on. At one point the child gazed intently at the upper corner of the ceiling, then reached out her hand as if to take hold of something. What had she seen? An angel come to visit our celebration?

It was a beautiful reminder that even as a baby, there was something special about Jesus, something extra, an awareness of the heavenly dimension. He knew right from the start that he had a heavenly father. As he grew up he maintained that knowledge and connection, so much so that he was able to teach the teachers in the Temple, at the age of 12. Paul said to Timothy, 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young' (1 Timothy 4:12). Let's not look down on our own children's youth and awareness, but recognise that they are able to respond to God and learn from him. Maybe they can teach us a thing or two.

Sarah W

Bible Readings for December

Sunday 7 December

Advent 2

First: Isaiah 11:1-10
Second: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday 14 December

Advent 3

First: Isaiah 35:1-10
Second: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday 21 December

Advent 4

First: Isaiah 7:10-16
Second: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-end

Thursday 25 December

Christmas Day

First: Isaiah 52:7-10
Second: Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12)
Gospel: John 1:1-14

Sunday 28 December

Advent 4

First: Jeremiah 31:15-17
Second: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
Gospel: John 1:1-14

Preachers:

Robin, Chris Bracegirdle,
Lucie, Karen Smeeton,
Pete

Church Diary

Services will be at the usual times unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday 10 December: **Christmas Market**; 11:00-2:00 St Barnabas Hall

Wednesday 17 December: **Carol Service**; 7:00pm at Holy Trinity

Sunday 21 December: **Strictly Nativity** at Holy Trinity Church

Crib Service at St. Barnabas, with Daniel Ramble

Wednesday 24 December: **Christingle Service**; 4:00pm at Holy Trinity

Midnight Mass; 11:30pm at Holy Trinity

Thursday 25 December: **Christmas Day Service**; 9:30am at St Barnabas

Wednesday 29 December: **Masquerade Ball**; 7:30pm at Waterhead Parish
Centre, tickets £10 for adults, £5 for children.

Sunday 4 January: **Covenant Services**

NEWS

From the church and parish

Holy Baptism

Sunday 23 November: Samuel Nwosu at St Barnabas
Alfie Thompson at Holy Trinity



Lots of lovely cookies and cake were served at The Macmillan Coffee Morning on 27 October, in St Barnabas Hall. The event raised approximately £80.

Cover picture by felipemenzella

It's All Greek to Me...

... Coming and Going

The main words for 'come' and 'go' in Greek are *erchomai* and *poreuomai*. Simple. But no, this is Greek and it is not that simple. *Erchomai* for example, is occasionally used for 'go'. Thus we have the same word in each of these verses:

"At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, '**Come**, for everything is now ready'" (Luke 14:17).

"So Peter and the other disciple set out and **went** towards the tomb" (John 20:8).

Poreuomai means to depart, but also to continue on a journey, as in:

"Get up, take the child and his mother and **go** to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead" (Matt 2:20).

"When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but **went on his way** rejoicing" (Acts 8:39).

Poreuomai can sometimes also mean to follow after: "He replied: 'Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not **follow** them'" (Matt 21:8.)

The word *hupagō*, used less often, also means 'go'. All three words are in this verse: You heard me say, 'I am **going away** [*hupagō*] and I **am coming** [*erchomai*] back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I **am going** [*poreuomai*] to the Father, for the Father is greater than I" (John 14:28).

Parousia refers to coming or return, and is used in the Bible of the expected return of Jesus: "As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. 'Tell us,' they said, 'when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your **com-ing** and of the end of the age?'" (Matt 24 3).

If your head is spinning now, and you don't know if you are coming or going, think about this: when Jesus came to earth to be born as a baby, he also left his glory and majesty and went out of heaven. When he ascended into heaven, he went out of the world and came home to his father. All travelling involves both a going and a coming. As we celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas, it is worth thinking about what that going meant to him.



Tour of Israel

Various Cities



Capernaum, with Franciscan church above Peter's house

Capernaum has a very large archaeological site, most of the ruins being built of black basalt. The highlight is Peter's house: the archaeologists worked out where a 'captain of fishermen' would have his house and dug there. First they found a mosaic pavement, then under that a house with some 1st century graffiti, where someone had scratched 'the

house of Peter and his mother' on the wall! The house is laid out round a central courtyard where the women would have gutted and prepared the fish for market. The site belongs to the Franciscans and they intended, as was their usual pattern, to build a church there. The archaeologists begged them not to cover up the buildings, so they built a church which looks rather like a flying saucer, above the house, which still makes it difficult to see properly.

Another feature is a later synagogue, built in cream stone. At the entrance there is a block of stone with two holes carved into it, for the use of the money changers. Roman money was not permitted in the synagogue, so a person would put a Roman coin in the first hole and take out an approved coin from the second. The money changers would shout out their exchange rate and commission, which was one of the practices Jesus condemned in the Temple.



Synagogue at Capernaum

During the drive to Tel Hazor, we passed the city of Chorazin, which, along with Bethsaida, was condemned by Jesus in Matt. 11:21. It is now just a few lumps in the ground.



Remains of Chorazin



Oldest part of Hazor

Tel Hazor is a vast site, with 15 layers and 21 settlements from several periods of history. Important buildings, for administration and the military, were

at the top of the hill. The 'daughters of the city' is a phrase referring to those, not just women, who lived and worked outside a city, and Hazor had about 40,000 people living and working inside and out. It was a very fertile area, with three harvests a year, but nevertheless had a huge cistern in the centre to store water for dry times or siege. It was close to the border with Assyria.



Cistern

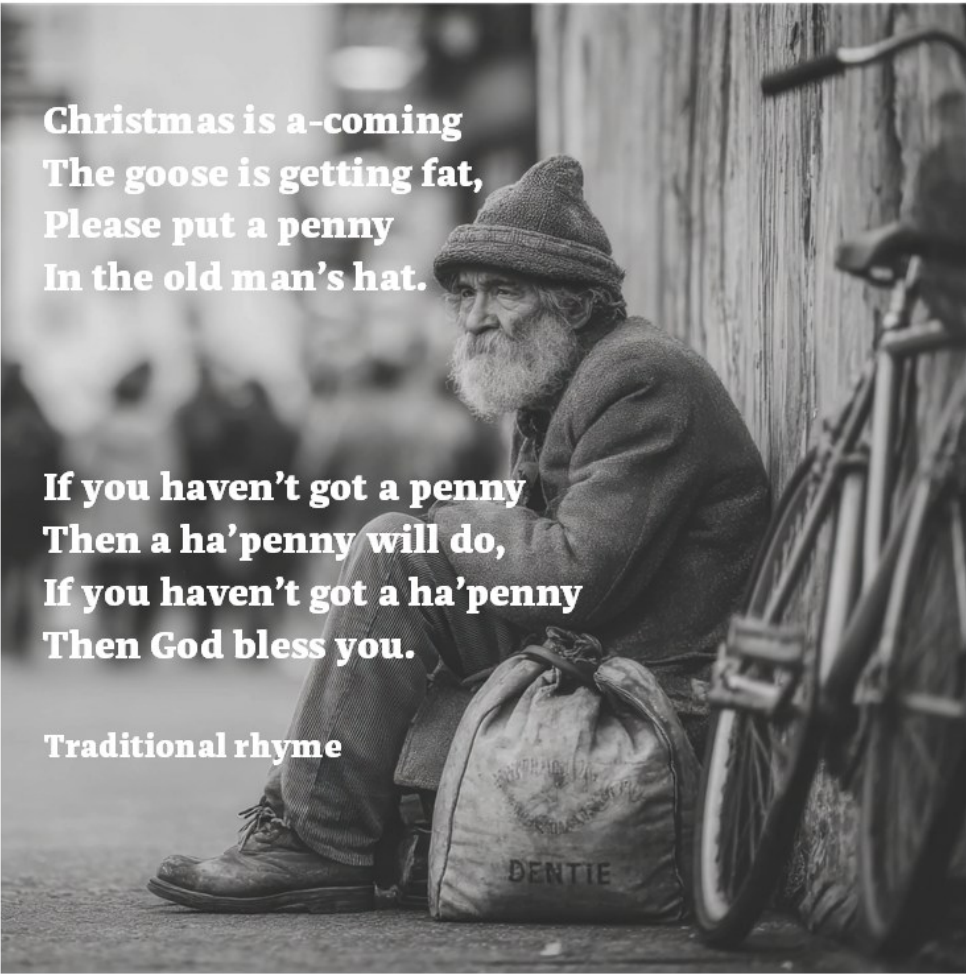


Gateway at Dan

Further north there is Tel Dan. During the excavation there, in what was thought to be building waste from the city, they found the oldest known arched gateway in the world. Previous to this discovery, it was thought that the Romans had invented the arched gate. Abraham would

have walked through here on his way into the land.

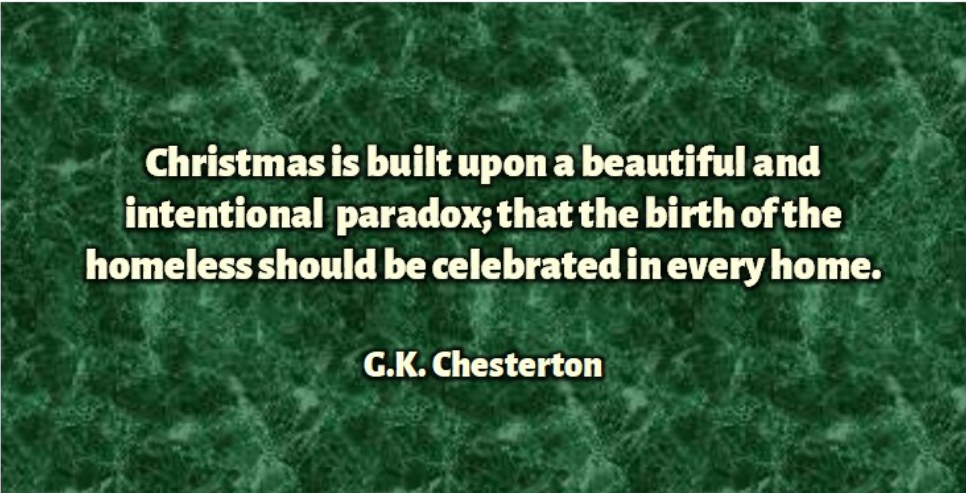
The snow-capped Mount Hermon was just visible from here, and the mountains of Lebanon. At the height of fighting with Syria, over 12,000 shells rained down on this area from the Golan Heights, reaching even to Tiberias (at the south end of Lake Galilee). It has now all been re-seeded and rebuilt, but there are still notices to beware of mines.



**Christmas is a-coming
The goose is getting fat,
Please put a penny
In the old man's hat.**

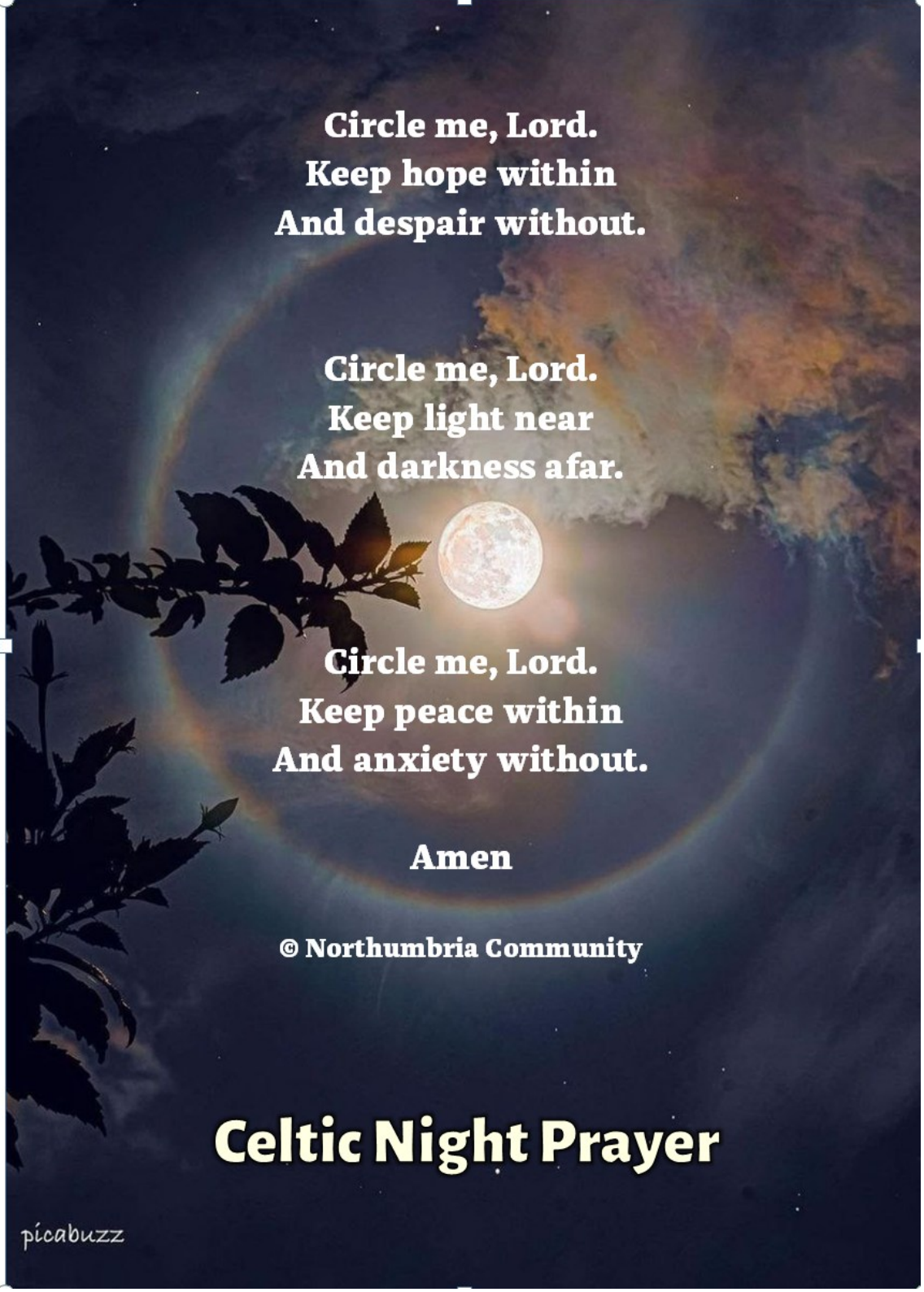
**If you haven't got a penny
Then a ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny
Then God bless you.**

Traditional rhyme



**Christmas is built upon a beautiful and
intentional paradox; that the birth of the
homeless should be celebrated in every home.**

G.K. Chesterton



**Circle me, Lord.
Keep hope within
And despair without.**

**Circle me, Lord.
Keep light near
And darkness afar.**

**Circle me, Lord.
Keep peace within
And anxiety without.**

Amen

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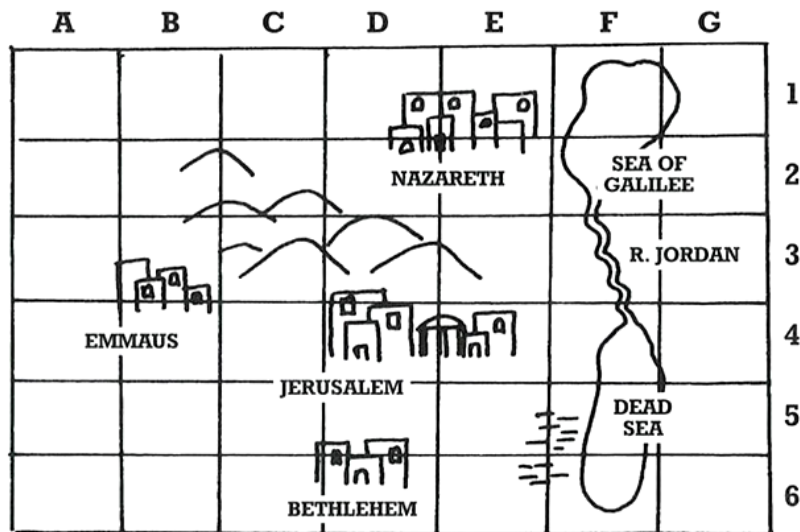
Celtic Night Prayer

Jesus
is born!

Children's Pages

The Emperor Caesar
Augustus had ordered a census.
Everyone had to return to
their home town

Using the directions below,
follow the route that Joseph and Mary took.

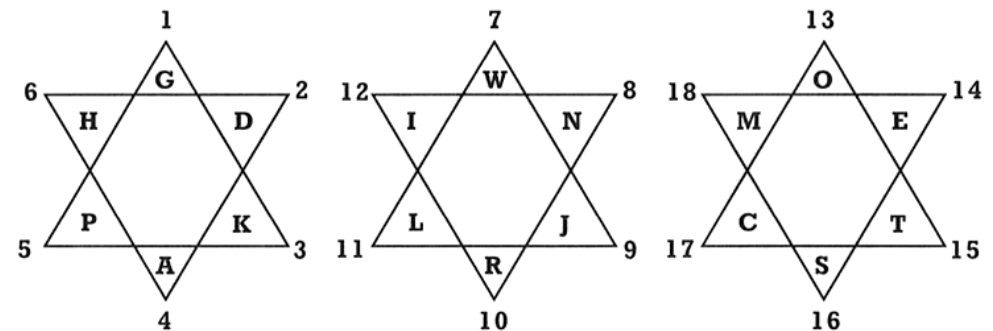


Directions

1E, 1D, 2D, 2E, 3E, 3F, 4F, 4E, 5D, 5C, 6C, 6D

The time
came for Mary to have her
baby, but there was no room
at the inn. What did
she do?

Use the Christmas code to find out (Luke 2:7)



16	6	14	7	10	4	5	5	14	2	6	14	10	
16	13	8	12	8	16	7	4	2	2	11	12	8	1
17	11	13	15	6	14	16	4	8	2	11	4	12	2
6	12	18	12	8	4	18	4	8	1	14	10		



From the Holy Trinity Memorial Book

- 1 **Norman Smith** died 1992 aged 77 years. Taken from our lives but always in our thoughts.
- 2 **Margaret Hammond** (née Whitehead) died 1991, aged 45 years. O for the touch of a vanished hand And the sound of a voice that is still.
- 5 **Jack Preece** beloved husband of Amy, died this day 1994, aged 71 years. 'Loved and Remembered Every Day.'
- 6 **Nellie Atkinson** died this day 1989. Reunited with Harold Atkinson who died 10 August 1981.
- 7 **Winifred Kershaw** 'Pal of my childhood days' Born this day 1942. Died 2nd November 1992.
- 9 **Edith Robinson** died this day 1986. 'Loved and remembered always.'
- 13 **William Oliver MD** Edin. died 1926. A loving father and compassionate physician.
- 14 **William Robinson** died this day 1969, aged 50 years. Treasured memories of 'BILL'.
- 18 **Reverend Charles Edward Shaw MBE BA FLS** Vicar of Waterhead from 1957–1994, died this day 1994. He saw God in Technology, Man and Snowdrop.
- 20 **Peter Barnes** (Skip) died 1998. Forever in our hearts. Birthday memories for 24th December. Jenny and Family.
- 21 In affectionate remembrance of **Edgar Hanson** who passed away in 1983.
Jessie Whittaker died this day 1989 aged 74. A sorrow too deep for words.
- 22 **Kenneth Shawcross** died this day 1997, aged 81 years. Loving husband and uncle. Will be remembered always.
- 23 **Thomas Wainwright** died 1974. 'Loved and remembered every day.'
Constance Himsworth Loving wife, mother, grandmother and a dear friend, died 1966 aged 71. 'Memories of you will never die.'
- 29 **James Pearson Robinson** died 1995. Loved and Remembered Always.

- 30 **Ida Fletcher** died 1991. Dearly loved. Happily remembered.
Michael Wynn died 2006. Forever in our thoughts.
- 31 **Jimmy and Annie Mills** Two wonderful parents remembered with love. Great-grandparents of Lisa.
- 32 **Lisa Kershaw** died April 27th 1999 aged 16 years. Treasured birthday memories of a daughter more precious than gold. Loved and remembered always.
- 33 **Harold and Elsie Prendergast** – a special mum and dad. Loved and remembered always and forever. Now with precious granddaughter Lisa in heaven.

Christmas Arrangements at Holy Trinity

Christmas Raffle

As usual we are having a Christmas raffle with a substantial hamper as the first prize. There are boxes at the back of the church for donations together with a list of suggested items for the hamper. Please bring your donations in on or before 14th December. The draw will take place after the Carol Service on Wednesday 17th December.

December Dates

Saturday 29th November we will be decorating the church between 10 and 12 on Saturday morning if anyone is able and willing to come along to help. Refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday 17th December is the Carol Service at 7pm, followed by refreshments and the raffle prize draw.

Sunday 21st December there will be a Christmas Faith lunch after the service and we will be serving mulled wine as well as the usual tea and coffee. Please join us whether you are able to bring food or not; all will be welcome.

Advance notice for January 2026

Saturday 3rd January we will be taking down the Christmas decorations in church and would be glad of extra pairs of hands

**I'm here with the others
Who saw the heavens testify
Now I hang back in the shadows
I want to come close**

**I want to know
She sees me shivering here
She smiles and with a nod
I walk through the mud and straw
To the newborn Son of God**

Chorus

**Come, let us adore Him
He has come down to this barren land
Where we live, and all I have to give
Him is adoration**

**He raises a wrinkled hand
Through the dust and the flies
Wrapped in rags like we are
And with barely open eyes**

**He takes my finger and He won't let go
And He won't let go
It's nothing like I knew before
And it's all I need to know**

Chorus

**God is with us here, our Emmanuel
God is with us here, our Emmanuel**

**O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Is with us here and
He won't let go**

Newsboys

Listen here: https://youtu.be/UN_jAgrXyVY

Song of the Month



Mary Jones was born in December 1784 at Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, a Welsh-speaking, sheep-farming community where Mary's family earned a meagre living weaving. Her parents were devout Calvinistic Methodists. Life got harder after Mary's father died when she was four.

There had been no Welsh version of the Bible until Bishop William Morgan completed his famous translation in 1588. Before that worshippers in Welsh churches and chapels had to use Latin or, occasionally, English texts. Most of them understood little of either language. Once Morgan's Bible became available things began to change. However, Bishop Morgan's Bible was both expensive and heavy and, therefore, was restricted to church and chapel use. A smaller and cheaper version was published in 1630 and by the end of the century there were several new editions freely available to all those who could afford them.

When Griffith Jones began his Circulating Schools the Bible was an essential teaching tool and many families, now able to read, bought their own copies so that they could read and digest in their own homes. In North Wales the preacher Thomas Charles, operating from his chapel in Bala, was active in making sure Sunday Schools and, wherever possible, individuals were plentifully supplied with Bibles.

Wales had been affected by several revivals in the eighteenth century. One man who was involved in preaching during the revivals was Reverend Thomas Charles. He was not just a powerful preacher but also someone responsible for creating a basic school system in the area. In 1791 he found himself at the heart of another wave of revival. He wrote, 'Here, in our town of Bala, for some time back, we have had a very great, powerful, and glorious outpouring of the Spirit of God, on the people in general, especially young people. The state and welfare of the soul is become the general concern of the country. Scores of the wildest, and most inconsiderate of the people, have been awakened.'

The revival spread quickly and widely around the surrounding area, bringing with it not just conversions but also a deepening and enriching of people's Christian faith. It was in this atmosphere that, a year after the revival, Mary came to profess the Christian faith at the age of 8. Courtesy of one of Thomas Charles' schools, Mary was able to read and soon wanted a Bible for herself. Welsh Bibles were rare and expensive and the nearest copy available was owned by a neighbour two miles away. Mary would regularly walk over and read and memorise all she could, but she soon began saving for a Bible of her own.

Having saved for six years until she had enough money to pay for a copy, she started one morning in 1800 for Bala, and walked the 26 miles over mountainous terrain, barefoot as usual, to obtain a copy from Rev. Thomas Charles, the only individual with Bibles for sale in the area. According to one version of the story, Mr. Charles told her that all of the copies which he had received were sold or already spoken for. Mary was so distraught that Charles spared her one of the copies which was already promised to another. In another version, she had to wait two days for a supply of Bibles to arrive, and was able to purchase a copy for herself and two other copies for members of her family.

What then happened was that Thomas Charles, pondering on her hunger and action to get the Word of God, proposed the formation of a society to supply Wales with reasonably priced Bibles. His proposal expanded: why just Wales? Why not other parts of the United Kingdom? Indeed, why not for the world? And in 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society (now the Bible Society) was formed. According to tradition, it was the impression that this visit by Mary Jones left upon him that impelled Charles to propose to the Council of the Religious Tract Society the formation of a Society to supply Wales with Bibles.

Mary later married a weaver named Thomas Jones. She died in 1864 and was buried at the graveyard of Bryn-crug Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. There's a story that, at the age of 70, Mary Jones gave half a sovereign - a significant amount in those days - towards the Bible Society's appeal to print a million Chinese New Testaments.

Two copies of 'Mary Jones' Bible' still exist. One is lodged in the archives of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Cambridge, the other is held at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. The copy in Cambridge actually contains a note, written by Mary, on the final page. The third copy of the Bible has, unfortunately, now been lost.

Mary Jones demonstrates one of the great themes of the Bible: that the mighty God works through little people. It would be hard to find anybody more insignificant at the end of the eighteenth century than this poor girl in a remote corner of Wales. Yet God took her zeal and commitment and used it to set in progress something that was to have an extraordinary effect on the world and continues to have today through 140 Bible Societies all over the world. Let us seize the opportunities that 'little people' give us.

Rev Shirley Murphy

Read the whole article here: [Mary Jones and her Bible](#)

JOYFUL CAROL SERVICE

The Promise of Christmas Fulfilled

Wednesday
17th
December


At 7:00 PM

GUESTS

Tame Valley Brass
Harry Watts
Jodie Chadwick
Waterhead Academy

Holy Trinity Waterhead
Church Street East

Be part of a night filled
with worship and carols




WOW Proudly Presents

STRICTLY NATIVITY

'Keeeeeep Praying'

*Sunday 21st
December
@ 11am*



Holy
Trinity
WATERHEAD

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Midnight Mass

Wednesday 24 December at 11:30pm

All are welcome

For unto us
a child is born!



**Crib
service**

St Barnabas Church
Sunday 21st December
2025

9:30am

Rev'd Daniel Rumble

Invite your friends and family to share
in this divine celebration and embrace
the spirit of Christmas! Everyone is
welcome to attend.

Plus, enjoy complimentary hot
chocolate and Christmas cookies after
the performance.



Christingle
The Children's
Society

Welcome to our Christingle service

24th December 2025 @ 4pm
Holy Trinity, Waterhead

barnabas-oldham.co.uk

SAINT
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CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday 25 December at 9:30am

All are welcome

Family O Antiphons

On the 17th of December we begin the “O Antiphons,” and the whole tone of Advent changes. We are only eight days (known as an Octave) away from Christmas Day, so there is an increase in activity and a renewed sense of expectation. During these last days, our prayers arise with an ever-increasing crescendo. They are cries from our hearts not only for ourselves but for the whole world, cries for the Messiah to come and reign and to set the world to rights. Christians around the world are so eager for this coming, that we cry out with one voice for Christ to come and to come quickly!

One of the ways that we cry out as the Church is through the “O Antiphons”. The “O Antiphons” are a beautiful tradition going back 1,300 years. They are scripturally based prayers focusing on the titles given to Christ in scripture. Originally, they were chanted in monasteries during the last days before Christmas. The “O Antiphons” were prayed before and after “The Magnificat” during the service of Evening Prayer. One antiphon was prayed each evening from December 17 until December 23. Then on December 24, the Octave was completed by chanting all of the antiphons.

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, one of the Church’s oldest and most beloved hymns is the “O Antiphons” set to music. Each stanza is an antiphon and was meant to be sung during the Octave with a new verse added each day. Traditionally, in the monasteries, the monks would recite the “O Antiphons” and then they would hand out special small treats. After your family has finished singing the antiphon of the day, serve a special little treat that corresponds to the antiphon.

I’ve also included below the symbols to help spark creativity if you want to come up with your own treats. I hope this tradition is a blessing to your family as you move closer to Christmas!

December 17 – O Wisdom (Isaiah 11:2)

*O come, thou **Wisdom** from on high...*

Symbols – Oil Lamp, Open Book, Dove (Holy Spirit)

Treat Ideas – Serve a treat that is made with a “brain food” like blueberries or dark chocolate. Since a symbol for Wisdom could be a book, you could make cookies in the shape of a book or serve fig rolls and decorate them with icing so that they look like little books.

December 18 – O Lord (Exodus 6:6)

*O come, O come, thou **Lord** of might...*

Symbols – The Burning Bush, The Ten Commandments

Treat Ideas – Pulling from the reference to the law or the ten commandments, decorate cream crackers with icing to make them look like the ten commandments. You could add the Roman numerals 1-5 on one half of the cracker and 6-10 on the other. You could also serve something spicy like salsa and chips to represent the burning bush.

December 19 – O Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1)

*O come, thou **Branch of Jesse’s Tree**...*

Symbols – Plant, Root With Flowering Stem

Treat Ideas – Since the Messiah is the “root” of the tree of Jesse, you could make carrot cake since carrots are a root vegetable.

December 20 – O Key of David (Isaiah 22:22)

*O come, thou **Key of David**, come...*

Symbols – An Elaborate Key

Treat Ideas – The monastic tradition on this night was for the monk in charge of the wine cellar to use his key to open the cellar and bring out a special bottle of wine. Serve a sparkling fruit juice instead. You could also make cookies in the shape of a key.

December 21 – O Dayspring (Isaiah 9:2)

*O come, thou **Dayspring** from on high...*

Symbols – Sunrise, The Sun

Treat Ideas – Serve oranges since oranges look like the sun, or make any dessert made with oranges.

December 22 – O Desire of Nations (Jeremiah 10:7)

O come, Desire of Nations...

Symbols – Crown, Crown and Sceptre, Cornerstone

Treat Ideas – Make cookies in the shape of a crown. Make something in a loaf pan so that it looks like a cornerstone. You could make something like banana bread or pound cake.

December 23 – O Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14)

O come, O come, Emmanuel...

Symbols – Manger, Star

Treat Ideas – Serve cookies in the shape of a manger or star. Make chai tea with star anise. Serve chocolates from a chocolate nativity set.

December 24 – Sing Every Verse

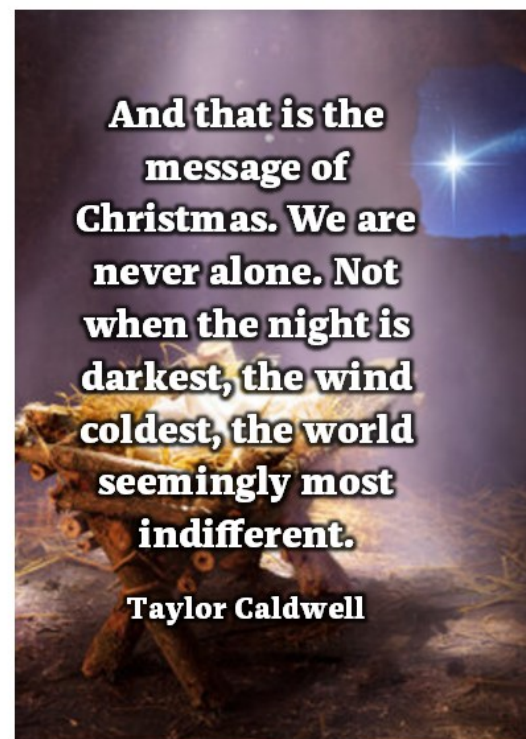
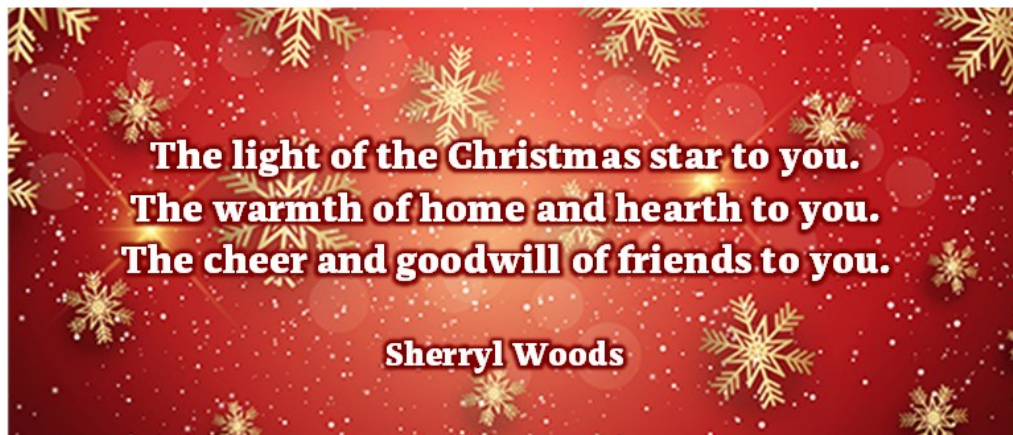
Symbols – Candle, Poinsettia

Treat Ideas – Make cookies in the shape of a candle or a flower. Eat your special treats by candle light. Since it is Christmas Eve, serve something extra special and celebratory like chocolate covered strawberries and sparkling juice.

By Ashley Tumlin Wallace

Read the whole article here:

[The O Antiphons \(The Liturgical Home\) - Anglican Compass](#)



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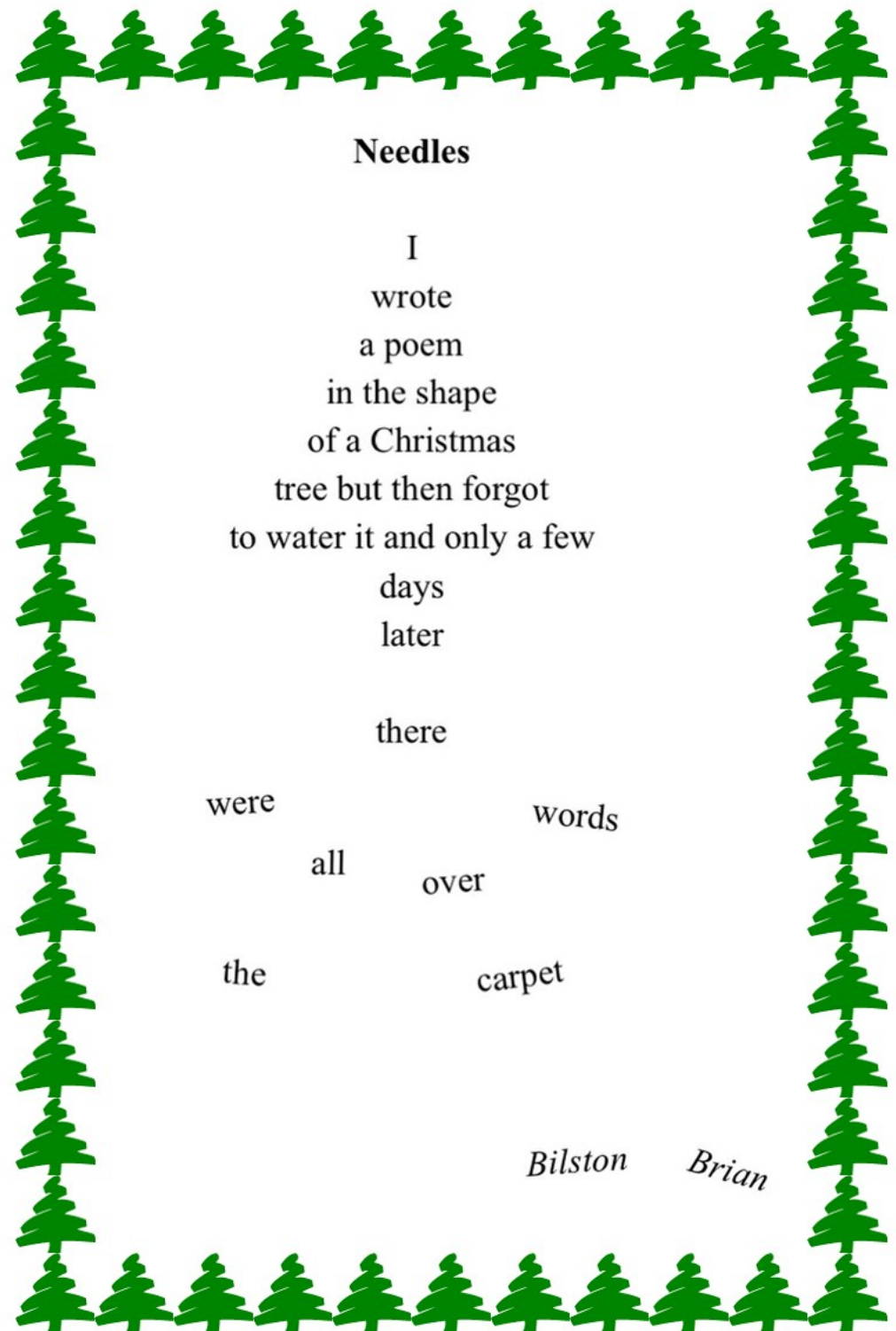
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take away

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Needles

I
wrote
a poem
in the shape
of a Christmas
tree but then forgot
to water it and only a few
days
later

there
were all the words
over
the carpet

Bilston Brian



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This exuberant painting from 2005, titled *Christ's Childhood in Nazareth*, is by British artist Mark Cazalet.



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