

St Stephen's Christmas Fair

SATURDAY 3rd December
11.00 am – 1.00 pm
in St Stephen's Church
Oxford Road, Burnley BB11 3JA

SCHOOL CHOIR
PERFORMANCE



GIFTS-RAFFLES
TOMBOLA - CRAFTS
REFRESHMENTS ...

Admission
50p
Children FREE
if accompanied
by an adult

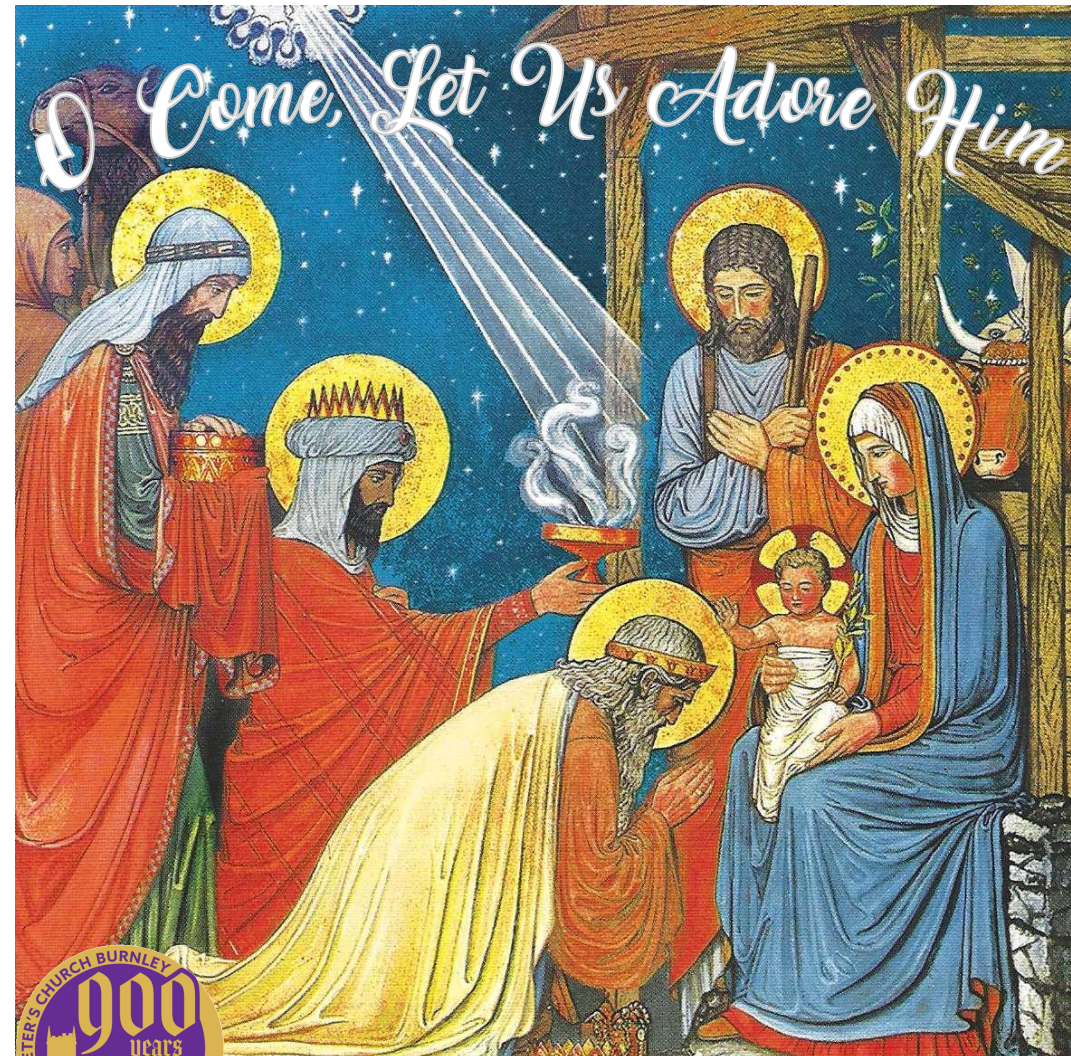
Meet
Father
Christmas
in his grotto



the link



The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley
DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



<http://www.stpetersburnley.com>
<http://www.ststephenschurchburnley.org.uk>

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Advent Sunday s on 27th November and our Advent course this year is based on the book by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

WALKING BACKWARDS TO CHRISTMAS

at

ST STEPHEN'S

Wednesday evenings starting

30th November at 7.30pm

and the following Wednesdays until 21st December

ST PETER'S

on Thursday mornings starting

1st December at 10am

(coffee from 9.30am)

and the following Thursdays until 22nd December



WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE?	
Rector of the United Benefice: Vacant	
ST PETER'S	ST STEPHEN'S
CHURCH WARDENS: Mrs Sandra Davies ☎ 434763 Mr Jason Walsh ☎ 07554 154240	CHURCH WARDENS: Mr Keith Pounder ☎414390 Mrs Jean Beeston ☎432986
VERGER Mr Stewart Hacking ☎ 438224	ASSISTANT WARDENS Mr Paul Hannah ☎07967 644709
PCC SECRETARY Mr Andrew Buchanan ☎07565 347524	PCC SECRETARY: Mrs Maureen Hanson ☎434865
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER Mrs Joan Ainsworth ☎07971 711250	VISION CHAMPION: Mrs Linda Pounder ☎414390
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Mr Philip Tomlinson ☎777132	MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Beverley Laycock (Branch Leader) ☎543766 Mrs Jackie Cosway (Secretary) ☎411967
VISION CHAMPION: Miss Roxanne Kern ☎07455 622445	SUNDAY SCHOOL: Emma Hopley ☎07968 782210 Emma Barker ☎07789 952470
MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Carol Waddington ☎ 07846 139241	HEADTEACHER: Mrs Jo Roberts ☎427848
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Cynthia Bramley ☎07903341700.	SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Barbara Hasty ☎07783006284
SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs): Mrs Meena Tomlinson ☎777132	VERGER Mrs Edith Meek ☎456170
HEADTEACHER: Mrs Crowther ☎426873	CHURCH FLOWERS: Mrs Christine Hacking ☎ 438224
FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S: Mrs Heather Slater ☎432775	
FLOWER GUILD: Mrs Alice Binns ☎789632	
BELFRY Mr Richard Parker ☎619906	
CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITOR: : Mrs Pam McGrath: Email: pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com	

**Don't forget - if you need anything,
don't hesitate to contact us**

In this issue

Page	
2	Walking Backwards to Christmas
3	Who's Who in the Benefice
4	Useful Information
5	From our New Rector
7	From St Stephen's Churchwardens
9	From Sr Peter's Churchwardens
10	St Stephen's Mothers' Union
11	St Peter's Mothers' Union
12	In the Memorial Book of St Stephen's
13	In the Memorial Book of St Peter's
14	The Book of St Peter
15	900th Celebration Buffet
16	Christian Aid
17	St Stephen's Sings Christmas
18	St Peter's CE Primary School
20	St Peter's Sunday School News
22	Let's Do Lunch in December 900th Anniversary
23	St Peter's Carol Service
24	From Our Vision Champions
28	St Stephen's CE School News
32	Ways To Keep Warm
30	Take Care of Yourself
34	Rotas for December & January
36	Children's Page
37	A Christmas Sudoku
38	Burnley Prayer Breakfast
39	St Stephen's Sunday Club
40	St Stephen's Christmas Fair

Please ensure that all articles for inclusion in the FEBRUARY edition of the magazine are submitted no later than

15th January

pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

Useful Information

A number of 'Find a warm space' venues have opened up in the area. Full details are available on the Borough Council website, Burnley.gov.uk. All the venues provide warm drinks and light refreshments. Some provide newspapers, board games and crafts, use of computers and chatting areas and some people may break into song, once they have warmed up.

I am on the second week of the Long Covid and Well-being Course. The first week we were shown an extensive list of symptoms and the group were asked if they had any of the rarer ones. It was a relief to see a symptom you had suffered from for weeks was actually on an NHS list, and you got sympathetic nods from fellow attendees. In the second week we discussed Fatigue and Brain Fog, which is often looked on with suspicion by family, friends and doctors. The road to recovery is slow and some had lost their jobs before they could say, "I'm better". But amongst the group any reported improvements were recognised and praised.

Barbara Marshall

From our New Rector



ANTICIPATION AND HOPE

Advent is usually a great time of anticipation and hope. As we make our plans for Christmas, we anticipate the variety of services that help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As a musician, I love this time of year!

This year, as we anticipate the incarnation of Jesus, the world's true light, we are preparing to say goodbye to our brothers and sisters in Haslingden and Helmshore and anticipate a new beginning with you in Burnley. I have been overwhelmed with love and support during the discernment process. Liz and I are excited as we begin this new chapter.

We will have been married for 34 years in April, and we have three grown-up daughters, Jessica (married to Finlay), Kathryn, and Laura. We are expecting our first grandchild in January. How amazing! We also have a beautiful border collie, Bonnie. We both grew up near Ilkley in West Yorkshire. We then spent 22 years in Heysham before ordination moving to Helmshore for my curacy.

One of the joys of my curacy has been working in schools. A favourite story about a school nativity (not in our school!) is of the little boy who wanted to play the part of Joseph. He was very disappointed to be given instead the part of the innkeeper. Still, he accepted his teacher's decision and got on with his role in the play. However, on the day of the performance, in front of a school hall packed with parents, the boy took revenge. When Joseph and Mary asked him if there was any room in his inn, he abandoned the script, stood back so that the door to the inn was wide open, and said, 'yes, there's plenty of room; come on in!'

That might not be the way the story goes, but I think the little boy's actions have some things to say to us at Christmas. We are all invited to 'come in' to greet Jesus, born into such humble surroundings. All will be



welcomed to the variety of different services which our churches offer at Christmas as we join together in celebrating the birth of Jesus, the One who comes to save us and bring us joy. There literally is room for all because God welcomes each and every one of us

We anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, not only because it is an excellent excuse for a party but also because his birth gives us hope. Hope for the future. Hope in the midst of much that seems to be changing around us. Our Christmas celebrations lead into the new year's celebrations with anticipation for all that 2023 might bring. Many will pray that the next year will be better than the last; others will go into the New Year with a deep sense of anxiety and uncertainty. However, as we approach 2023, we can be reminded of the wonderful promise Jesus made: 'Remember that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time' (Matthew 28, verse 20). Jesus promises to be there with us in whatever it is that life brings, in the happy times and the sadnesses, in the pain and also in the joy.

At Christmas, God welcomes us all to celebrate the birth of his Son, the One who brings hope to the world. God invites us to come in because He has made sure that there is room for us all.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas, and I look forward to an exciting New Year and our future ministry together.

Love and prayers

Fr Andrew

An Advent Prayer

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us,
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.



In The Loop
... with Keith, Jean & Paul
St Stephen's Churchwardens



INTERREGNUM

It was with much relief and great excitement that a couple of weeks ago we were able to announce the long-awaited appointment of our next incumbent of the Benefice - Reverend Andrew Holmes. Andrew is currently curate of St James, Haslingden and St Thomas Musbury, Helmschore.

The wardens have met with Andrew on several occasions and we can say that he is very much as keen to be with us, as we are eager for him to take up his post.

Andrew's induction service will take place at St Stephen's on Monday 20th February at 7:30 pm, so put the date in your diaries – we want to give him and his family the warmest of welcomes!

EVENING MEAL OUT

We feel sure that all those who were able to come to this event enjoyed the evening! It was the first time we had decided to hold the meal at '197 The Bistro' where the food was very good and extra fun (stand up Bingo - thanks to Elaine) provided light entertainment. Although not strictly a fund-raising event, we did raise the sum of £145 towards church funds, so grateful thanks to all. Maybe we should consider holding another meal

out in the Spring? All ideas welcome!

ADVENT COURSE

Our Advent Course, "Walking Backwards to Christmas" takes place on Wednesday evenings (7th, 14th and 21st December) starting at 7:30 pm in the Community Room. All are welcome to come along.

PGI FRIDAY

It hasn't been possible to find another date for this before the end of this year; however, plans are afoot to hold another PGI Friday in the New Year. Once we know the date, we'll let you know.

We would welcome more help with this event, so if you feel that you could assist in any way, please have a word with Linda our Vision Champion.

CELEBRATION OF KING CHARLES III CORONATION

Early plans are in hand to celebrate this auspicious occasion – most definitely 'a first' for the majority of us! We shall be holding a celebratory party, in church, on Bank Holiday Monday 8th May - so pop this date in your diaries and let's make it a day to remember.

/continued ...

CLEANING TEAMS

We currently have three teams who rotate on a weekly basis to keep our church clean and tidy. We consider ourselves to be a very clean church as we have been able to keep on top of things since our refurbishment in 2015/16 (yes, it's that long ago!) but two ladies (in their 80's) will be finishing their cleaning stint for us after Christmas. So, we desperately need more volunteers to help with this task – the more people who are able to join a team, the less work there is. The work isn't too onerous – dusting the altar and choir stalls plus mopping the floor tiles; vacuuming the main body of the church; tidying and vacuuming the vicar's and choir vestries; cleaning the toilets (2 at the back of church plus the vestry toilet); tidying/cleaning the kitchen and vacuuming the Community Room. Each 'bit' of cleaning takes around 30-60 minutes of your time, once every three weeks. If you are willing and able to help out, please have a word with either Keith or Jean – thank you.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS: Annual Christmas Fair

This will be taking place in church on Saturday, 3 December – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. As usual we shall be needing your help to make the event a success! The school choir will be at the opening of the Fair with their programme of Christmas carols. There will be all the usual stalls, along with good food from our catering team and lots of opportunity to get those last minute goodies for Christmas.

Please consider donating items for the raffle and tombola stalls etc., - everything will be very much appreciated! **See you there!**

Joy and Peace to you all this blessed Christmastide and all good wishes for a happy New Year.

Keith, Jean & Paul

And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)



“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:2



Churchwardens' News from St Peter's



Hello everyone,

Our prayers have finally been answered this month as we were delighted to learn that Fr Andrew Holmes has accepted the post of Rector of St Peter's and St Stephen's. Fr Andrew is currently a Curate in Haslingden and we look forward to welcoming him and his wife Liz to Burnley next year. Bishop Philip and Fr Andrew have decided the licensing service will take place at St Stephen's on 20th February 2023, as the last one was at St Peter's. We look forward to the next chapter in the life of our benefice and to growing and flourishing together under Fr Andrew's ministry.

We are coming to the end of our 900th Anniversary year, and what a year it has been! Whether it's the Easter Talks, the town centre procession and civic service, the Heritage Day or the recent Celebration Buffet at Turf Moor, we are sure everyone will have their favourite memories from a year that has really brought our church family together. Thanks to the 900th Anniversary Committee for all the hard work they have put into making it happen.

Christmas is always a busy time of year for us and there is plenty to look forward to this year. A particular highlight is our annual candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 11th December at 4.00pm, when we will be joined by Mayor of Burnley Cllr Cosima Towneley and MP for Burnley Antony Higginbotham. There is also the Christmas Lunch on 1st December, the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass at St Stephen's, and Rev Paul Benfield joins us for our Christmas Day morning service.

The new Advent/Christmas pamphlet put together by our Vision Champion Roxy contains details of services at all the churches across Burnley and some useful worship material too, so it is well worth picking up a copy and sharing with friends and neighbours.

We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Take care,

Sandra and Jason



LOOKING BACK

In October we welcomed Jenny Walton back, who revealed more tricks of the trade about cake decorating. Jenny showed us some festive ways to decorate cup cakes using ready made fondant icing and was very patient about answering our many baking questions.

We used our afternoon meeting in November to get ahead of ourselves for the Christmas fair by wrapping our mystery gifts which will be sold for £1.50 each on our MU stall on Saturday 3rd December.

LOOKING FORWARD

Christmas lunch at Burnley Football Club (Tuesday 13th December)

Thank you everyone for paying in full for the MU Christmas meal.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ON THE DAY THE BAR WILL ONLY ACCEPT CARD PAYMENTS.

We are dropping down to just one afternoon meeting per month during January, February and March, 2023. Hopefully, this will contribute towards savings on energy bills. When we resume the evening meetings in April the nights will be a little lighter.

JANUARY, 2023 EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 10th January, 2pm: AGM and welcome back for another year

DECEMBER 2022 CELEBRATIONS

Sincere and Happy Birthday wishes are sent out to Jean Beeston on the 2nd, and both Renie Pearson and Linda Hannah who share the 11th.

JANUARY 2023 CELEBRATIONS

January birthdays will be celebrated by Jackie Cosway on the 10th, Barbara Catlow on the 13th and Elaine Taberner on the 18th, (pssst, it's a special 0!) My wedding anniversary is on the 3rd!

Christmas Peace and Joy

Jackie

Our final meeting for 2022 is the pre-Christmas lunch at Towneley Garden Centre on Wednesday 30th November at 1.00pm, which I am sure everyone will enjoy. Our next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 25th January 2023 and our February meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd, both at 2.00pm in church.

I am hoping to compile a programme for next year very soon and will get this out to members, together with the amount of annual subscription (which will be due at our January meeting), as soon as possible.

Wishing all members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Carol



A caring house not a care home

Are you over 65 and living alone?

Would you like a private en-suite flat in a secure building with company when required?

The cost of living here is just a little over £200 per week and includes all running costs, 2 meals a day and use of a well equipped laundry room.

WHY NOT VISIT TO LOOK AROUND?

St Stephen Street:
Harriet Street:

☎ 422434
☎ 832225

DECEMBER/JANUARY IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S

1st	Ian David Young, George Church Lancaster
2nd	Arthur Hill Dixon, Dorothy Ward, James William Baker, Helen Hudson
3rd	Gladys Fielding, Irvine Stephenson, Phyllis Blythe, Margaret Thorburn
4th	Arthur Dixon, Mary Ellen Rycroft, Lottie Jobling
5th	Albert Henry Baker, Craig William Beeston, Wilhelmina Baker
6th	Mary Jane Clegg
7th	Edwin Taylor, Julia Busfield, Maggie O'Hara, Barbara Cryer
8th	George Leonard Tegerdine, Joyce Stuttard
9th	George Berry, Ralph Hampton Warren, Tom Corless, Alfred Green (Priest)
10th	Walter Walker, Amy Hopwood, Ivy Hindle, Dorothy Martin
11th	Charlotte Astwood
12th	Clifford Harrison, Frank Haighton Jackson, Muriel Cockcroft
14th	John Weston Whitham, John Geoffrey William Eddison, Rita Mary Imeson, Elsie Glennie
15th	Elsi Schofield
16th	Sarah Jane Duckworth, Jack Arthur Catton
17th	Harry Hebden, Rose Ellen Harris
18th	Anne Grice, Betsy Berry, Norah Lindsay
19th	James Astin, Cecil Herrett, William Hampden Riddiough
20th	John Pim
21st	Patricia (Pat) Allen
22nd	Adrian Lewis Meredith, Harry Heap, Jane Sunter, Ann Park
23rd	Dora Entwistle, Laura Schofield, Pamela Swaine
24th	Lewis Nichols, Louisa Frances Medforth, Ernest Alston, Beatrice Waterworth, Harold Hensman
25th	Maggie Astwood, Elizabeth Ann Sawley, Norman Henry Helme
26th	Albert Heyslop, Leonard Tomlinson, June Chapman
27th	Fred Archer
28th	Sarah Eliza Hebden, Ethel Beaumont, Fred Walton
29th	John Edmund Lord, Edith Heyes, Arthur Whitehead, Robert Cryer, nLillie Ada Balderstone, Isabell Fitton
30th	Florrie Vernon, Margaret Briggs, Edward Ingham Dand, Annie Powell, Eunice Furness
31st	Mary Kessi Catton, Elsie Walton, Marjorie Seller, John Jobling

1st	David Saunt, May Thornton, Emma Bell, Jack Sharp
2nd	David Edward Jones, Peter Hall, Kathleen Sharp
3rd	Emily Law, Jean Thorner
4th	Dora Higson, Leo Waterworth
5th	Gertrude Healey, Hannah Wilkins, William Beaumont, Don Laing, Gordon Morris
6th	Alice Heap, Samuel Farrer, James Marcus Yates
7th	Edward (Teddy) Garner, Bernard Rodgers
8th	William Heyes, Bertha Parkinson, John Meek
9th	Christopher Hodgson
10th	Frank M Ascroft, James Edward Wadsworth, Harry Mason,
11th	James Edward Garner, Annie Parker
12th	Elizabeth Scholes, Eveline Farrer
13th	Alfred McGeorge, Thomas Henry Scholes, Kathleen Hopwood
14th	Albert Camm, Florence Linton
15th	John Green, Tom Mitton, Alan Morley, Nora Hindle, Marion Tillotson
16th	Alice Scott, William Whalley, Derek Whalley, Hilda Burton
17th	Doris Edmondson, Harry Hebden
18th	James Bell, Thomas Murray, Arthur Jackson Heys, Stanley Stratton, Margery Ludlam
20th	Bertha Mellor, Emily Beaumont
21st	Emma Bastable, Ernest Ridge, Doris Sculthorpe
22nd	Thomas Ward, Harold Smith, Harry Walsh, Thomas Barkess
23rd	Thomas Wilson, Rhoda Riddiough
24th	Maggie Meredith, Minnie Jackson, Maud Taylor, Elsie Simpson, Roland Henderson, John Titley
25th	Alice Watson, Mona Stanworth
26th	Arthur Percy Kenyon, Winifred Hebden
27th	Sydney Harrison
28th	Charles Frederick Hargreaves, Raimond Kull, Roland Jasper Smith
29th	Frank Walkden, Ruby Maud MacKay, Thomas Heap, Nancy Hall, Allan Harker, John James Mould
31st	Arthur William Benns, Brian George Davis, Lorinda (Laura) Halton

RIP

DECEMBER/JANUARY IN THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE OF ST PETER'S

1st	Edith Francis, Dr Erwin Falik
2nd	Margaret Yates
3rd	Alice Newbold, Marion Edmondson
8th	Marguerite Jane Thompson
9th	Elizabeth Astin
11th	Silas Theodore Bellinger, George Henry Waring
12th	Harold Shaw
13th	Rose Green
14th	Harry Smith
18th	Ester Alice Hadfield, Alfred Earley Hadfield, Henry Watson, Sarah Ann Potts, Mary Jane Taylor
19th	James Arthur Ryan, Annie Bunney
20th	Willie Gudgeon
22nd	Mary Brown, Frank Jackson
24th	James Reid, Joyce Jones
25th	Anna Lozinski, William Taylor Foulds, Florrie Barritt
26th	William Egar
27th	Kenneth Howker, Casey-Jack Broxup, Peter Pike
28th	Arthur Todd, Frank Stansfield, Thomas Henry Hutchinson, James Dawson
29th	Ernest Joseph Parkinson, John Edward Lockwood
30th	Maud Ethel Halstead, Jennie Ormerod
31st	Gladys Gudgeon

1st	John Morris
2nd	Albert Schofield, William Mason Coates
3rd	Rose Hilda McNair, Margaret Booth
4th	Kathleen Martin OBE
7th	John Parker John Stuart Lockwood
10th	Joan Eglin
11th	Ben Lund
12th	Mavis Ryan
14th	Emily Helena Tomlinson
16th	John Thomas Dodd
17th	Mary Bestwick
18th	Mary Ann Clegg, Pierce Astin
19th	Norman Barritt
21st	Christine Ryan
23rd	George Arthur G Senior
27th	Maggie Williams, William Edward Barritt
28th	Dr John Baldwin, Shoemith, Ethel Louisa Shoemith
31st	Sarah Hannah Sagar, Ellen Ann Whittaker, Marjorie Batley, Peter West, Elizabeth Craig Lavery, Edward Fildes

RIP



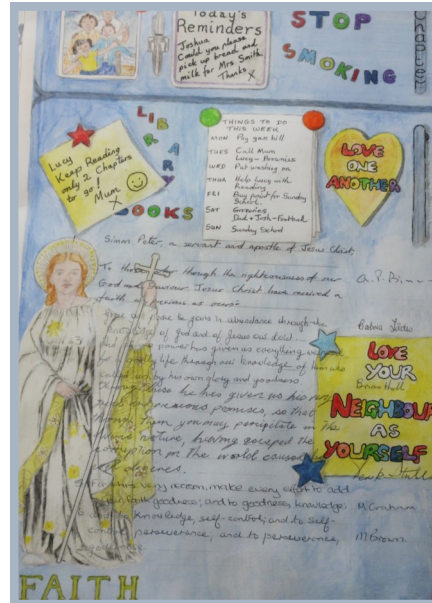


THE BOOK OF ST PETER

I have just finished illustrating Chapter I of the Second Letter of St Peter. Just two more Chapters to do and then some finishing touches! I am estimating completion as May of next year, 2023! If anyone still wants to contribute, ask me and I will find some space for you to write or draw. Thank you to all who have contributed so far. I want the book to be a very special keepsake for us all. Something we can look back on with great fondness but also to show future Burnley Christians who we were and what we did to keep our faith alive in the town.

Exciting times ahead. Let's be part of history.

Annette



900TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BUFFET

Thank you all for coming to St Peter's 900th Anniversary Celebration Buffet at Turf Moor on the 4th November. It was lovely to see so many people from both Churches enjoying Christian fellowship on such hallowed ground!

Did you see all the trophies, medals, jerseys and velvet caps on show? I may not follow football but I can feel the Club's sense of pride at winning all these wonderful prizes. Burnley football club was one of the original 12 clubs that made up the English Football League (EFL) in 1888. The oldest league football competition in the world. How cool is that!

History is all around us and will continue to shape who we are. Like Burnley football club we too at St Peter's and St Stephen's have a great heritage, passion and sense of community. We should be proud of who we are and what we have achieved over the centuries. The Reverend Mosley Master fought to improve the lives of mill workers, he also put shoes, clogs on the feet of our poorest children but he would have needed help from others. He could not have achieved this and more without a team of willing, dedicated followers who believed, who could see, his vision of a better Burnley. Let's keep this tradition going by flying the flag of our United Benefice in our community.

I would like to end my article by reiterating Carol Waddington's heartfelt 'thank you' to David Smith's family for the generous donation of Burnley football gift vouchers. The meal was a great success and although it does not bring the 900th Anniversary Celebrations to a final conclusion the end is in sight!

Annette



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Cakes for most occasions

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emmahopley70@gmail.com

by Emma



WITHOUT GIFTS OF LOVE IT WOULDN'T BE CHRISTMAS



It's that wonderful time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. For many of us, we go to beautiful church services, sing carols, eat a delicious Christmas dinner, visit and be visited by friends and family. We buy thoughtful gifts and are surprised and grateful when we are given gifts in return.

In Malawi, many families will have little to eat this Christmas. Due to the climate crisis - hotter temperatures, drought and destructive downpours - there are terrible food shortages.

With help from Christian Aid, families in Malawi are being helped to be more resilient to climate change and can grow and raise their own food.

This Christmas, can we please share the gift of love with families in Malawi by lifting them out of hunger?

At St Peter's, we always support Christian Aid generously during Christian Aid Week. Let's also make a donation one of our new traditions at Christmas. There will be envelopes in church during December for any gift you are able to give.

Thank you,

Joanne



This half term in school, we are looking at the Christian Value of Trust, 'My God is my strength in whom I trust.' Psalm 18.2. We are using this acrostic - TRUST IS....



Taking someone at their word
Relying on someone to support you
Unbreakable promises
Showing that you can be trustworthy
Treasuring good friends

We are thinking about knowing our friends will support us, knowing Jesus is with us in stormy times, standing on God's promises, being trustworthy, not gossiping, trusting God and believing that God has a plan for our lives.

Meena joined us for worship on the 2nd November and retold the story of the Tax Collector, with the help of some actors! She helped us see many messages that we can learn from the story, most importantly our Trust in Jesus, even when we have done a wrong thing, he will be there for us.



The PAIS team came in to lead our worship on the 9th November. They told the story of Ruth and Naomi and how Ruth put her trust in God, despite things being difficult. The PAIS team challenged us in some games, then gave a really difficult challenge for two volunteers! They created a 'super dangerous obstacle course' through which the girls needed to get through - with one of them blindfolded!!! Would you put your trust in your friend to get you through an obstacle course blindfolded?

Then they asked us all to think about putting our trust in our friends and what kinds of qualities they need so that we can do so. Then we can work on all those qualities so that our friends can put their trust in us.

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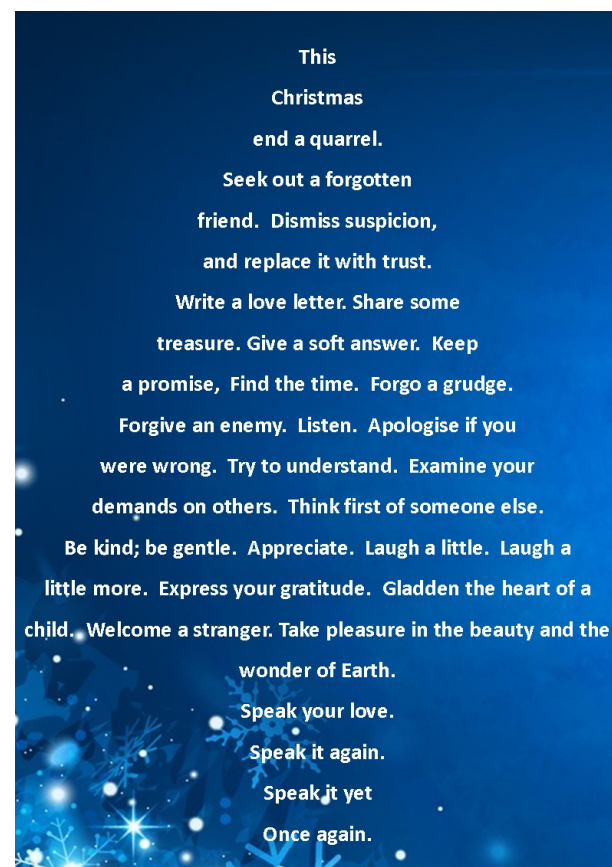
Meena also led our school Remembrance Service on the 11th November. Children in Year 6 were very respectful when reading some diary extracts from some of the soldiers on active duty. Meena led us in some prayers, then we held a two minute silence. Thank you to EYFS for making our poppy wreath. The rest of Key Stage Two listened with empathy and respect.



There are UPCOMING EVENTS, including our Christmas Performances and Nativity Service, which you are welcome to attend:

DANCE PERFORMANCE: Y1-Y5	9.00 am on 9th December
KEY STAGE TWO MUSIC PERFORMANCE:	9.30am on 12th December
NATIVITY SERVICE IN CHURCH:	2.00 pm on 14th December

Mrs Crowther





Sunday School News from St Peter's



Our children and young people continue to be an inspiration to us every week with their enthusiasm, questions and growth in faith.

Talking to Rev Kat before our Remembrance Service she asked about our Sunday School. I mentioned that we regularly have two

children from the Ukraine, one from Iran, one family from Nigeria, a family from Zimbabwe and another who is half Japanese. Rev Kat said that is what the kingdom of heaven will be like - everyone together. How beautiful.



We look forward to a busy season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We will be working hard to make these times meaningful for the families. Roots has excellent resources for Advent. We look forward to our Nativity service on Christmas Eve and welcome again the Puppet

Ministry team from Bamber Bridge.

Our Young Singers are keen to be involved and have their own ideas for the fair. They will sing at the Carol Service, lead the Nativity singing and be singing in a local nursing home.

We look forward to a family Christingle service on January 22nd.

Dates to look forward to:

School Christmas Workshop on December 9th at 3.30pm

Puppet Ministry on Monday December 19th at 6pm

Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm

Family Christingle Service on Sunday January 22nd at 11am

Love from all in the Sunday School



'The Open Book' Team from ALtham Church gave us a dramatised telling of the Jonah and the Whale story. It was exciting for the children. We made clay whales, decorated whales and enjoyed lunch together.



Our older group spent time in discussion with Roxanne.



A Colourful Whale!



*Both Sunday Schools Together
At our United Service*

let's do
lunch
... and it's
'On the House!'
fortnightly on
Wednesdays
Lunches in
December

December
14th +
Please note:
There is NO
Lunch on
the 28th
at 12.30 pm

at **St Stephen's Church**
Oxford Road
Burnley Wood
BB11 3JA
just come along
at 12.30 pm!



900th Anniversary

We're almost at the end of our 900th year and Anniversary celebrations, only 2 more events to go – the 900th Anniversary Christmas Fair and the final service with Bishop Philip on Advent Sunday followed by an “end of celebrations” buffet (for which donations will be welcome).

We've had a good year, with some extremely successful events. Particular highlights have been the Procession, Anniversary Service and Afternoon Tea in June and the Heritage Day. It was great to see the church full for the lovely anniversary service and to see so many people watching the procession through the town centre. The Heritage Day was very well supported with well over 100 visitors over the day. The tours by Roger Frost were excellent, as were all the displays.

Thanks to the 900th Anniversary Committee for all their hard work during the year, to Cynthia and the catering team for refreshments and to Pam McGrath for the wonderful posters, brochure etc. and to everyone that contributed to and helped with the numerous events. Thanks also to the Mayor, Councillor Cosima Towneley, for her support over the year.

I have enjoyed the year, but I am looking forward to a rest!

Carol

St Peter's Church, Burnley
Candlelit
Carol Service
at 4.00 pm on
SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

Everyone Welcome

...From our Vision Champions

Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders, Inspiring the Young



Roxy writes ...

A RESTFUL, PEACEFUL END AND START!

Well... it's that time of year again! I do love Christmas – everything about it, even the tackiness of the tinsel and all that glitter and sparkle! Personally, it's quite a special time for me. I will be celebrating the anniversary of my baptism 10 years ago in January! My Advent in 2013 was spent in busy preparation for my baptism on Epiphany Sunday!

It's been wonderful to be involved in the creation of a Collaborative Advent Pamphlet for local Burnley Churches in recent weeks. The finished Pamphlet will highlight services and events at 9 other local churches and so will be a helpful guide. We are hoping to be able to provide hard copies of the Pamphlet for your aid and for distribution to friends, family, and neighbours soon (this is in discussion as I write the below!) We're also hoping that the Pamphlet will be made available online, on St. Peter's page too. A big thank you to all those involved - for their input and support.

How's the season been so far for you? It's nigh on impossible to not get but a little side-tracked in a supermarket's Christmas confectionary section, once

it is all out! A 6x pack of all butter mince pies... at half price... and in November? Oh, go on then. XD



Luckily for me, I'm one of those people whose thoughts turn to Christmas a little earlier than November the 1st! I like to avoid that mad rush before and after Black Friday. It's nice to know that I've got everything sorted and wrapped up all in good time: any gifts, foods and treats are safely hoarded away in cupboards or nicely packaged under the tree (which is already up in our house...) all before the big day! It's nice to know that I've not forgotten anything, that I've managed to sort it all out and keep to my budget – and all at the pace suited to me.

Thinking about it all... our lives might easily be summed up in that word – a rush. It is easy to mistakenly believe that this drive will push us forward to the finish line... but the chances are that rushing will take us nowhere fast! More times than not, rushing will only hinder us and add to an ever-increasing



Given that Christmas time can fly by in this haze, many look forward to the end of year celebrations instead, but the New Year can bring in its wake its own pressures! There's pressure to spend a bit more money and then there's pressure to reinvent oneself through resolution making, to be a little better than the person we ended the year as.



Instead of finishing one year and starting another 'hard' – why don't we finish one and start the other 'soft'? Many titles are the Lords'. One of them, 'Prince of Peace' is quite synonymous with this season! Coincidence? Perhaps...perhaps not: I think this title demonstrates God's character. He knows us intricately (and so takes an interest in our new year resolutions) and whilst walking amongst us also observes up close! He knows how stressed and rushed we get. In Mark 6:31 it says: Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'

True energy and vitality (both physically and spiritually) are born from a place of deep restoration – and the call for rest often comes quite unexpected. I have often ignored



that call to rest – to my detriment! – and have chosen instead any excuse or reason to not rest! 'I don't have time' was my favourite excuse. But the busyness of our lives cannot be identity forming – that space has been taken up already – we have our fixed identity as Children of God.

Jesus was given to us as a gift from our loving Father and the Gift who freely gave continues to do so through the Holy Spirit. He lovingly provides us with a hope, a future and the best thing? The invitation to have a deep, true, restorative relationship with our Tri-une God. In this relationship we find that one thing we are unknowingly striving for – Peace:

John 14:27 notes some of Jesus' last words to His disciples: 'I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.' God knows me, you, everyone – and proclaims peace of mind and heart over us! His presence, through the Spirit, is the peace that 'the world cannot give' and looking through scripture, He continually invites us into that peace: Isaiah 54:10 says: 'For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,' says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

There's peace in His presence – let's start the year off seeking the soft embrace of God.

Roxy



Linda writes ...

Hi everyone,

I am writing this for the magazine while on the plane to Jerusalem. We are about to begin our descent and the feeling of anticipation is beginning to build. Even though I have been fortunate to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem twice before, the thought that we would be visiting the places that Jesus knew and seeing the hills around Galilee - the same hills that Jesus walked. How I feel is hard to describe.

During the month of November Rev Frances has led us through a time of remembering. During the month of December we have the season of Advent - a time to look forward; a time of expectation and anticipation; of looking forward to the birth of Christ; a time when we sing carols, hear the bible readings of how Mary was told she was to bear a child, of Joseph and the wise men. These are things we have done year in year out and yet we still celebrate and enjoy as if it was the first time, with anticipation of the wonderful gift God

gave us in Jesus.

As part of looking forward to Christmas I would encourage you to spare an hour or so of your time to come along to the Advent Gatherings. They will continue each Wednesday at 7.30pm (Thursday morning St. Peter's). If you cannot come to all of them that's not a problem. Just come when you can.

Christmas is a time of giving and this year we will be collecting gifts for the women's refuge. Father Paul Payton suggested this last year and you were very generous in your donations. Paul Hannah has been in touch with the refuge and they are extremely grateful that we will be donating again this year.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New year.

Linda

Vision Champion, St Stephen's

But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.
(Micah 7.7)



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St Stephen's School News

LAUNCH DAY

The children, governors and staff thoroughly enjoyed visiting Turf Moor for our school Launch Day. The children had a tour of the grounds and the home and away changing rooms. They were really excited to visit the media room and attend two workshops. We are so proud of how our children behaved and the BFC staff commented on their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm.



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Our school dog Gino has been into school more often lately. He is a 2 year old Cockapoo who adores the children at St Stephen's as much as they adore him. We are having a visit from the Dog's Trust to talk about dog safety. He will bring his cuddly toy dog 'Duggy' with him. Gino

always enjoys coming into our worship and listening to readers.

CHRISTMAS DATES



Our school choir is looking forward to opening the Christmas Fair at St Stephen's Church. They are also taking part in a large Singing event at King George's Hall next year. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information about ticket sales.

Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 will be performing for the parents and families. They are busy practising and learning songs for the big events.

/continued ...

PTFA Christmas fair at school
St. Stephen's Church Fair (choir to open)
Carol Singing at Tesco
Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children
PTFA Disco KS1
PTFA Disco KS2
PTFA Disco KS2
Christmas Production
Father Christmas visiting school
School finishes

01/12/22 @ 3:30-5:30pm
3/12/22 @ 10:45am
6/12/22 @ 10am
8/12/22
8/12/22 @ 4:30-5:30pm
8/12/22 @ 5:45-6:30pm
8/12/22 @ 5:45-6:30pm
14/12/22 @ 6pm
16/12/22 @ 10:00-10:30am
16/12/22

WORSHIP



We have been looking at the importance of our school Mission Statement of 'Learn, Grow and Achieve Together Through God's Love' and the value this half term has been 'Trust'. Our worship committee have been inspecting all the classrooms in school to ensure that all of our children have a worship area that includes all the special things we like to see. These are:

- A cross
- A bible
- Prayer cards
- Pictures
- Scripture
- A candle

OUR VALUES

Next half term we will be looking at 'Perseverance' as our value and the worship committee will be linking bible stories and scripture to this as well as exploring this value and scripture through Art.

OUR PRECIOUS PLANET.

Our theme day will involve looking at God's Precious Planet and enjoying many activities that encourage looking after the planet that we live on and all living things. The children will focus on recycling and writing prayers for our planet.



Mrs Roberts
Headteacher

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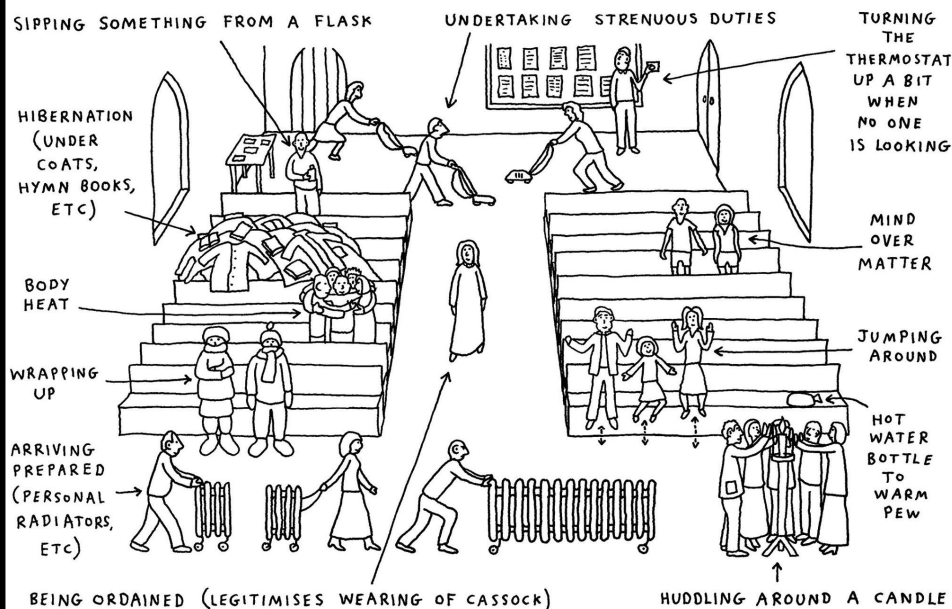
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WAYS TO KEEP WARM

IN CASE THERE IS ONE YOU HAVEN'T TRIED



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Services & Rotas for December/January at St Peter's

Date	11.00am	Reader	Intercessor	Sidespeople	6.00pm
4/12	Choral Matins	Joan Ainsworth	Roxy Kern	C Hacking S Hacking	BCP HC
11/12	Holy Communion	Diana Harris	Adrian Norris	M Eckersley E Massie	-
18/12	Holy Communion	Stewart Hacking	Carol Pike	H Slater J Ainsworth	Choral Evensong
25/12	Family Service	Child	Child	S Dixon S Hacking	-
1/01	10.30 am - Joint Service at St Stephen's - Reader: Adrian Norris				
8/01	Holy Communion	Roxy Kern	Adrian Norris	Mary Eckersley Eric Massie	
15/01	Holy Communion	Eric Massie	Roxy Kern	Heather Slater Joan Ainsworth	Choral Evenson
22/01	Family Service	Child	Child	Stephen Dixon Stewart Hacking	
29/01	10.30 am United Service	St Stephen's	Carol Pike	Christine Hacking Stewart hacking	

St Peter's Flower Guild

There are no flowers in church during Advent. Arrangements for decorating the Church for Christmas will appear on the Church weekly news sheet or contact Alice, Maureen or Meena.

ROTA FOR JANUARY

	Chancel	Towneley
8th	Vacant	Mrs E Dawson
15th	Mr & Mrs S Barritt	Vacant
22nd	Vacant	Vacant
29th	Vacant	Vacant

On behalf of the Flower Guild grateful thanks for Donations Best wishes for Christmas and Happy New

Services & Rotas for December/January at St Stephen's

Date	Services	Sidespeople	Reader	Tea/Coffee	Cleaning
4/12	9.45 am Holy Communion	Betty & Ralph	Philip	Pauline L & Shirley	W/C 07/11 Team 1
11/12	9.45 am Holy	Anita & Steve	Edith	Barbara H & Paul	W/C 14/11 Team 2
18/12	Wake Up & Worship 9.00 am Breakfast 9.45 am Holy Communion	Geoff & Judith K	John H	WUAW	W/C 21/11 Team 3
25/12	9.45 am Holy Communion	Lynette & Neil	Christine	No Coffee	W/C 28/11 Team 1
1/01	10.30 am St Stephen's Festival JOINT SERVICE	Judith & John	St Peter's	Christine H & Christine N	W/C 2/01 Team 2
8/01	9.45 am Holy Communion	Philip & Shirley		Pauline A & Pam	W/C 9/01 Team 3
15/01	WUAW 9.00 am Breakfast 9.45 am Holy Communion	Christine & Christine		WUAW	W/C 16/01 Team 1
22/01	9.45 am Holy Communion	Betty & Ralph		Brenda & Margaret	W/C 23/01 Team 2
29/01	10.30 am Joint Service at St Peter's				W/C 30/01 Team 3



If you are unable to be in church when you are on the rota, please let the Wardens know.



Children's Page

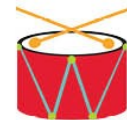
A Christmas Wordsearch



The 12 Days of Christmas



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



BIRDS
CALLING
DANCING
DOVES
DRUMMERS
DRUMMING
FRENCH
GEESE
GOLDEN
HENS



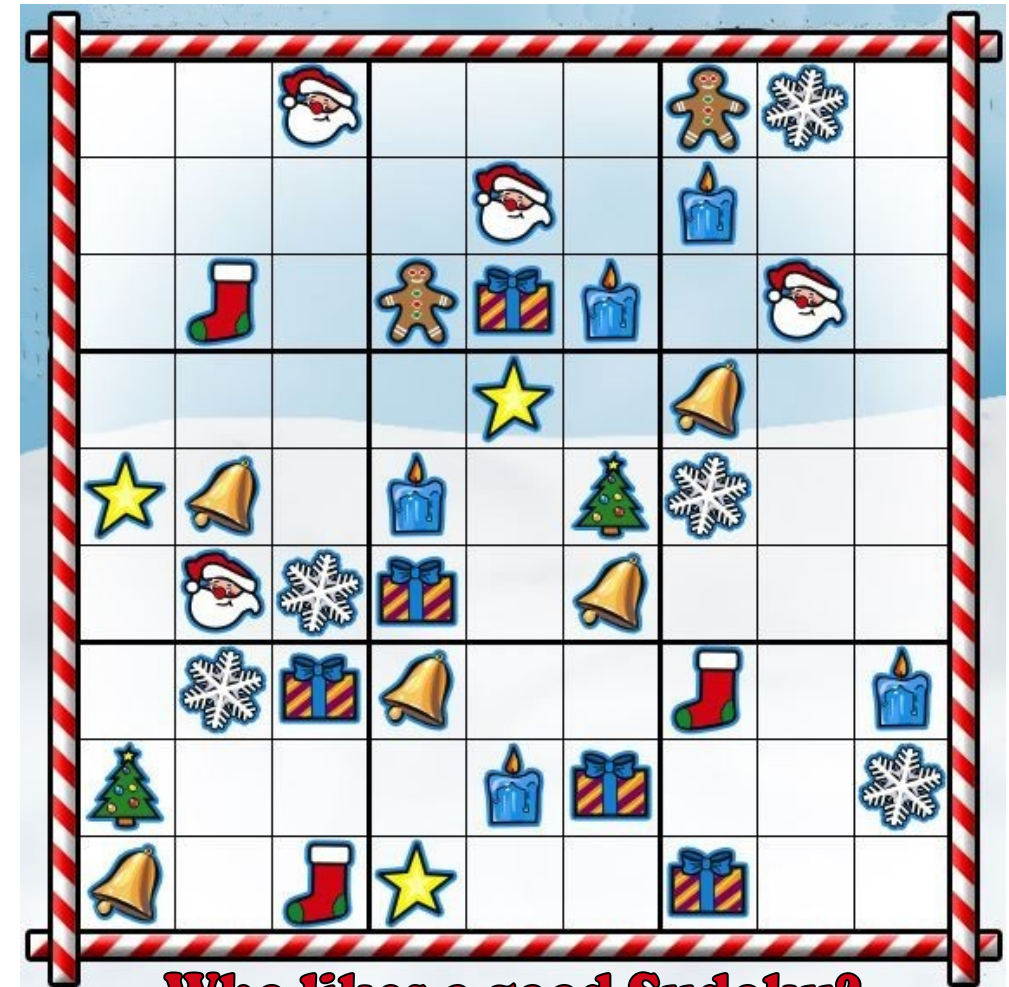
LADIES
LAYING
LEAPING
LORDS
MAIDS

MILKING
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PIPERS
PIPING
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TREE
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A CHRISTMAS SUDOKU!



Who likes a good Sudoku?
Well here's one with a difference!

Usual rules, each row and each column and each 3x3 grid has to be filled with the symbols so no two are the same. As you do the puzzle, think of those people less fortunate than yourselves who do not get such or any Christmas gifts.

With thanks to Ray Garnett

...you're invited!!

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