

# THE REVIEW

DECEMBER 2020



**WADDINGTON STREET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,**

**DURHAM CITY DH1 4BG**

**Church Website: [www.durhamurc.org.uk](http://www.durhamurc.org.uk)**



## Dear friends,

A marketing email popped into my inbox a few days ago that got me thinking. A certain firm of accountants has had the idea of a '28 Days of Lockdown Movie Marathon'. In their own words, but with my emphasis: "Our team have got together and shared some of our favourite films and formed a "28 Days of Lockdown" advent calendar for our clients and anyone else that can enjoy it!"

On the one hand, this is somewhat cheeky. Advent is first and foremost Advent: the season before Christmas when we focus on the advent of Jesus Christ. Even with a small 'a', advent is the arrival of a person or thing (according to the Oxford English Dictionary). So, to apply the word in the context of a Lockdown Movie Marathon, as a countdown to the easing of restrictions, might seem to be a misappropriation. On the other hand, an 'advent calendar' to get us through twenty-eight days of restrictions gets to the very heart of what Advent (proper Advent with a capital 'A') truly means.

The advent of Jesus which we celebrate in Advent is a time when we remember those who cry 'how long must we wait!' Whether the people of Israel occupied by the Romans who longed for the coming of the Messiah, or the people of now who yearn for the end of this pandemic, the desire of Advent is for light to shine, and for it to shine NOW!

We're trudging on through our very own darkness, our own Winter of Discontent bringing to mind Shakespeare's 'Richard III' as well as the industrial unrest of 1978/9. But as Isaiah said: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9: 2) Jesus who makes it clear that the words of Isaiah have already been fulfilled through him (Matthew 4:16). As people of Jesus we're living in tomorrow's world today. That is not to deny the suffering of the present moment - the pain of losses which are mounting up. However, as Jesus says, we can change the way we think, turn to God, and realise that the real power of God is near and now.

I know some people get hot under the collar when Christmas merchandise fills supermarket shelves immediately after All Hallows' Eve (to give it its proper name). Many will be chuntering at the recent appearance of Christmas decorations - lights at Roker, tree in Low Fell - but the early onset of tinsel reflects the reality that Jesus has already arrived. Not that we have to eat turkey, sprouts, and mince pies daily to live in the reality of Christmas every day. Simply living in light, with a light-filled attitude and a heart of light towards all will suffice. Advent then becomes less of a countdown and more of an affirmation of what is now, with lament that things are not quite as they will be. Advent is not so much about wistful yearning for a great escape but a brave embrace of the baby Jesus born in us today.

The 'little town of Bethlehem' may be far away in time and space. However, in the words of the carol, now "God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven: where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in."

May I and my family wish you all a blessed, light-filled, and truly contented Christmas.

Yours faithfully,  
 Marcus





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



**Ministerial Services** – Revd. Marcus Hargis is contactable in the following ways:-

Phone: 0776 949 2629 and 0191 366 4930 (messages can be left on either).

Email: [marcushargis@outlook.com](mailto:marcushargis@outlook.com) For routine pastoral matters, please first approach your Elder.

**Time of Sunday Services – 10.45 a.m. (when we can resume them).**

**COPY DATE FOR THE JANUARY 2021 REVIEW IS – SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER 2020.**

**Please be aware when submitting articles that our Church Magazine goes on the website and is available for anyone anywhere in the world to read.**



**Dear URC Church,**

Thank you for letting us borrow the key.

We appreciate being able to use the Woods Room for our bible studies for the adult and student's group.

Your generosity had been a real blessing for us.

Thank you.

With best wishes,

**Durham Korean Church.**

**Kathleen Clasper sends this revised DOOR DUTIES Rota.**

	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>DOOR DUTIES</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>	6th Mr. R. Todd.	Mrs. H. Todd
	13th Mrs. J. Sarsfield	Mr. M. Reay
	20th Mr. S. Ogilvie.	Mrs. K. Ogilvie
	27th Mrs. Y. Melville	Mr. & Mrs. L. Thomson
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>	3rd Mr. D. Shirer.	Mrs. K Clasper
	10th Mrs. K. Clasper.	Mr. S. Ogilvie
	17th Mrs. J. Thornborrow	Mr. M. Reay
	24th Mrs. H. Cockburn.	Mrs. K. Ogilvie
	31st Mr. R. Todd	Mrs. H. Todd



# Advent 2020

Four sessions focussing on  
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love  
through the lens of selected Psalms  
shared together on Zoom  
Facilitated by Revd Marcus

**7pm: Mondays**  
30th November; 7th, 14th, and 21st December 2020  
Zoom Meeting ID: 881 1894 0223 Passcode: WtW

**Walking the Way**  
Living the life of Jesus today





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND CHURCH NEWS



### Church Christmas Appeal

In an article in the November issue of The Review, Kath Ogilvie reminded us of our usual practice to fundraise and give support to Charities, usually one “local” and one “international”.

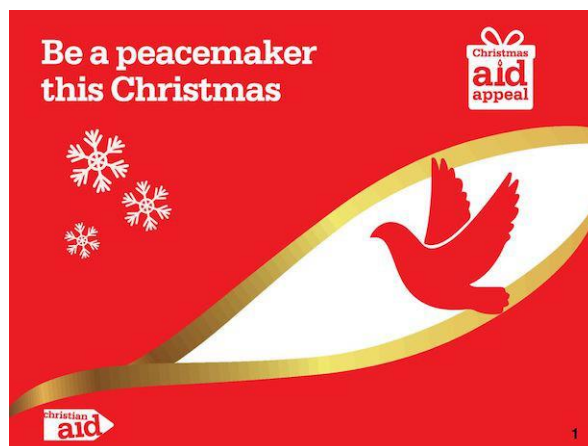
At the Elders’ meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November, it was decided to launch a Church Christmas Appeal and that the proceeds would be split between St. Cuthbert’s Hospice (a local charity) and Christian Aid (an international charity).

We have always supported Christian Aid but this year no donation could be made from the Harvest Lunch as it could not take place due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

St. Cuthbert’s Hospice have not been able to hold their usual Fund raising efforts and also, as their retail shops were closed in the first lockdown (and have now been closed again), they are operating at a loss of £300,000 this year. They made an urgent appeal recently in the Northern Echo for help to replace the expected loss and have now passed the £50,000 milestone on their way to their goal of £300,000. We have all faced huge challenges during this pandemic but no more so than those in our community with life limiting illnesses, people approaching the end of life and people who are bereaved. The Hospice needs our help so that their free care can continue.

Ways of raising funds for the Christmas Appeal were discussed at the Elders’ meeting and we hope to put together a Christmas Quiz, plan to have a Christmas photography competition where folk can submit their photographs, funny or otherwise, which Marcus has agreed to judge and Yvonne has already started to knit Christmas coats for Chocolate Oranges. Further details of these proposals will be given later and the Elders hope that you will all enjoy taking part in these fundraising efforts as these charities need our help in these difficult times.

**Doris Jackson**





## EDITOR'S LETTER

### DEAR READERS,

2020 has seemed like the year that never was due to all the cancelled plans and restrictions on socialising with other people. One bright spot was that Les and I once more became great grandparents when our grandson Nathan became Dad to Vinnie Benjamin in October.

This is a bumper edition of The Review with varied articles, some of which are thanks to the Bethel URC Newsletter and its Editor, Judith Ashby. In addition, there is a Photographic Competition and a Christmas Quiz, as well as a Christmas Word Search – to keep you busy!

If you want to respond, via The Review, to Helen Cooper's question about what is your favourite Christmas film, then that would be a good start for the January edition of The Review. Also you can send in details of your favourite Bible character and why you have chosen them. Likewise, your favourite hymn and what it means to you, would be of interest. I hope for some response to these questions!

Lucky ... or maybe not! Our Bank gives us free Cinema tickets but we did not have the right Cinema group in Durham until recently. We had just received our tickets when places of entertainment closed. It did make me laugh at the irony of it and we hope to use them when lockdown is over.

### The Christmas Wreath



Looking colourful and welcoming,  
The Christmas wreath is on the door.  
Once more we decorate our homes,  
A tradition that goes on evermore.  
As we look forward to the coming days,  
Excitement mounts and greater grows.  
As all around, people await the birth,  
Kindness and good humour flows.  
People everywhere wait and hope for,  
This foretold baby, King of Kings.  
We watch the sky for a special star,  
And listen for the beat of angel wings.  
Like the shepherds of old and wise men,  
We want to worship at His baby feet.  
Knowing that when we can do so,  
Christians from all countries will meet.  
Through the centuries mankind has sung,  
Feasted royally and drank some wine.  
Thanking our God for His constant love,  
And for His most precious gift divine.

(L.T.)

Thanks to those who print and distribute The Review by email or post.

A happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year to all readers of The Review.

Please send any contributions to The Review for January 2021 to me by the date given below.

**Lucille Thomson**

The next issue of The Review will be published in early **January 2021**.  
Contributions please to Lucille Thomson BY POST or **Tel. 0191-3861052**  
or e-mail **lesthomson@talktalk.net** - no later than **NOON on Sunday 20th December 2020**.

Hello Lucille,

I was discussing the effect that Covid has had on worship with Janet and Ki this morning and it made me wonder whether you'd like to publish at some point, the attached 'hymn'. It's really a Statement of Perseverance, set to music. I wrote it as part of worship at Jesmond URC, shortly after the re-opening of churches when we all felt unsure as to how we could continue in proper worship, with so few people able to attend, and when people had to wear face coverings AND get by without hymns. I set it to an up-lifting tune written by Charles Dibdin in the 18th century, called "Two Lofty Ships", (or "High Barbary"). The tune is easily found on You Tube, but I use a slower tempo.

**Helen Cooper**

P.S. if anybody would like piano or guitar music for "High Barbary", I can send a copy on request.



### Statement of perseverance

Tune (guitar): "Two Lofty Ships"

*Charles Dibdin (1745-1814)*

We few assembled here,  
We seek the Father's heart.  
We try,  
we fail,  
we try again.

Yet through the sacrifice of Christ we've strength to win at last,  
trying to prepare the way for God to make things new.

The many in this town  
who suffer grief and loss:  
they hurt,  
they fear,  
they look for help.  
We are the hands and voice of Him  
victorious on the cross;  
trying to prepare the way for God to make things new.

To all who do God's work  
He gives both strength and grace  
to heal,  
to teach,  
to build up true;  
we recognise His presence in  
the work we undertake,  
trying to prepare the way for God to make things new.

(Helen Cooper 16.08.2020)





There's something in a simple hug that always warms the heart,  
 It welcomes us back home and makes it easier to part.  
 A hug's a way to share the joy and sad times we go through,  
 Or just a way for friends to say they like you 'cause you're you.  
 Hugs are meant for anyone for whom we really care,  
 From your Grandma to your neighbour – or a cuddly teddy bear.  
 A hug is an amazing thing – it's just the perfect way,  
 To show the love we're feeling but can't find the words to say.  
 It's funny how a little hug makes everyone feel good;  
 In every place and language and it's always understood.  
 And hugs don't need equipment, special batteries or parts –  
 Just open up your arms and open up your hearts.

### **WE BELIEVE ...**

It's the little things that matter,  
 The unexpected things.  
 The kindly thoughts that touch the heart,  
 The comfort a phone call brings.  
 The helpful deed for one in need,  
 The willingness to share.  
 The happy smile that stays a while  
 And tells someone, "I care".  
 It's the little things that matter,  
 That add up in the end,  
 To that priceless gift of all  
 Found only in a FRIEND.



[Thanks to Evelyn Ogilvie for passing on the above two poems.]



**If things are a little different this year, this is what has been happening ...**

**No Nativity this year -**

because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban.

**The shepherds** have been furloughed.

**The Inn keeper** has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.

**Santa** won't be working –  
as he would break the rule of 6 –  
with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen,  
Donner and Blitzen.

As for  
**Rudolph**,  
with that  
red nose, he  
should be  
isolating  
and taking a  
test!



[This wording came from Facebook. The dog photo – sweet! - is courtesy of his owner.]

**All spectacle wearers will understand how this feels ...!**



### **A Different Point of View**

It was almost time for school to finish for the day and the mother looked out of the window at the approaching storm. Knowing that her daughter really didn't like storms, she hurried to the school gates to be there when the little girl came out of school. However, on the way home during the thunder and lightning, the daughter kept looking up to the sky and smiling. Mystified, her mother asked, "Why do you keep looking up to the sky and smiling?"

"Because God keeps taking my photo." replied the little girl, once again beaming upwards

[With thanks to Bethel URC's Newsletter for this cartoon and Point of View.]





### ***A DONKEY'S TALE***

*I'm tired and weary, I bear a heavy load.  
 My people are footsore as we trudge this endless road.  
 The timing is crucial, we need to make haste.  
 Something special is happening, not a moment to waste.  
 We're tired and weary, but can't find a room.  
 They're knocking and knocking, oh please make it soon.  
 An old shed? With animals and straw?  
 Don't they realise? Is there even a door?  
 What's that? A noise, like a small baby cry.  
 Phew we made it in time but you have to ask, why?  
 Why, of all the places on this glorious Earth,  
 Sweet Mary ended up here giving birth.  
 Giving birth to a Saviour who's beginnings were so small  
 But would go on to Glory bringing Redemption for all.  
 I've eaten and slept, feeling better by far,  
 What a story to tell. Ooh, that's a very big star!  
 There are more people arriving. That star's still very bright  
 But one day you'll all know who I've watched over tonight.*

[With thanks to Bethel URC's Newsletter for this item.]

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“Christmas is a time when we want our past forgotten and our PRESENT remembered.”

“At Christmas-time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.”

“Don't miss Christmas. The innkeeper did because he was too preoccupied with his business. The Jewish leaders did because they couldn't be bothered to walk five miles to check things out. Herod did because he was threatened by a baby.”

[From *A Box of Delights* Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]



**Terry Waite,**  
**1763 days** as a hostage in appalling conditions.  
 He just told us all to stop complaining!  
 “Change your mindset,” he said, “you’re not  
**STUCK** at home, you’re **SAFE** at home.”

His advice:  
 \*Keep your own dignity - get out of your PJs!  
 \*Form a structure for the day.  
 \*Be grateful for what you have - shelter, home,  
 possessions.  
 \*Read and be creative.

[From a Facebook message received.]



## Photo competition—time to get snapping.

As has been noted elsewhere, our church fundraising efforts have been derailed by Covid this year. As one way to redress that, we are holding a family photo competition to raise funds for St. Cuthbert’s Hospice here in Durham and Christian Aid. The competition is open to anyone with an association with the church.

The photographs should be seasonal, (Advent, Christmas, New Year, Winter) taken indoors or outdoors and preferably have a title.

They must be taken between now and the 15<sup>th</sup> January and sent by email, with the name of the photographer, to our Minister, Marcus who will do the judging. ([marcushargis@outlook.com](mailto:marcushargis@outlook.com))

The cost of entry is **£5.00** for up to 4 photos.

The winner’s photograph will be used for the cover of the February edition of The Review.

Fees can be paid,

1. if we are open there will be a charity box in the vestibule on Sunday mornings, or
2. by cash/cheque payable to Waddington Street URC, and sent to Kath and Sandy Ogilvie.

Donations without photographs can, of course, also be sent to support the fundraising for our two chosen charities.



## What's YOUR favourite Christmas film?

I was once discussing family customs with a group of work colleagues. When the subject came around to films which we particularly associate with Christmas, one colleague said, 'well, we can't start Christmas until we have had our Christmas Eve lunch, sat down with a sherry and watched "It's a Wonderful Life"'. That's not a bad idea, I think: it's a wonderful film, brim-full of pathos, romance, supernatural allusion, and, of course, LOTS of snow. No wonder it has remained a Christmas favourite since its first release in 1957.

But what of Dickens's "A Christmas Carol"? That story was released as a film in 1938 in New York and has grown in popularity ever since. If professor Google is to be believed, this most famous Christmas story has suffered 135 film adaptations, the latest being **Bharat Nalluri's** *The Man Who Invented Christmas*, released in 2017.

I wonder whether there are any strong alternatives to these "Big Two"? Does anyone have their own recommendations for Christmas viewing?

I'd like to suggest my own favourite seasonal story. It is a light-hearted film first released in 1954 (pre-dating "It's a Wonderful Life" by 2 years). Its main character, played by Charles Laughton, is father to three daughters, all intent on following their liking of the latest fashions into adulthood and relying on their pompous Dad to find them husbands. A very young John Mills plays Willie, Laughton's talented but naive shoe-maker, who is spotted and courted by the eldest daughter – much to the father's chagrin.

The story is one of redemption as the father – Henry Horatio Hobson – travels from being a penny-pinching, suspicious, drunken, male chauvinist to upright member of the local Manchester cobbling community via alcohol-induced hallucinations and a realisation of his own weaknesses. Along the way, Horatio's eldest daughter, played by Brenda de Banzie, inspires Willie to shoe-making success, a shop of their own, and finally rescuing the contrite Hobson from his own blind incompetence. Oh – and the film contains the most touching wedding night scene EVER, plus – a must for Christmas viewing – there is snow – but just a little.

*Helen Cooper*



## THANK YOU, NHS ...

Since this pandemic came around to alter all our lives, our NHS workers have been so steadfast and brave. They've put their own lives at risk at work each day, and continue to care for us in each and every way. They work long shifts and the responsibility is huge, And wearing the PPE clothing is tiring and very hot. Their dedication and empathy has made us proud - our applause for them has been long and very loud, It has been one of life's more pleasant sounds - our respect and admiration for them knows no bounds. So, please God, keep these earthly angels safe always. Let this pandemic go away, never to again blight our days.

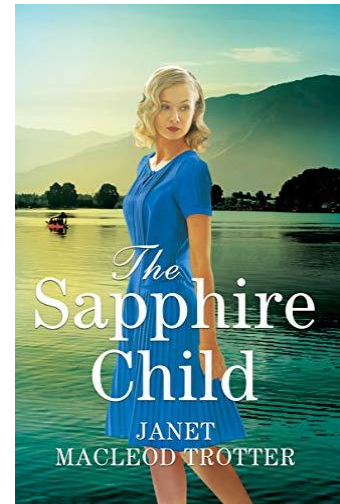
(L.T.)





### **Notes from Elders' Meeting on Wednesday 4th November 2020 (by Zoom)**

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 were accepted as a true record, to be signed and filed when appropriate.
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 7 October 2020 -
  - a) Keys to the church have all been returned. This was necessary for insurance purposes.
  - b) Sandy has been liaising with the Resource Centre and they are unbelievably grateful for the use of our building and our continuing support of them.
  - c) Marcus reported that a Zoom meeting has been organised with Andrew Tinkler and a student representative from Josephine Butler College to discuss the intergenerational student programme.
  - d) Marcus reported that nominations are coming in, following our request for new Elders; closing date is 18 November.
  - e) The church is closed again following the new lockdown regulations in England so the Remembrance Service cannot go ahead as planned. We will be reverting back to worshipping via Zoom and we will observe the two minutes silence during our online service. We will, of course, send a donation to the Poppy Appeal as originally agreed.
3. District Reports - Reports were given with those mentioned to be remembered in prayer.
4. Correspondence - Sandy reported on a general enquiry from a young couple who hope to get married in January in a Registry Office in Newcastle and are looking for a church in which they can have a blessing following the marriage. It is very difficult to predict now, what the situation regarding Covid-19 will be at that time, but it was agreed that it would be good to be as welcoming as possible. Marcus will get in touch with them.
5. Charity Fundraising - It was acknowledged that many charities this year will be struggling. We discussed ways of trying to raise funds and have decided to launch a Church Christmas Appeal. The proceeds will be split between St. Cuthbert's Hospice and Christian Aid. Doris agreed to write an article for the church magazine about St Cuthbert's Hospice where she has been a volunteer for many years. Yvonne agreed to put together a Christmas Quiz, the logistics of which have still to be finalised. We also plan to have a Christmas Photography Competition where folk can submit their photographs, funny or otherwise, which Marcus has agreed to judge. Sandy will speak to Michèle as to the best way to handle any money in relation to these events.
6. Website Update and Live Streaming of Services  
 Marcus' suggestions for updating the website were reviewed and agreed. Sandy will continue to deal with email enquiries. The old Facebook page still exists but it was agreed that focusing on the website is the key priority at the moment. The use of Zoom and livestreaming of services were also discussed as ways of reaching out primarily to our church family and also the wider community. Sandy intimated that there might be grants available to help fund new technology.
7. Services under New Lockdown Regulations - We have had to cancel all of November's services and revert back to worshipping via Zoom. It is hoped that we will be able to worship in church in December, although we cannot be certain. A decision was taken to cancel the Christmas Morning service. Marcus will be taking the service on Christmas Eve, assuming we are allowed to open.
8. Christmas Cards - Yvonne has received the pack from which we normally select our church Christmas cards. It was agreed to send cards to those organisations that normally use our premises, as well as to our congregation. Normally details of all our Christmas services are listed on the Christmas card, but as the situation is so unpredictable at the moment, it was agreed to have a link to our website instead, as it will have the latest information regarding services. Distribution of the cards will be discussed at our December meeting.
9. Client Engagement - An email has been received from Anthony Oliver from Foundation, an organisation which has frequently used our premises in the past. They support individuals and families affected by situations such as homelessness, domestic abuse, leaving prison and leaving the care system. They are currently in the process of revamping their welcome pack and have asked if our church would like to be included in their literature. Marcus will make contact with Anthony to progress this.
10. Eco Church - is an award scheme designed to motivate and resource churches in England and Wales to care for God's earth as part of their everyday work and witness. It was agreed that a working party be formed to look into this more fully with a view to working towards accreditation. The names of a few people who might be interested in joining a working party were discussed. It is hoped that we will get guidance from Trevor Jamieson, the Synod's Green Apostle.
11. AOB  
 It was noted with pleasure that we have recently had some folk returning to worship with us. It would be good to allocate an Elder to them, if they would like one. It was agreed to wait until any new Elders have been appointed as we will look at revising the Elders' districts at that point.
12. The next Elders' Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 7 p.m.; Kathleen will chair, and Janet will take the minutes. The meeting closed with saying 'The Grace' to each other.



*First of all, I hope you are well in these difficult times.*

I have been working this year on my latest novel [\*The Sapphire Child\*](#) which is the sequel to [\*The Emerald Affair\*](#) and the second book in [\*The Raj Hotel Series\*](#). This is due to be published on 8th December. *Janet Macleod Trotter*



### **DURHAM CATHEDRAL'S NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE.**

As winter draws nearer, heralded by the colours of autumn, we all begin to draft our plans for Christmas. A Scottish MSP has warned us to prepare for a digital Christmas, and I think he's right, but we should also be preparing for a digital New Year too. Thanks to Pat Francis and all the Durham Churches Together committee who have been working with Durham Cathedral on the New Year's Eve service, as a video. The service will be led by Revd Alan Middleton and the

address by our own Revd Ruth Crofton. The message will be on the uncertainties of life's future, as Joseph lived it. What an apt theme from the Bible for 2021. Well done Ruth. I'll be logging onto the Cathedral website to hear it myself on New Year's Eve. Please join me.

**Melanie Eve.**

Faithful Mary bore her son,  
And laid him on a bed of straw,  
In that moment God's will was done.

Who could have guessed,  
by the birth of this child,  
the world would be blessed?

That people would praise His name,  
By his miracles He would be known,  
When He healed the sick and the lame.





### THE SHEPHERDS

We gathered our cloaks as the night drew on,  
With the heat of the day, the sun had gone.  
It was our usual watch on the hillside that night,  
We would stay with the flock till the dawn  
broke light.

It seemed just the usual run of the mill,  
With the star studded sky, all was peaceful and  
still,  
But then to our utter fear and dismay,  
The whole sky lit up as bright as the day.  
An angel appeared in brilliant array,  
Our fears relaxed as we heard him say,  
'Don't be afraid for good news I bring,  
A Saviour is born Who will be your King',

'Today, in Bethlehem, David's town,  
Christ the Lord has been born of great renown,  
Yet He lies in a manger filled with straw,  
Wrapped in simple cloth, go worship in awe'.

We found the stable, and worshipped the child,  
God's promised Messiah so meek and so mild,  
So we hurried off to tell people around,  
Who were frankly amazed at what we had  
found.

[From "*Captured by love*".]  
[A collection of Poems by Dorothy Anderson]  
[Written in aid of Tearfund.]  
[Used by kind permission of the author.]



A seven year old child was drawing a picture  
of the nativity. The picture was very good,  
including Mary, Joseph and, of course, baby  
Jesus.

However, there was a fat man standing in the  
corner of the stable that just did not seem to fit  
in.

When the child was asked about it, she replied,  
'Oh, that's Round John Virgin.'

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If you take Christ out of Christmas,  
All you're left with is M & S ... (Paul Wilson)

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"I received the following message on the front  
of a Christmas card in 1998:

'Some people think that Christmas time  
Is gifts and grub and booze;  
But the best bit is  
That Jesus came –  
God's Son in human shoes.

[From *A Box of Delights*]  
[Compiled by J. John & Mark Stibbe]







## Waddington Street URC – Christmas Quiz – 2020



1. What year was the Christmas movie “The Princess Switch” released?
2. Which Mariah Carey song became US Christmas number 1 in 1993?
3. What Christmas related bird has a red chest?
4. How many reindeer names end with the letters “ER”?
5. What “A” represents the first season of the Church year leading up to Christmas?
6. What aromatic gum resin is related to the baby Jesus, originates from an African tree and is burned as incense?
7. In which ocean is Christmas Island located?
8. How do you say Merry Christmas in French?
9. Who was Scrooge’s dead business partner in “A Christmas Carol”?
10. Complete the opening line to this Band Aid song “It’s Christmas time.....”?
11. What Christmas related food is made from a mixture of apple, dried fruit, candied fruit, spices and suet?
12. What was the occupation of Saint Joseph?
13. What word, beginning with “H” describes the last day of the year as celebrated in Scotland?
14. Which fruit is traditionally used to make a “Christingle”?
15. Which female singer had a US Christmas number 1 in 1981 with “Physical”?
16. In which country is Lapland located?
17. The catchy lyrics “pa rum pum pum pum” feature in which well known Christmas carol?
18. What are the two main ingredients of a snowball cocktail?
19. What feast beginning with the letter “N” recognises the birth of the baby Jesus?
20. As well as icing, what “M” is traditionally used to decorate a Christmas cake?
21. Traditionally, mince pies sometimes had a pastry figure placed on top, what did the figure represent?
22. What was the name of the Elf played by Dudley Moore in the 1985 “Santa Clause – The Movie”?
23. According to the Christmas carol on what day did Good King Wenceslas last look out?
24. How do you say “Happy Christmas” in Spanish?
25. Which spirit is used as the main ingredient in a Snowball cocktail?
26. Which pantomime does Widow Twankey appear in?
27. Mince Pies used to be known by what other name “Crib Pies”; “Pastry Pies” or “Sweet Pies”?
28. Which of the gifts presented by the 3 wise men is also known as “olibanum”?
29. How many of the 9 Reindeer named begin with the letter “D”?
30. Which American state was the first to recognise Christmas as an official holiday?

Please return named entries to Yvonne Melville (details in Church directory) by Friday 11 December. Answers and winners will be announced in the January magazine. There is no charge for the Quiz but there will be a prize of a Christmas snowman for the 3 highest scores. **Yvonne Melville**

I have some festive chocolate oranges to sell at £1.50 each.  
They will be dressed in various Christmas themed items!  
Please order to Yvonne Melville by 11 December.  
I will deliver them by Christmas and collect the money when COVID allows.  
The money is going to the Hospice/Christian Aid.  
**Yvonne Melville**



## ***30 most favourite carols*** ***(Classic FM November 2020)***



1. **O Holy Night** – Poem by Placide Cappeau 1847 celebrating the church organ's renovation.
2. **Silent Night** - During the Christmas truce of 1914 during World War I, the carol was sung simultaneously by English and German troops.
3. **In the Bleak Mid-Winter** – Gustav Holst version - poem by Christina Rossetti.
4. **In the Bleak Mid-Winter** – Harold Darke version is the most popular one.
5. **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** - Words by Charles Wesley, tune by Mendelssohn.
6. **O Come All Ye Faithful** - It is unclear who first wrote the music or lyrics to this hymn.
7. **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** - Sung at both Advent and Christmas.
8. **Coventry Carol** - The lyrics refer to the 'Massacre of the Innocents' by King Herod.
9. **O Little Town of Bethlehem** – Rector Phillips Brooks wrote this hymn when inspired by the view of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine. His church organist Lewis Redner wrote the melody.
10. **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** - lyrics Edmund Sears, refer to ideas of war and peace.
11. **Once in Royal David's City** - words by children's poet Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander.
12. **In Dulci Jubilo** - This dates back to the Middle Ages.
13. **Joy to the World** - In the '90s, this was the most-published Christmas hymn in North America.
14. **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen** - One of the oldest Christmas carols on the list, in early English it actually means something closer to 'remain bountiful, gentlemen'.
15. **Away in a Manger** - This late 19th-century carol is hugely popular with children.
16. **Sussex Carol** – music by Ralph Vaughan Williams after he heard it sung near Sussex.
17. **Shepherd's Pipe Carol** - John Rutter composed it when he was just a schoolboy.
18. **The Three Kings** - Written in 1857 by Peter Cornelius.
19. **Gabriel's Message** - text Luke's Gospel, the melody is taken from Basque tradition.
20. **Jesus Christ the Apple Tree** - performed as a carol by choirs around the world.
21. **Gaudete** - The oldest carol on the list, possibly composed in the late 16th century.
22. **The Holly and the Ivy** - inspired by the hope that the singers would also survive the winter.
23. **Carol of the Bells** - arrangement by John Williams for the film Home Alone.
24. **See Amid the Winter's Snow** - Also known as 'Hymn for Christmas Day'.
25. **Ding Dong! Merrily on High** – the tune was originally a secular dance tune.
26. **Candlelight Carol** - John Rutter's music is always popular at this time of year.
27. **Good King Wenceslas** - based on the life of Wenceslas, Duke of Bohemia.
28. **Angels From the Realms of Glory** - by Scottish poet James Montgomery printed 1816.
29. **The First Nowell** - is actually of Cornish origin not French.
30. **What Sweeter Music** - With lyrics by 17th-century poet Robert Herrick, John Rutter composed this carol for the choir of King's College, Cambridge.

# Christmas Word Search



## The Birth of Jesus

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

angels	Joseph
augustus	Magi
Bethlehem	magnificat
carpenter	manger
Emmanuel	Mary
frankincense	myrrh
gifts	Peace
gold	shepherds
herod	stable
Jesus	star

Produced by QuickSearch Word Search Maker - Software Copyright 2001-2003 (familyinterest.com Ltd) Level H

### CHRISTMAS FUN ...

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?  
 A mince spy!  
 How many presents can Santa fit in an empty sack?  
 One, after that it's not empty!  
 Who gives puppies Christmas presents?  
 Santa Paws!



[Thanks to Bethel URC's Newsletter for this page.]





### *Mary remembers ...*

Gentle Mary smiles as she remembers,  
The message that told her she would bear a son.  
She wonders how it can be  
that this child of hers,  
Will one day grow to be God's  
own son, the anointed one.

Patient, obedient, Joseph,  
Looks on in wonder at the  
child in the manger.  
He accepted God's will and  
wed pregnant Mary,  
Willingly taking as his own,  
this blessed little stranger.

Now shepherds have come,  
to worship the new born King.  
And above that lowly stable,  
myriad angel voices sing.

Later, three wise men come  
from a far distant land.  
They bring frankincense,  
myrrh and gold,  
Laying their gifts at the baby's  
feet, they pay homage,  
To this new King that the  
brilliant star foretold.

The star they followed shines  
brightly, over the place where the baby lay.

The memory of seeing this special child, Will remain with them until their dying day. (L.T.)

Do your little bit of good where you are;  
its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world. *Desmond Tutu*

Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine. *Lord Byron*

Do what you feel in your heart to be right - for you'll be criticised anyway. *Eleanor Roosevelt*

### *A Prayer for the New Year*



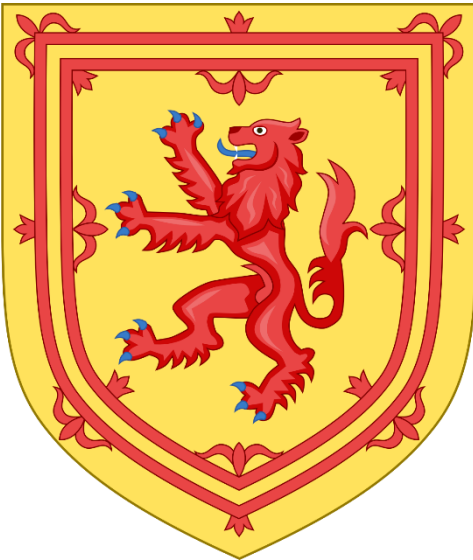
A new year is unfolding – like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good – with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible – with Your help and guidance. *Amen*

[With thanks to Bethel URC Newsletter for this prayer.]





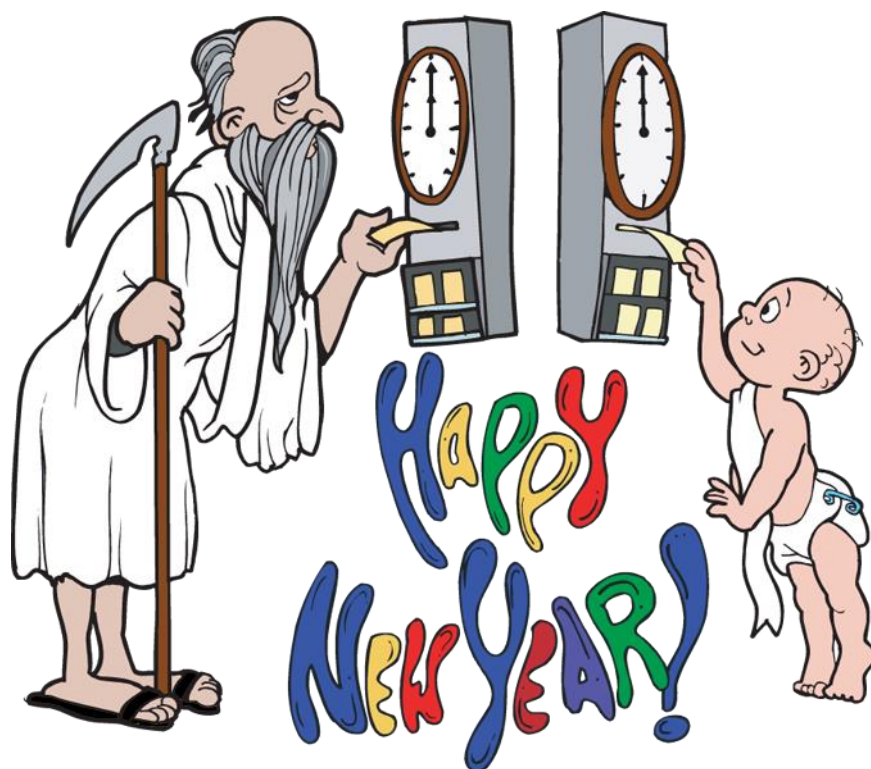
### A NEW YEAR'S WISH

That your fortune may be Rampant,  
 Like the Scottish Lion here,  
 Your health just like the Thistle,  
 Rugged, stronger year by year,  
 Life's way, like Heather, sweet and clean,  
 That's a Friend's wish to a Friend.



### *And a Happy New Year to One and All ...*

Well here I am, in my brand new kilt,  
 Ready to welcome the New Year in.  
 My sporran's a wee bit out of line,  
 My patience is wearing a little thin.  
 The reason is the humans are partying,  
 They started celebrating far too soon.  
 Soon, they'll all be falling over,  
 And joining me baying at the moon!  
 I've nae Black Bun or piece of coal,  
 Nae whisky, vodka, gin or beer.  
 Tae go First Footin' without them,  
 Is enough tae make me shed a tear!  
 A tall, dark male, I'm surely not,  
 My ginger hair could get me shot,  
 If I'm their First Foot after twelve,  
 The next year's luck could go to pot!  
 They're superstitious these odd Scots,  
 And not too keen to welcome me in.  
 If I sneak in quietly behind a friend,  
 They'll never notice me in all the din.  
 I'd like to take the chance right now,  
 To wish 2021 brings you much joy,  
 Health, wealth and happiness too,  
 For every Christian girl and boy!  
 (L. Thomson)



## ***I AM THE NEW YEAR***

*(Bible Illustrator)*

*I am the new year.  
I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.*

*I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your  
opportunity to practice what you have learned about life  
during the last twelve months.*

*All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me,  
waiting for you to search it but with more determination.*

*All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine  
to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.*

*All that you dreamed but didn't dare do, all that you  
hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have –  
these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.*

*I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said,  
“Behold, I make all things new.”*

[With thanks to Bethel URC's Newsletter for this item.]

***HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS OF THE REVIEW!***