



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey Dec 2017 Jan 2018
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear Friends,

It was the first week in November when walking through Elk Mill Retail Park that I overheard three ladies talking openly. Their conversation included the comment ...Christmas is already in the shops. A day or so later I watched the first of Currys/PC World's Christmas adverts. In the advert a Mum and Dad double act, as a spoof, declare a 'tech free' Christmas. What is on offer instead is an old fashioned Christmas with carols and singing. The trio of children are less than impressed. This all of course changes when a new LG OLED 4K ready TV is revealed in the living room. It is a funny advert. The retailers declared marketing strategy is to help customers 'get it right' when making a significant purchase at this season. That is perfectly understandable. There is however in this an underlying message. Getting Christmas right is not about having an old fashioned Christmas as mentioned by the Mum and Dad in the advert but about buying the right products. This raises an interesting question. For many people coming to this season of celebration; what does it mean to get Christmas right?

In Dr Seuss's book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* there is a wonderful quote..."Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas perhaps means a little bit more!"

What all of us know but rarely acknowledge is that 'things' however clever, expensive or innovative can only give a passing pleasure and transient joy. Of course it is good to celebrate Christmas and to give gifts to one another. The heart of the Christmas story is that God gave us his greatest gift in the birth of Jesus. The late Steve Jobs, founder of Apple (iphone/iPad and iPod etc) is quoted as saying: 'If I had given people what they wanted they would never have got Apple.' Embodied

in the Christmas message is that God gave us not what we wanted but what we need. The birth of Christ was not glamorous. The gospels tell us is that God in Christ stepped into the depths of our broken, sad and troubled world to bring us what we need; peace, reconciliation, forgiveness and transformed lives. It cost him everything. Like all gifts he has to be received. This story is not old fashioned; it is timeless and his transforming presence priceless.

But this Christmas, I think we are approaching the deepest and darkest time of year of many years previous. We look back at the year that has passed with all its changes and challenges, the world we live in seems beset by sorrow, conflict and noise. Politicians argue and countries are almost destroyed by war or want. Thousands of people are on the move, crossing seas and continents in search of a better, peaceful life.

So let us hear again with a new sense of hope the story of one family's journey under orders from their Imperial masters. Joseph and Mary having to leave the safety of Nazareth and travel for days to reach Bethlehem, to be counted, named, put on a list of residents of an occupied country. They will soon have a baby, another name to be recorded, and Mary needs a place to rest. In a quiet, dark stable, Jesus is born, laid in a manger and adored by Mary and Joseph. God appears in the most unlikely place, unheralded, unseen, unknown except by a few shepherds and three strangers from the East.

If we stop this Christmas, stand still for a while, and wait, perhaps we will hear the Christ-child in the darkest corner of some desperate street. Perhaps we will see the light of hope shining in the distance, drawing us all to its penetrating fire.

But what we need to do this Christmas is to 'get it right' and begin 2018 with a new imagination, a new inspiration and a new sense of joy that Christ Light shines the path before us.
Have a lovely Christmas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul'.

Contacts at St John

Associate Priest	Capt the Revd Paul Robinson paul@nomoreproblems.co.uk	628 9019
Wardens	Eddie Baines Brian Saxon	633 2864 633 1389
Administrator	Barbara Ballantyne stjohnhey@gmail.com	626 3630
Pastoral Visiting	Jason Robinson	317 0862
Editor	David Green david@demgreen.co.uk	652 1278

If you wish to read **Crux** the Diocese of Manchester newsletter, you will find a link to it on the newsletter page of our web site: st-john-hey.org

Day by Day Scheme

9th A Special day

19th Remembering the anniversary of Doris Lord's passing

January

2nd In memory of Jessie & Ernest Whittaker

18th Remembering grandfather and grandchildren

22nd Remembering Doug's birthday

Thank you to all those who are helping to ensure the future fabric of our church by supporting the Day by Day Scheme.

Holy Matrimony

Saturday 24th March Paul Owen and Ellen

Friday 27th April Daniel Fothergill & Kim Saxon

Please pray for those to be married at Hey next year

Holy Baptism

We welcomed into our worshipping community

22 October Luke James Michael Slater
Margaret-Mae Jasmine Slater,
twins of Shaun Slater & Alison Gaynon

29 October Frankie Jack Taylor,
son of Dean Taylor & Kirsty Leanne Hewitt

5 Nov James Alexander Collin,
son of Michael Collin & Frances Collin



Luke and Margaret-Mae



Frankie



James

Street Prayers

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
December	
3rd	Walkers Lane, Walkers Court & Hollins St
10th	Vicarage Close
17th	Little Oak Close
January	
7th	Hollins Ave
14th	Hollins Rd & New Royd Avenue
21st	Thorpe Close
28th	North Nook

Prayers for these streets will be offered in Church on the Sundays shown

Any requests for specific prayers

please ring the parish office 626 3630

Let us witness to the presence of the church to all in Hey Parish

Bible Readings

3 Dec First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64.1-9 or

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Mark 13.24-37

10 Dec Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40.1-11

2 Peter 3.8-15a

Mark 1.1-8

17 Dec Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

John 1.6-8,19-28

Sun 24 Dec Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52.7-10

Hebrews 1.1-12

John 1.1-14

Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day

Isaiah 62.6-12

Titus 3.4-7

Luke 2.8-20

31 Dec Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

Numbers 6.22-27

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 2.15-21

2018

7 Jan Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60.1-6

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

14 Jan Second Sunday of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3.1-10(11-20)

1 Corinthians 6.12-20

John 1.43-51

21 Jan Third Sunday of Epiphany

Genesis 14.17-20

Revelation 19.6-10

John 2.1-11

28 Jan Presentation at the Temple

Malachi 3.1-5

Hebrews 2.14-18

Luke 2.22-40

(Candlemas)

4 Feb Second Sunday before Lent

Proverbs 8.1,22-31

Colossians 1.15-20

John 1.1-14

Diary Dates

Major events during World War 1 will be shown on their centenary date

December 2017

Sun 3 Dec

Advent

8am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
9.30am	Parish Communion
10.30am	Church fair

Wed 6 Dec

10 am	Holy Communion - BCP
11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene
7.30pm	Choir Practice
7.30pm	PCC meeting

Thu 7 Dec

7pm	Come & Praise!
-----	----------------

Sun 10 Dec

The Second Sunday of Advent

8am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Parish Communion
10.45 am	Christmas Faith lunch

Mon 11 Dec

WW1 - Britain liberates Jerusalem, ending 673 years of Turkish rule.

Wed 13 Dec

10 am	Holy Communion
7.30pm	Choir Practice

Thu 14 Dec

7pm	Come & Praise! with Holy Communion
-----	------------------------------------

Sun 17 Dec

The Third Sunday of Advent

8am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Come & Praise!
4pm	Carol Service
	followed by sherry and mince pies

Wed 20 Dec

10 am	Holy Communion
11am	Holy Communion at Millfield

Thu 21 Dec

7pm	Come & Praise!
-----	----------------

Sun 24 Dec**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve**

8am	NO SERVICE
9.30am	Parish Communion
6 pm	Christingle / Nativity
11.30pm	Midnight Mass

Mon 25 Dec**Christmas Day**

9.30am	Parish Communion
--------	------------------

Tue 26 Dec

Wed 27 Dec

NO SERVICE

Thu 28 Dec

NO SERVICE

Sun 31 Dec**The First Sunday of Christmas**

8am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Parish Communion

January 2018

Tue 2 Jan

WW1 - Death recorded on this day a century ago and named on our memorial: Private James Kenworthy

Wed 3 Jan	10am	Holy Communion – BCP
	11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene
	7pm	Come & Praise!

Sun 7 Jan**The Epiphany**

8am	Holy Communion - BCP
9.30am	Parish Communion

Wed 10 Jan

10 am	Holy Communion
12.30pm	Churches Together ministers meeting, Edith's vicarage
7pm	Come & Praise!

Sun 14 Jan The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

Tue 16 Jan

WW1 - Riots break out in Vienna and Budapest as the Austro-Hungarians express mounting dissatisfaction with the war.

Wed 17 Jan 10 am Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion at Millfield

7pm Come & Praise! with Holy Communion

Sun 21 Jan The Third Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Come & Praise!

3pm Week of prayer for Christian Unity,
St John Hey

Wed 24 Jan 10 am Holy Communion

7pm Come & Praise!

**Sun 28 Jan Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
(Candlemas)**

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.15 am Baptism Capper

Wed 31 Jan 10 am Holy Communion

7pm Come & Praise!

Sun 4 Feb The Second Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion -BCP

9.30am Parish Communion

Reading the Signs

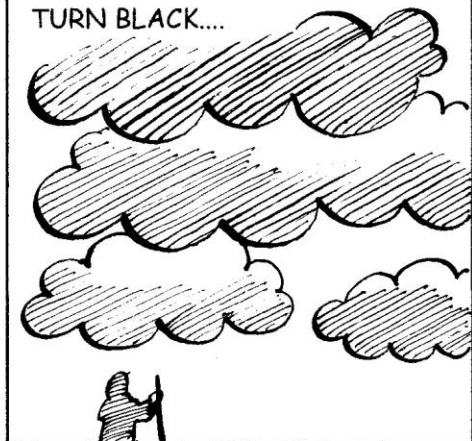
a parable of Jesus

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS
THAT...

...WHEN THEY SAW THE SKY
TURN BLACK....



...THEY KNEW IT WOULD
RAIN, SOON.



AND WHEN THE WIND CAME
FROM THE SOUTH...



...THE WEATHER WOULD
SOON IMPROVE.



THERE MIGHT EVEN BE
A HEATWAVE!



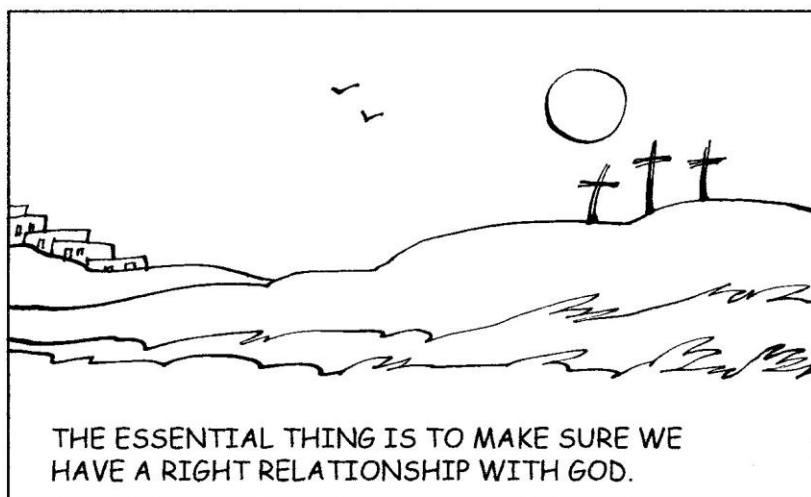
JESUS EXPLAINED THAT EVEN
THOUGH WE MIGHT BE GOOD AT
PREDICTING THE WEATHER...

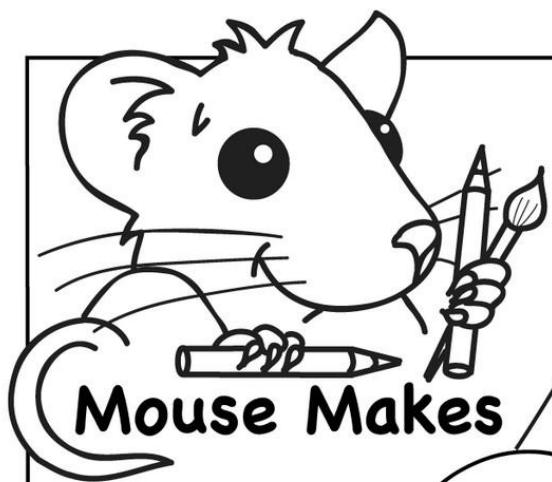


...IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN
OUR OWN FUTURES.



THE ESSENTIAL THING IS TO MAKE SURE WE
HAVE A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.





Mouse Makes

Colour in one star
a day as you
countdown to
Christmas

"I bring you **good news** that
will bring great **joy** to all
people. The **Saviour** has
been born today! ...

Glory to God in the
highest heaven, and
peace on earth to
those with whom
God is pleased".

*from Luke 2
vs. 10,11,14*

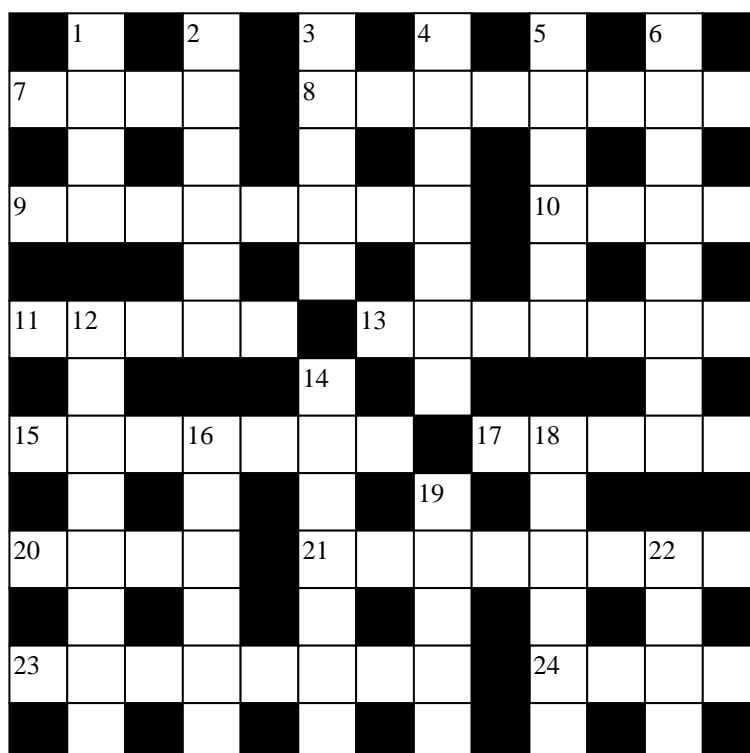


C H R I S T M A S

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

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS

- 7. Level apartment (4)
- 8. Covered passage round an open court (8)
- 9. Rubbish spoken by Cooper ? (5-3)
- 10. Way out (4)
- 11. Up to date (5)
- 13. Firm with others (7)
- 15. Location of lecture (7)
- 17. Shop stock (5)
- 20. 50%
- 21. Play about the birth of Jesus (8)
- 23. Evil spirit (8)
- 24. Uncommon (4)

DOWN

- 1. Singing voice (4)
- 2. Embosses (6)
- 3. Fruit of the oak (5)
- 4. Serving your cut (7)
- 5. In the Land of Nod (6)
- 6. Originator (8)
- 12. Vehicle cooling device (8)
- 14. Tidal wave (7)
- 16. Knee-jerk reaction (6)
- 18. Inn (6)
- 19. Put up with (5)
- 22. Ripped (4)

Solution to November crossword Across: 1.Rank and File,8.Table,9.Stalled,10.Dry-clean,11.None
 12.Out,14.Rates,16.Elf,19.Fire,20.Preacher,22.Bigoted,24.Dates,25.Defenceless. Down:2.Abbey,
 3.Kneeler,4.Dot,5.Island,6.Eternal,7.Studio,9.Shattered,13.Unified,15.Scandal,17.Forest,18.Let
 Off,21.Hates,23.Eon.

www.st-john-hey.org
st-john-hey.blogspot.co.uk
www.facebook.com/stjohnshey