



# Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey Dec 2019 and Jan 2020  
*Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday*

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*Dear Friends*

The season of Advent is almost upon us once again. Each day through Advent, at Morning Prayer, we repeat some words from Psalm 24, they are as follows:

"Lift up your heads O gates, be lifted up, you everlasting doors and the king of glory shall come in."

In older versions of the Bible there is reference to lintels and portals; the psalmist was probably referring to the doorways of the Temple. He saw them as too low for the king of glory to enter through. (The idea of the glory of the Lord leaving the Temple meant that it needed to be ready to receive Him on His return.) The psalmist wants to emphasise the enormity of the Lord God Almighty, the doors of the Temple need to be very big in order to give access to Him. As Christians, we think in terms of God living, not in the Temple, but in our hearts. As we read the words of psalm 24, we should be encouraged to make more room in our hearts for the magnitude of God's love to enter. God's entrance into our hearts requires much openness of heart on our part. God's grace moves freely in a big heart with a large doorway of welcome. Even if we have long since made that step of inviting the Lord Jesus into our hearts, we still need to consider how much room we are giving to Him today.

The busyness and pressure of all that we have to do in December, all the preparations for Christmas, can leave our hearts feeling anything but big and open! Fatigue and stress can leave us feeling grumpy and short tempered. How easy is it to snap at those around us? Harsh words and sharp judgements are just waiting to leap out of our mouths. The doorways to our hearts at such times are very tiny indeed. As Christmas draws near, let's check the size of our hearts' doors to see if any expanding needs to take place to let the God of glory enter in.

Then, having used Advent as a time of self searching, let us fling wide the doors, inviting Jesus, once again, to lighten the darker corners of our hearts with the light of His presence, His mercy and His grace. Let us welcome too, God's Holy Spirit, who will equip us to do all that is needed tidy to up those dark corners so that we might celebrate the wonderful event of Christmas and face the New Year with a heart full of Christian love that reveals something of the glory of God.

May you all have a blessed season of Advent, a splendid Christmas and a very happy New Year.

God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Lyn', with a stylized, flowing script.

# Contacts at St John

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## Day by Day Scheme

### December

9th	A Special day
19th	Remembering the anniversary of Doris Lord's passing

### 2020 January

2nd	In memory of Jessie & Ernest Whittaker
18th	Remembering grandfather and grandchildren
22nd	Remembering Doug's birthday

The running costs of the church, which include the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, light and heat and costs of the services, amounted to £30,795 in 2018 – just over £84 a day.

Thank you to all those who are supporting the Day by Day Scheme which is used towards these costs.

If you would like to help please speak to a warden or our administrator.

# Bible Readings

## **1 Dec                      First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 24:36-44

## **8 Dec                      Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

## **15 Dec                      Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 11:2-11

## **22 Dec                      Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Luke 1:57-66

## **24 Dec                      Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 52:7-10

John 1:1-14

## **25 Dec                      Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-14 or 20

## **29 Dec                      First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Matthew 2:13-end

## **5 Jan                      Second Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

## **12 Jan                  Epiphany**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-end

## **19 Jan                  Second Sunday of Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42

## **26 Jan                  Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4

Matthew 4:12-23

## **2 Feb                    Candlemas**

Malachi 3:1-5

Luke 2:22-40

## **Diary Dates**

### **December**

#### **1st Sun**

#### **First Sunday of Advent**

8am                  Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer

9.30am          Parish Communion

#### **10.30am Church Fair**

11.15am          Baptism ,Theo Heap

4th Wed                  10am                  Holy Communion BCP

10.45am          Coffee & Chat

11am                  Holy Communion Oakdene

7.30pm                  PCC

5th Thur                  7pm                  Come & Praise!

#### **8th Sun**

#### **Second Sunday of Advent**

8am                  Holy Communion

9.30am          Parish Communion

11th Wed                  10am                  Holy Communion

10.45am          Coffee & Chat

12th Thur                  7pm                  Come & Praise!

**15th Sun**

8am Holy Communion  
9.30am Family Eucharist

**3pm Carol Service****18th Wed**

10am Holy Communion  
10.45am Coffee & Chat  
11am Holy Communion Millfield & Oakdene

**19th Thur**

9.15am School Service

**19th Thur**

7pm Come & Praise!

**21st Sat**

1-3pm Co-op Carols with Churches Together

**22nd Sun****Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8am Holy Communion  
9.30am Parish Communion

**24th Tue****Christmas Eve**

6pm Nativity and Christingle  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

**25th Wed****Christmas Day**

9.30am Holy Communion

**26th Thur**

No service

**29th Sun****First Sunday of Christmas**

8am Holy Communion  
9.30am Parish Communion

**2020 January****1st Wed**

10am Holy Communion - BCP  
10.45am Coffee & Chat  
11am Holy Communion Oakdene

**2nd Thur**

7pm Come & Praise!

**5th Sun****Second Sunday of Christmas**

8am Holy Communion – BCP  
9.30am Parish Communion

8th Wed	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat
9th Friday	7pm	Come & Praise!

## **12th Sun**

### **Epiphany**

	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
15th Wed	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat
	11am	Holy Communion Millfield

16th Thur	7pm	Come & Praise!
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## **19th Sun**

### **Second Sunday of Epiphany**

	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Family Eucharist

22nd Wed	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat

23rd Thur	7pm	Come & Praise!
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## **26th Sun**

### **Third Sunday of Epiphany**

	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion

29th Wed	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat

30th Thur	7pm	Come & Praise!
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## **February**

### **2nd Sun**

### **Candlemas**

	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion

# The (good)Will of the People

And the angel said unto them: "Do not be afraid! I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

And a shepherd said unto the angel: "Hold it right there, chum".

And the angel did hold it, right there.

And the shepherd said "In the current political climate you can't seriously expect that any proposal will cause great joy for all the people?"

And the angel said, "Well..."

And the shepherd did continue, as his question had in fact been rhetorical. "We've been debating the options and even among this small and barely representative cross-section of the Jewish agricultural working class there is a wide and apparently unbridgeable range of opinions as to the way forward to a solution in the search for an acceptable Messiah."

And the angel said, "Go on".

And the shepherd did point out his three colleagues.

"Jacob here is a Zealot, all for us going it alone. Tell the Romans exactly where to put their Empire. The Samaritans and the Greeks, they can go home too. He wants not just immigration reduced, but Israel wholly re-Jews-d".



"Stephen, on the other hand, he's a Rome-ainer. He thinks there are several things that the Romans have, in fact, done for us."

"Jeremiah, he's a social activist. No surrendering unto Caesar. He wants to stop Augustus-erity and the scandal of babies having to sleep in feeding troughs wrapped in second-hand clothing."

"Me, I'm more the good shepherd. I'd like to go back to the golden age of King David. What's the point of being the chosen people when you can't get a decent price for a sacrificial lamb?"

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, arguing among themselves about the merits of Purgatory as a time-limited backstop for salvation.

And the angel said again, loudly: "Today in the town of David is born for you a Saviour: he is the Messiah, the Lord!"

And the shepherd said: "You're surely not going to say 'He's the only possible Messiah!'? To please all of this lot you'd need a peaceful revolutionary agitator who sets families against one another, believes in the chosen people but make friends with Romans and Samaritans, pays taxes but doesn't respect the courts, stands up for adulterers and scroungers, resists all political compromise and relentlessly attacks everyone in power for greed, pride and self-seeking hypocrisy. Anyone who tried all that would be crucified."

And the angel said unto them: "You will find the baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

# Spread a little kindness

We are all so busy during December but take time to spread a little kindness each day, you will be amazed what a difference it makes to you on the big day. You might be tired but you'll be content. Here are some suggestions but feel free to change various days to suit your personal circumstances, as long as you make an effort to do something kind each day. If you're feeling especially kind, you could invite a lonely person to Christmas dinner.

- 1) Help someone who has a big "To do" list
- 2) Leave a happy note for someone to find
- 3) Spare some volunteer time
- 4) Buy lunch for a homeless person
- 5) Invite someone for coffee
- 6) Give a gift to an abused woman or child via [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)
- 7) Say something positive to everyone you meet today
- 8) Take a flower arrangement to a care home
- 9) Donate supplies to a food bank
- 10) Take cake to work for colleagues
- 11) Pay for a coffee in a cafe, to be given to the next customer
- 12) Be specific about thanking everyone who serves you in any way
- 13) Help Save the Children by joining Christmas jumper day
- 14) Offer someone your place in a queue
- 15) Give used but good warm clothing to a homeless charity
- 16) Donate pet food supplies to an animal rescue centre
- 17) Pass children's spare toys to a playgroup
- 18) Leave a treat for the postman/woman
- 19) Invite neighbours for a cup of tea in memory of MP Jo Cox  
([www.greatgettogether.org](http://www.greatgettogether.org))
- 20) Make and deliver a Christmas card for a class at Hey with Zion
- 21) Sing carols outside the Co-op
- 22) Give a fair trade present
- 23) Donate your expertise
- 24) Pay a brief visit to an elderly neighbour
- 25) Enjoy Christmas Day

And a list for the children:

- 1) Tell a joke and make someone laugh
- 2) Offer to set the table for dinner
- 3) Tidy away your toys - without being asked
- 4) Do a household chore for Mum/Dad
- 5) Smile - all day

- 6) Tidy away your coat, hat, school bag
- 7) Plan a gift for a friend or relative
- 8) Offer to do the dishes
- 9) Learn a verse of scripture at Sunday School
- 10) Invite someone new over to play
- 11) Donate a toy or two to the children's ward
- 12) Decorate pine cones for the Christmas table
- 13) Write a card to an elderly neighbour
- 14) Make a card for your teacher
- 15) Plan five kind things for the New Year
- 16) Collect spare change for a charity
- 17) Donate clothing to a charity
- 18) Wrap a gift for Mum or Dad
- 19) Offer to tidy your brother/sister's bedroom
- 20) Make a Christmas bookmark for a friend
- 21) Ask your parents if you can join the carols outside the Co-op
- 22) Give high fives
- 23) Don't argue about bedtime
- 24) Remember to make your bed today

I pray that Advent will be especially meaningful for you this year.



## Street Prayers

*Week      Street*

### **December**

2nd	Den Lane Lower, Whams, Pleasant View
9th	Medlock Way & Further Hey Close
16th	Belmont Ave Higher

### **2020**

### **January**

6th	Belmont Ave Lower
13th	Dovecote Lane Higher
20th	Dovecote Lane Lower
27th	Tottington Avenue & Summerseat Close

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

# What's next for St John's?

There has been a Chapel at St John the Baptist, Hey for over 275 years. The world has changed enormously since then, but throughout that time St John the Baptist, Hey has stood as a witness to the Christian faith and the presence of God amongst us. Local people in every generation since then, have gathered in this church to pray and worship each with their own lives and journey of faith shaping the faith community at St John's. This is an incredible tradition and legacy of which we should be very proud. We stand in and with a great cloud of witnesses who have received and taught the Christian faith and passed the baton on to us.

And it is our turn to continue that tradition. We are St John's in this generation. However old or young, brand new or having served at St John's for many years, we are the church and together we are called to love God and to love our neighbours. In 2015, with Richard's upcoming retirement in mind, St John's set about preparing and publishing a Mission Action Plan. This included a widespread consultation with the local community as well as lots of practical planning to maintain the ministry of the St John's during the forthcoming interregnum. It's great to see how much of the plan was implemented and how many of its goals were achieved. As ever, the world never stands still but God is faithful. We are now in a very different position. We have Lyn in post as our rector and having had a year to settle in and take stock, it's time to look afresh at where we are as a church and where we think God is leading us. To give thanks for all that has gone before and for all that God has done and, building on that, to look ahead to what God might be calling us to do next.

As a first step we would like to invite you all to "What's next?" a morning in church where we can talk and share ideas and opportunities that might be available to us in this next stage of the church's life. Everybody is welcome whether you have been at St John's for 50 years or 5

minutes. We are all part of God's church here in Hey and if the Bible is anything to go by God is pretty good at using unexpected and sometimes unsuspecting people to work out His plans. Whether they think they are too young (think King David) or think they are too old (think Abraham or Elizabeth) God calls us all and values us all and any church which seeks to be inclusive is a church that seeks to do the same. Whether you come with three generations of your family or come on your own. Whether you come on a Sunday, or on a Wednesday, or on a Thursday, or aren't able to come every week, everybody counts and everybody has something to offer. We would really like as many people as possible to come along and get involved however you can.

"What's next?" will be on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from 10am to 1pm with refreshments from 9.30am. It will include a bring and share lunch. Please do put it in your diary. There will be ways for children to be involved as well as adults and we hope it will be an enjoyable day filled with fun and fellowship and that as many people as possible will be able to join us to think, talk, pray, and plan, together as a church as we look forward with hope and expectation to what God will do next in the life of the parish.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
10am -1pm**

**St John's is an Inclusive Church and seeks to be as accessible as possible. If you have any dietary requirements or access needs or are unable to access this event for whatever reason please contact Rev'd Sally on [revsallyrobinson@hotmail.com](mailto:revsallyrobinson@hotmail.com) or 07496195540 so that we can make sure your voice and perspective is included in the discussion**

**Every blessing  
Sally**

# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!



# Bible Bite

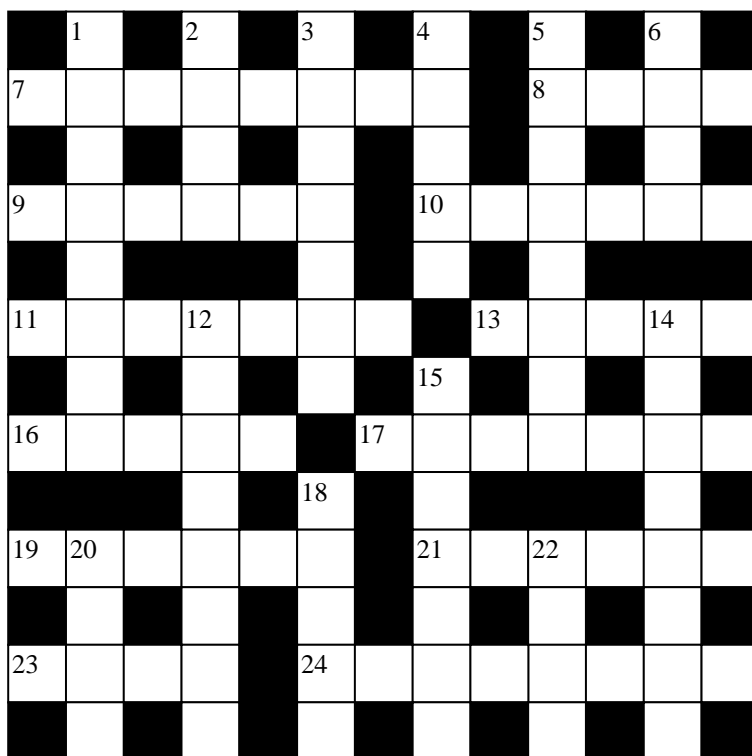
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks  
out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough,  
they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



## DECEMBER CROSSWORD



### CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 7. Street for New York theatres (8)
- 8. Practical joke (4)
- 9. Joined together (6)
- 10. Mend (6)
- 11. Amiable (7)
- 13. Rips (5)
- 16. Accurately (5)
- 17. Contempt (7)
- 19. Tracked down (6)
- 21. Order of business (6)
- 23. Desire (4)
- 24. Church minister (8)

#### DOWN

- 1. Relocate (8)
- 2. Huge (4)
- 3. Wrap a baby up (7)
- 4. Aromatic resin (5)
- 5. Minder of livestock (8)
- 6. Wise men (4)
- 12. Assign to someone (8)
- 14. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen (8)
- 15. Fortress in a city (7)
- 18. Skilful (5)
- 20. Highway (4)
- 22. Engrave (4)

Solution to November crossword Across: 1.Aside,4.Chide,10.Florist,11.Tulip,12.Expel,13.Illegal, 15.Eddy,17.Panda,19.Nasty,22.Taxi,25.Anagram,27.Lodge,29.Model,30.Ejected,31.Snack,32. Start. Down:2.Scoop,3.Drilled,5.Hotel,6.Delight,7.Often,8.Staid,9.Spill,14.Lynx,16.Data,18. Abandon,20.Ailment,21.Magma,23.Amber,24.Feuds,26.Relic,28.Deter.

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