

ABBEY HILL U.R.C. MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2024-JANUARY 2025

HOPE IS BORN



The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. - John 1 v5

Days are short in December with dark mornings and long nights so it's particularly fitting that in this gloomy, cold month of the year we light everything up with the joy of celebrating Christmas. Dark days are brightened with the prospect of the celebration and filled with planning and preparation for the festivities. Lights decorate our streets, shops, churches and homes. Then over the Christmas period itself we enjoy happy times with friends and family ... and also here at Abbey Hill. We sing familiar carols, eat festive food, (too much probably) give and receive gifts as we remember the greatest gift of all, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In all our busyness, it's important to take time through the period of advent to prepare ourselves, making (more) room in our lives for the coming of Jesus. You'll remember the famous painting by Holman Hunt of Jesus, the light of the world, knocking on a closed door, waiting to be let inside. He says, 'Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me'. Let's resolve to welcome Jesus as our special guest this Christmastime.... and into the New Year.

2024 seems to have rushed by and as it draws to a close, we reflect on all the many events that have unfolded through the year. Globally there have been many challenges. The effects of climate change and the ongoing conflicts with their devastating consequences cause us to continue to pray earnestly for stability and peace with justice for the nations and peoples of our world.

For each of us, personally, as we look back on 2024 there will have been the usual ups and downs, highlights to savour, happy occasions to celebrate, difficult challenges to negotiate and sadly for some, there have been times of loss.

In an uncertain and fragile world we are thankful that the Sovereign God is a faithful Father and we are grateful for all the many blessings we receive. We look to him in hope and faith for the coming New Year.

We are very blessed to be able to love and support one another here at Abbey Hill. We continue to pray our 'growth prayer' for worship which is full of joy, for growth in our numbers, growth in our spiritual commitment and that together we will have the vision and courage to reach out to our local community as we share Christ, the light of the world.

This Christmas, as you celebrate the coming of our Saviour and look forward to the New Year with confidence and hope, may you and yours know God's blessing.

Kath Shortley - Elder

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2024

- 1st Sunday** **11.00** Advent Sunday Family Service led by Robert Maloney
- 8th Sunday** **11.00** Christingle/Parade Service led by Anne Holloway
Jo Stratton and Jane Woods-Scawen.
- 15th Sunday** **11.00** Family Service with Communion led by David Connelly.
- 18th Wednesday** **12.00** Memories Service.
- 22nd Sunday** **11.00** Family Service led by Kath Shortley.
19.00 Carols by Candlelight
- 25^h Sunday** **10.30** Christmas Day Service led by George Jones
- 29^h Sunday** **11.00** Songs of Praise Service led by the Worship Team

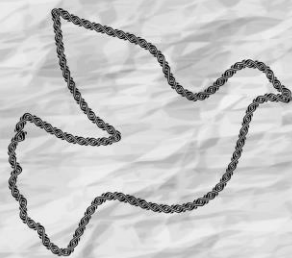


CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2025

- 5th Sunday** **11.00** Family Service led by George Jones
- 12th Sunday** **11.00** Family Service led by Sherry Owolabi.
- 19th Sunday** **11.00** Family Service with Communion led by George Jones
- 26th Sunday** **11.00** Family Service led by Jo Stratton

Home Bible Study Group

This group meets at Hilary Scott's house on Wednesday evenings – 7.00pm. Contact Hilary for further details – 07749 836928/01926 859337



Memories Carol Service

For those that have lost a loved one at any time, this season of the year can be especially difficult.

Why not join us on:

Wednesday 18 December 2024 at 12.00 noon

Abbey Hill United Reformed Church

Abbey Hill, Kenilworth CV8 1LW

Light lunch afterwards

All Welcome

*To help with catering please advise numbers
to Anne Holloway on: 077 5467 9777*

Email: itsnotaproblem@yahoo.co.uk

*Please include any special requests for
poetry, readings, or music*



Treasurer's Report

The communion collection for October raised £95 which will be donated to the Red Cross Gaza Crisis Appeal.

The December Communion will be donated to Friends of the Holy Land, a charity which supports Christian families with education and living conditions in Bethlehem and the surrounding area.

The Christmas Day collection will be donated to work with the homeless in Leamington and Coventry.

David Connelly

Bring a Friend to Church - Sunday 8th December

Following the recent distribution of invitation cards, we are hoping to make Sunday 8th December a Bring a Friend to Church Day.

This will be our Christingle Service including Parade for the Brownies. It's hoped this service, being the second in Advent, will bring in friends and parents to help celebrate the story and prepare for the occasion of Christmas.

We have described Abbey Hill as 'a friendly and inclusive space, offering a loving community where we come together for worship and to make a difference.'

Let's hope that people of all faiths or no faith will experience the warm welcome for which we are known on Sunday 8th December at 11am.

Coffee will be served as usual after the service, which will be led by members of the Worship Team.

Free Will Envelopes

Sets of these envelopes are available free of charge. They are useful to put your offertory in and their individual number can be directly linked to your gift aid declaration.

2025's envelopes are available to collect from the porch. Please don't remove other people's envelopes unless specifically asked to, as we have had a number of sets go missing in the past.

If you are not already part of this scheme and would like a set of envelopes, please let me know. I would also be delighted to hear from anyone who would be prepared to take over this, relatively small, task.

Susan Derwent

Mince Pies for the Candlelight Carol Service

It is a lovely tradition at Abbey Hill to serve tea /coffee and mince pies after the Candlelight Carol Service, which this year is on the evening of Sunday December 22nd.

If you are able to provide some mince pies it would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up on the sheet in the porch and bring to church no later than the morning of the Carol Service.

Many thanks

Susan Derwent and the Hospitality Group

News from the Editor of REFORM

Some of you may have read this in the October Editorial of Reform, the magazine of the URC, but I thought it might be of interest to others at Abbey Hill:

‘From the start of 2025, Reform will come out once every six weeks. This means that we will produce eight copies a year instead of ten. But the good news is we will make it up to you by making each issue longer, so you still get your 400 pages a year, and more, just differently spaced out.

The reason for this is that, as we pointed out in September’s Reform, we are dealing with drastic changes in the way Reform is funded. Print runs and mailings are more expensive than pages, so one relatively pain-free way we can make up part of the shortfall is having fewer of the latter and more of the former.’

I haven’t yet had more details from Church House about ordering magazines for 2025, but will let current subscribers know when I do, and would be very pleased to hear from anyone else who might be interested. There are church copies you can borrow and return near the front door of the church. I think it an excellent magazine.

Did you know that the URC and Reform magazine are the same age as they both started in 1972?

Janet Turner.

Regular events 2024

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Coordinators
Elders	Abbey Hill	1 st Wednesday every month	7.15 start	elders
Managers	Abbey Hill	2 nd Wednesday every month	7pm start	Ivan Pointon - manager's secretary
Coffee Pot	Abbey Hill	Every Thursday	9.30 to 11.30	Betty and David Connelly
Community Listening Exchange hosted by Coffee Pot	Abbey Hill	3rd Thursday every month	10.00	Ivan Pointon and Ed Watson
Repair cafe	Abbey Hill	Every 3rd Saturday	2 to 5pm	Kenilworth Repair Cafe

Dates For Your Diary December 2024/January 2025

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Coordinators
Christingle/Parade/Bring a Friend Family Service	Abbey Hill	Sunday 8th December	11am	Anne Holloway
Memories Service	Abbey Hill	Wednesday 18 th December	12pm	George Jones and elders
Carols by Candlelight	Abbey Hill	Sunday 22 nd December	7pm	Anne Holloway
Repair Café	Abbey Hill	Saturday 21 st December	2 til 5	Repair Café hello@repaircafekenilworth.org
Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime	Talisman Theatre	Monday 23 rd December	7 for 7.30	John Nichols
Christmas Day Service	Abbey Hill	Wednesday 25 th December	10.30	George Jones
Repair Café	Abbey Hill	Saturday 18 th January	2 til 5	Repair Café hello@repaircafekenilworth.org
Elders Tea	Abbey Hill	Saturday 25 th January	2.30 to 4.30	Elders
Church Meeting	Abbey Hill	Sunday 2 nd February	After morning worship	George Jones / Vivien Nichols
Poetry and Art Workshops	Abbey Hill	February/ March TBC	TBC	Vivien Nichols

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

A Happy Birthday to all of the following:-

December 4 th	Mary Lea
December 11 th	Robin Loutit
December 18 th	Janet Paget
December 19 th	Sarah Todd
December 28 th	Phil Inshaw

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Those celebrating a birthday in the New Year are :-

January 11 th	Glenys Hobbins & Jo Stratton
January 12 th	Elinor Nunn & Pam Muckersie
January 13 th	Jennifer Jackson
January 14 th	Tony Gilmore
January 22 nd	Winnie Tawil

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Especially in our thoughts this month are Edna Dixon, Barbara Gillard, George Jones, Mary Skidmore, Pat Scott and Gaynor Watkins.

We continue to pray for Mavis Duckworth, Janet Turner, Esme Esme Thorpe, Joy Thorpe, Di Wilson, John McKenzie, Gill Littleford and Winnie Tawil.

All of the above mentioned and any who do not wish to be mentioned by name, are in our thoughts and prayers.

PRAYING IN WORDS

*....because words not only articulate praise –
they become praise.*

*....because words not only describe beauty –
they become beauty.*

*....because words not only clothe prayer –
They become prayer.*

from Quiet Moments by Tom Wright

Please let Pat know either in person or on 01926 313904 of any Pastoral Care matters.

Report from October 24 Synod meeting from Ian Rose

It was good to be back attending the Synod Meeting after a two absence (Oct '22 was my last meeting as Rugby Rep). In my view this was a good meeting with much positive and forward looking items on the agenda. What was disappointing was that less than half of the church representatives attended.

The Synod Review continues to make good process with the aims to improve communications and reduce bureaucracy. All the Synod staff vacancies have now been filled including appointing Revds Andrew & Sally Willett as Mission Development Officer. Work is under way to review grant forms and simplify financial support to local churches. A redraft of the Manse Policy was presented (12 pages) and there was some lively discussion before being accepted by Synod. I am not aware how Abbey Hill manage its manse but if anyone wishes to see this latest draft I can email them a copy.

What, to me, turned out to be the most important item on the agenda was the paper that the Moderator spoke to entitled "Casting a Vision for the West Midlands Synod". A discussion document: "What will we be by the end of the decade?" While this is written as a Synod document, it could be easily related to a individual church, especially one that has recently completed the "Grow Your Church" course (LyCiG). My immediate thoughts were that this is just what Abbey Hill needs as a follow on to LyCiG. Unfortunately George Jones was unable to attend Synod so I contacted him immediately after returning home to see how we might move this forward. To my delight, although he had not been at Synod, George had read the report in the Synod papers and had already started looking at how it could be used at Abbey Hill. I understand that he will (has) reported this to the Elders.

If you have any questions or require further details on any of these items please let me know. Best wishes.

Ian

“Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man?”

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *‘Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!’* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *‘Why don't they follow me?!’* Then he realised: *‘If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.’* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God with us’’. Matthew 1:23.*

What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write ‘Happy Christmas everyone’ on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: ‘Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.’ Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!

That coin in your Christmas pudding

There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny. After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding.

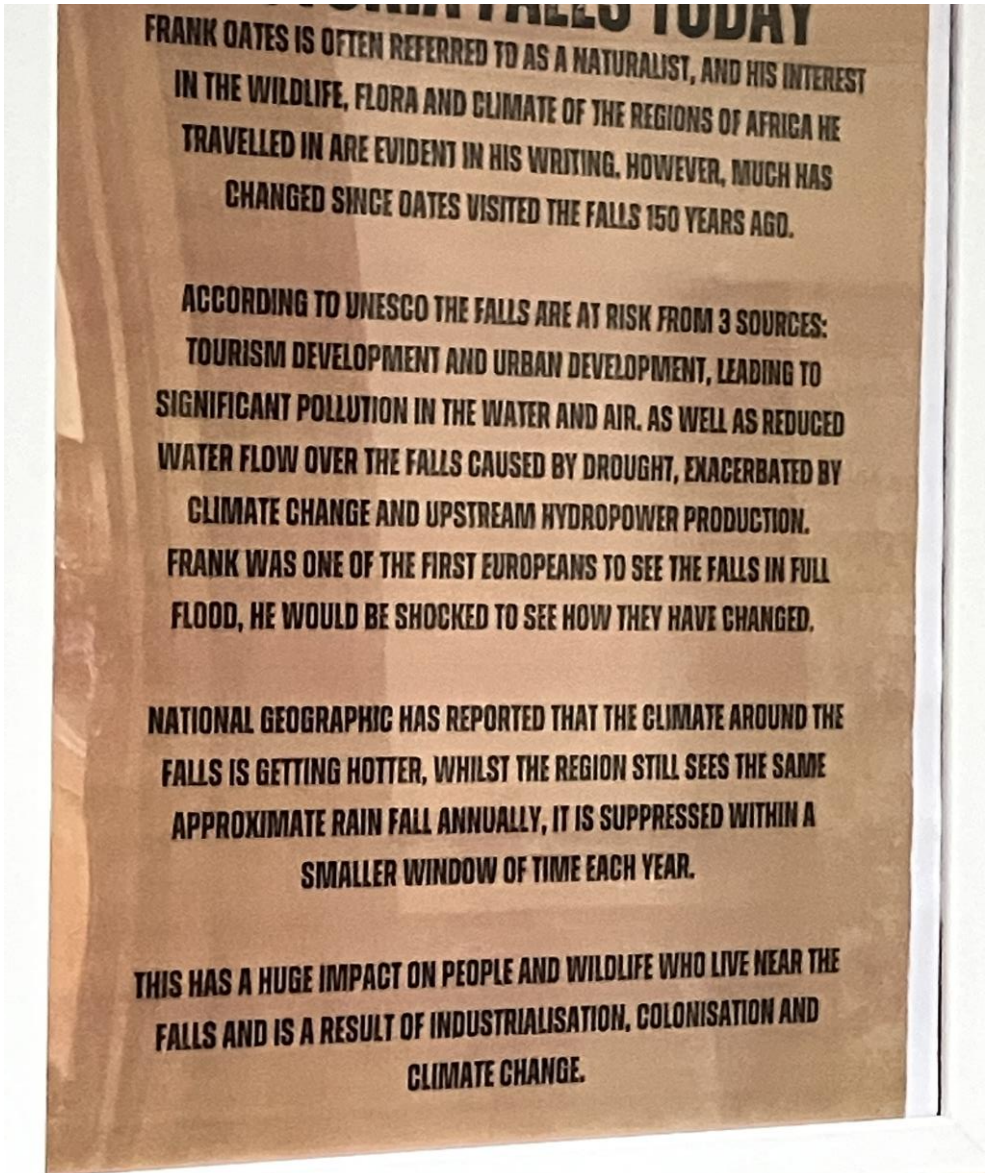
We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile telephone. In future, will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? Hope not.

Other coins ‘appear’ at this time of year. Chocolate coins are traditionally given to children at Christmas time, and in Jewish tradition during Hanukkah. It is said that one night Saint Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw!

Victoria Falls Today

Recently I visited the house of Gilbert White, in Surrey, who had a connection to the family of Captain Oats and this was on display in relation to Oats's trip to Victoria Falls, which I found interesting.

Anne Gilmore



The Challenges of Christmas

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! After one family had put up 250,000 Christmas lights outside, they didn't dare boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

The challenge of over-indulging

We all remember the episode of the Vicar of Dibley, where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, the average person gaining six pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. *'Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.'* (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

The challenge of overspending

In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later she read the message: *'This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.'* Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night: *'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.'* (Matthew 1:21).

The challenge is over too quickly

Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. *'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas? *'Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart'.*

Revd Paul Hardingham

All in the month of December

200 years ago, on 21st Dec 1824 that James Parkinson, British surgeon and politician, died. He was the first person to describe Parkinson's disease, in 1817.

Also 125 years ago, on 16th Dec 1899 that Noel Coward, British playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, was born. His plays include *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, and *Blithe Spirit*.

80 years ago, from 16th Dec 1944 to 16th Jan 1945 that the Battle of the Bulge (Belgium) took place. German forces launched a surprise assault on the Allies in the Ardennes Forest – their last major counter-offensive operation of the war.

60 years ago, on 31st Dec 1964 that Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record, and became the only person to break both the land speed record and the water speed record in the same year.

40 years ago, on 3rd Dec that the Bhopal disaster took place in India. A poisonous gas leak at a Union Carbide pesticide plant killed thousands of people and left at least 120,000 with long-term health problems.

Also 40 years ago, on 19th Dec 1984 that the Sino-British Joint Declaration was signed by Britain and China. Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on 1st July 1997.

Also 40 years ago, on 31st Dec 1984 that the Bank of England stopped producing one pound notes. They remained legal tender until 1988.

25 years ago, on 1st Dec 1999 that an international team of scientists working for the Human Genome Project announced that they had mapped an entire human chromosome (number 22). In April 2003 they announced that they had mapped all human chromosomes.

Also 25 years ago, on 31st Dec 1999 that the London Eye – the world's tallest Ferris wheel at the time, was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. It opened to passengers in March 2000.

20 years ago, on 26th Dec 2004 that the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also called the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

Trusting God in all things

For many, Christmas is a time of happiness and holiday. An opportunity for parties, concerts, pantomimes and watching children perform nativity plays. We exchange colourful cards, and presents, and prepare special meals for family and friends. We sing carols. We adorn our homes and churches with all kinds of decorations.

All our celebrations are a far cry from that first Christmas. In our festivities it is easy to forget that when Jesus came life was hard. The Romans were an occupying force in Israel. There was poverty. The Jews were a captive and oppressed people. They had numerous worries and fears and awaited their Messiah to give them freedom.

Mary was looking forward to marrying Joseph and living with him in Nazareth. Suddenly she meets an angel; told she will be pregnant with God's Son and then her fiancé wants to divorce her quietly! Her world is changed. Joseph too is distressed. In the turmoil, God speaks to Joseph in a dream and while this explains the miraculous pregnancy, he can't stop the hurtful gossip or the doubters.

Even if he wanted to face his critics, Joseph can't stay in Nazareth. He is compelled to take Mary with him to Bethlehem to complete a census. The long journey, possibly all on foot, must have been horrendous. Then in Bethlehem there is unsuitable accommodation for a birth.

It was likely that when the shepherds came and shared their experience of an angel messenger and the singing heavenly host, that their difficult circumstances began to make sense. Then, perhaps, sometime later when the Eastern men came with gifts that they were reassured and encouraged that God was with them in their difficulties. Also, when God told Joseph in a dream to go with Mary and the infant to Egypt to escape Herod's cruelty, they knew that in a foreign land they could trust God with their lives.

Our Christmas comes amidst life's traumas and troubles. We may have ongoing difficulties. In our struggles we need to know that God can be working out His purposes. Mary and Joseph came to know that in their hardships they were in God's will. Like them, we too must trust God in life-changing events.

"I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Lester Amann

God in Music - 'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Morten Lauridsen, American composer

In the Middle Ages, at the end of the Christmas Midnight Mass, the clergy would often tell the animals' version of the Nativity story and imitate the sound of each animal. The cock would crow 'Christus natus est.' (Christ is born). The cows would moo 'Ubi?' (Where?). The sheep would bleat 'In Bethlehem.' And the donkey would cry 'Eamus' (Let us go there). It was a way of expressing something of the joy and fun of the Christmas celebration.

Commercialism with all its trappings has sadly made that fun and festivity the be all and end all of Christmas. We need to capture again the heart of the Incarnation, which is a mystery rooted in silence and wonder. The book of Wisdom reads 'For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, the all powerful Word leapt from heaven, from the royal throne.'

Those words remind us that at Bethlehem there is that silence and wonder. The animals may rejoice to tell the Good News of the Incarnation at the Midnight Mass, but at the crib they gather with the Holy Family and the shepherds. We are given no words of Mary and Joseph and the shepherds around the crib. The mystery of what was happening seems to have intensified their silence. They did not know what the future held for this new-born child, but they did know that God was acting in a special way. They were like people standing in the faint light of the dawn, and their response was an expectant and wondering worship.

It is at the heart of this month's beautiful and moving setting of some words from the matins of Christmas morning, 'O magnum mysterium.' 'O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in the manger.

Blessed Virgin, whose womb was found worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia.' The words were set by the American composer, Morten Lauridsen in 1994 and first performed a few days before Christmas in Los Angeles. Since then, the setting has been sung by choirs, both professional and amateur, around the world.

Morten Lauridsen has composed many works for the human voice, and all of them are sensitive and heartfelt responses to the words chosen. No more so than in 'O magnum mysterium.' After the opening chord, the altos introduce us to a motif that pervades the work: D to a rising 4th, and a falling 3rd that lights on A. It is like the movement of the heart, rising in praise and resting in hope at the mystery of the Incarnation. The joy is inner and deep and suffuses the music as it reaches a climax with Alleluia. The final words are that all this glory lies in a manger, where the animals gather.

The world will call us in this month to a frenzy of doing and buying amid a clamour of noise and muzak. 'O magnum mysterium' by Morten Lauridsen invites us to step into the stable again and join the animals, the Holy Family and the shepherds to find a joy and a wonder there that can nourish the soul. At the crib we can know 'the silence of eternity interpreted by Love' and with the choir we can respond Alleluia.

The Revd Michael Burgess

How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have a number of goals, do NOT attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So – break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again, and to keep going. Only if you stop are you *really* defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.

**COULD ANY ARTICLES/NOTICES FOR THE
FEBRUARY 2025 MAGAZINE PLEASE BE SENT
TO ME BY
SUNDAY 19th JANUARY 2025 PLEASE 😊?**

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND- Job Opportunities in Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth

Due to the significant growth of the Charity and an upcoming retirement, a full time and part-time position are available. If you are interested or know anyone who might be, please contact the Office Manager, Jen Hill, initially by phone. Tel 01926 512980. For details of the position visit our website at www.friendsofthehollyland.org.uk.

Information on the Charity, supporting vulnerable Christian families in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Jordan is also available at www.friendsofthehollyland.org.uk. The Charity is non-political and provides a direct and practical route for individuals to help our brothers and sisters devastated by the current war.

Kind regards

Peter Rand MBE, Retired Executive Trustee and Vice Chair
Friends of the Holy Land

Defibrillator Training

Many thanks to those who completed the first cohort of defibrillator training.

We have had interest in more people undertaking the same training. Once we have enough people we can book a date. If anyone is interested in this, please let me know by emailing ahurcsecretary@gmail.com.



REPAIR CAFE
KENILWORTH



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REPAIR CAFE



Repair Café Kenilworth

Repair Café Kenilworth (ReCK) is a free meeting space that's all about repairing things together, be that clothes, toys, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles ... there's very little that can't be repaired by our team of expert volunteers.

We meet at the United Reformed Church every third Saturday in the month, between 2PM and 5PM. There is free parking outside the Church, but it can get quite busy. If your item is particularly heavy or large, we'll always try to assist you as best as possible.



Sustainable. Social. Economic. Fun.

A local Repair Café is a not-for-profit community event, created by neighbours, for their neighbours. The aim of the Repair Café Kenilworth (and those worldwide) is to reduce waste, increase sustainability, save money, and have fun in an informal social gathering.

Oh ... with lots of tea and cake on tap also. It is a Repair CAFÉ after all.

Bin it? No Way!

Some things have to be thrown away ... the old toothbrush with curly bristles, that blown light bulb that's been sitting inside the cupboard since 1983, the fish 'n' chip wrappers from last night's tea ... but what about that broken bedside lamp, or the rickety wooden stool that belonged to your grandparents?

The Repair Café movement has one simple question, and an even simpler answer; Bin it? No Way!

Along with actually repairing your broken items, we'll help you to develop the skills to start repairing them yourself, to promote the culture of repair over replace, and to give you the satisfaction of bringing your treasured memories back to life.



Further details

[Repair Cafe](#) | [Repair Cafe Kenilworth](#) | [Kenilworth \(repaircafe-kenilworth.org\)](#)

The third Saturday afternoon of the month at Abbey Hill Church 2pm-5pm.

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



St Francis of Assisi RC Church
Warwick Road
Kenilworth CV8 1HL

7.00pm Wednesday 4th December 2024

Tickets £15 to include Mince pies and Mulled Wine

Contact Phil Jones on 01926 853511

Mob: 07910 240453

Email: kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

A donation from proceeds will be made to The 'Little Ray of Sunshine (Dementia Support) Cafe' and there will be a "Retiring Collection" in aid of Kenilworth Reader & Visitor Service for the Blind and Partially Sighted



ROTAS – December 2024

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
01/12	John Nichols 07770 598598	Jane Woods-Scawen	Christmas Arrangements
08/12	Hilary Scott 07749 836928	Jane Woods-Scawen	Christmas Arrangements
15/12	Barbara Rose 07534 104444	Jane Woods-Scawen	Christmas Arrangements
22/12	Colin Ritchie 01926 512507	Anne Gilmore	Anne Gilmore
29/12	John Nichols 07770 598598	Alison Crichton	Anne Gilmore
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
01/12	Ivan	Barbara & Ian Rose BINS – recycling	Ivan Pointon
08/12	John	Phil Inshaw & Eileen John	Anne Gilmore
15/12	Bronwen	Rosemary Lawrence & Donna Bloy BINS – recycling & grey	John McKenzie
22/12	David	Pat Cowan & Anne Gilmore	John Nichols
29/12	Alison	Jo & John Williams BINS - recycling	Kath Shortley
	Coffee		Vestry
01/12	Betty Connelly & Eileen John		Rosemary Lawrence
08/12	Gary and Di Wilson		Anne Holloway
15/12	Pat Cowan & Ruth Loutit		Anne Gilmore
22/12	Anne & Fred Holloway		Susan Derwent
29/12	Kath Shortley & Cheryl Ritchie		Vivien Nichols
	Communion Prep.	Comm. Servers	
15/12	Viven Nichols & Susan Derwent		

Names in Bold are Fire Stewards – please arrange a swap if necessary

ROTAS – January 2025

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
5/01	Hilary Scott 07749 836928	Betty Connelly	Betty Connelly
12/01	Barbara Rose 07534 104444	Pat Cowan	Ayse McKenzie
19/01	Colin Ritchie 01926 512507	Vivien Nichols	Vivien Nichols
26/01	John Nichols 07770 598598	Di Wilson	Di Wilson
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
5/01	Ivan	John Nichols & Mary Lea BINS – Grey Refuse	Lorna Spenser
12/01	John	Di Wilson & Julia Graham BINS – Recycling	Mary Lea
19/01	Bronwen	Hilary Scott & Gary	Betty Connelly
26/01	David	Kath Shortley & Betty Connelly BINS – Grey Refuse & recycling	John Williams
	Coffee	Car Park	Vestry
5/01	Rosemary Lawrence & Suzanne Hall		Kath Shortley
12/01	John Nichols & Mary Lea		Vivien Nichols
19/01	Barbara & Ian Rose		Colin Ritchie
26/01	Alison Pointon & Hilary Scott		John Nichols
	Communion Prep.	Comm. Servers	
19/01	John Nichols & Rosemary Lawrence		

Names in Bold are Fire Stewards – please arrange a swap if necessary



What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?"

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand – our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back.

"It's just that I am a musician!"

Christmas play

The Sunday School Christmas play was in full swing when the teacher prompted: "And what was it that guided the Wise Men from the East?" Right on cue, the pre-schoolers turned their large white letters to face the audience. However, the last four children in the lineup had somehow reversed their sequence, and so the answer was: C H R I S T M A S R A T S.

Nativity scene

"Here's a king!" announced the five-year-old as he unwrapped a figurine from the Christmas decorations box. "Here's a donkey!" he added a moment later.

Then he removed the tissue from another figure, finding the infant Jesus moulded permanently into the little manger. The child exclaimed, "And here's Baby Jesus in his car seat!"

Snow

One snowman said sadly to the other, "All our friends are flakes."

Fragile Nativity

A couple visited their son and his family for Christmas, and admired their beautiful nativity set in the hallway. The grandfather asked his young granddaughter if she knew what it was. "Oh yes," she said immediately.

"Of course I do. It's breakable."

Holly

Knock, knock! Who's there? Holly. Holly who? Holly-days are here again!

Sign for Christmas

An old country preacher wanted a sign that told people driving on the nearby dual carriageway about the miracle of Christmas. So he sent a short message to the general store in the village.

This story picks up at the sign-making company and the astonished clerk who received the message. The message that she read was: "Unto us a child is born, 6 ft long and 3 ft wide."

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

You can tell

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

Crossword for December 2024 - Clues

Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

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22									23			

PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER 2024

1 st	Jo and Pete Warren
2 nd	Gaynor Watkins
3 rd	Emma and Gary Watt
4 th	Jo and John Williams
5 th	Lesley Williams
6 th	Di Wilson
7 th	Jane Woods-Scawen and John Thomas
8 th	Jon Atkinson
9 th	Heather and John Barton
10 th	Louise Barton and Emileigh Warren
11 th	Peter and Barbara Champion
12 th	Judy Clarkson and Sam
13 th	Betty and David Connelly
14 th	Vera and Andy Cooper
15 th	Gloria Cordery
16 th	Carol Cove
17 th	Pat and Ian Cowan
18 th	Alison and Robert Crichton
19 th	Donna and Michael Curran, Henry and Martha
20 th	Elinor Davies and Alexander Nunn
21 st	Susan Derwent and Henry Bentley
22 nd	Edna Dixon
23 rd	Mavis Duckworth
24 th	Paul Duffy
25 th	Judith and Terry Eaton
26 th	Sue England
27 th	Glo Ford
28 th	Barbara and Richard Gillard
29 th	Anne and Tony Gilmore
30 th	Julia Graham
31 st	Donna and Darren Hall and Emelia

PRAYER DIARY JANUARY 2025

1 st	Laraine Hall
2 nd	Glenys Hobbins
3 rd	Anne and Fred Holloway
4 th	Haro and Donald Horsefield
5 th	Jane and Phil Inshaw
6 th	Jennifer Jackson and Robert Banks
7 th	Eileen John and Leon
8 th	Emilie Jones
9 th	George Jones
10 th	Robert Kerr
11 th	Rosemary and Gerald Lawrence
12 th	Mary Lea
13 th	Gill and David Littleford
14 th	Ruth and Robin Loutit
15 th	Alice McAdam
16 th	John & Ayse McKenzie, Iain, Layla and Scott
17 th	Mhari McLintock and Hugh Maccallum
18 th	Roz Morris
19 th	Pam Muckersie
20 th	Rachel Newey
21 st	Vivien and John Nichols
22 nd	Janet Paget
23 rd	Alison and Ivan Pointon
24 th	Cheryl and Colin Ritchie
25 th	Barbara and Ian Rose
26 th	Hilary Scott
27 th	Pat Scott
28 th	Kath Shortley
29 th	Mary Skidmore
30 th	Lorna and John Spenser
31 st	Jo Stratton, Sophie and Elspeth

WHO's WHO at ABBEY HILL

Church Leader. George Jones 07946 095418
g.jones@abbeyhillurc.com

Secretary: Vivien Nichols 07979 486845

ELDERS

Kenilworth dialling code 01926

Susan Derwent	07515 890598
Anne Gilmore	855586
Rosemary Lawrence	07814 320480
Vivien Nichols	07979 486845
John Nichols	07770 598598
Colin Ritchie	512507
Kath Shortley	07722 263393

OFFICERS

Fellowship Secretary	Pat Cowan	313904
Pulpit Supply	Anne Holloway	335951
Treasurer	David Connelly	855218
Appeals Treasurer	John McKenzie	779810
Secretary Managers	Ivan Pointon	855399
Organist		
Gift Aid Secretary	John McKenzie	779810
Lettings Officer	Sue England	07434 931056
Free Will Envelopes	Susan Derwent	07515 890598
Magazine Editor	Martyn Todd	864332
Brownie Leader	Sarah Pointer	02477 042291
Healing Group	Jo Williams	02477 112156
Weekly Notices		
Safeguarding Coordinator	Alison Crichton	07970 557726
Transport		
Kenilworth Foodbank	Donna Curran	07485 687784

Church Website: www.kenilworthabbeyhill.urc.org.uk



Christmas Card Delivery Service

**Kenilworth,
Leek Wootton, Hill Wootton,
Stoneleigh & Ashow**

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GDT Automobiles - Caesar Rd

Leyes Lane Pharmacy - Leyes Lane

Steve Crowe Butchers - Whitemoor Rd

Farthing Gallery & Tearoom - High Street

+

All Saints Church, Leek Wootton

Stoneleigh Village Club

Ashow Village Club

Last collection Friday 20th December

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Talisman Square

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9.30am – 3.30pm

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Crossword solutions

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.