



From the Ministry Team

In our house, Christmas is always a time for music. We rejoice in going to carol concerts, buying new recordings of old traditional carols with their familiar words and tunes, and equally welcome new compositions, or new collections of our favourite performers. Christmas without music is as inconceivable as Christmas without presents or turkey.



Truth to tell, not all the old carols are good guides to the Christmas story. Some of them are shaped more by sentimentality and reflections of a much later age than that of the very first Christmas, while others contain some pleasant but misleading thoughts. Did baby Jesus really not cry, as 'Away in a Manger' claims? If he didn't, was he truly human? Were the Magi really three kings? And as for those three ships sailing into land-locked Bethlehem; that's more than a little confusing. The original Christmas songs are much better guides.

Soaked in the older scriptures of the Jewish people, the songs Luke records in his inspired Gospel – the songs of Mary, Zechariah, Simeon and the angels at Bethlehem – reveal the wondrous depths that for us 'in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah' (Luke 2:11, NIV). Their words are often those of the Old Testament prophecies; their style one of passionate but yet reverent worship; their tone is one of humility; yet their rhythm speaks of confident upbeat praise.

But we can be distracted from the real meaning of Christmas by some of those more sentimental carols. It is a paradox that Christmas is a festival of comfort and comforting; but if I get too close to its true nature it becomes uncomfortable. This god's risky birth, and life, and death were filled with all the things we try throughout our own lives to avoid.

His arrival demands something of me. It makes me think about my own wants but also the needs of others. The good news comes wrapped in layers of difficulty and challenge. And yet it is into difficulty and challenge that this God comes. Christmas wraps an answer in the question: How can I reach God? The message of this god is 'You can't reach me. You don't need to reach me because I have come to you.'

He's not waiting in a heavenly palace somewhere to see if we make it. He comes to us. It could be to our houses, it could be on the street, at any time and in any place. Christmas time represents the fulfilment of God's promises to his people. Human promises might be fragile, but those made by God to his people are certain and our lives can be built on the foundation of God's promises. Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate that truth. So, wherever and whoever you are, you are welcome and invited this Christmas to worship the child, the God whose heart beats for you and you will find details of all our Christmas services later in this edition.

God bless,
Revd. Graham Summers

Wycombe Homeless Connection



On Saturday 26th November two of the congregation at St. Margaret's swapped their beds for a sleeping bag to raise money and awareness to help change the lives of people who are homeless, or facing homelessness in our community.

Homelessness affects the lives of hundreds of people here in our community, and thousands and thousands more are facing homelessness.

Over coffee one Sunday after church Katie and I decided we would do this in a spur of the decision moment!

I do NOT like the cold and get cold very easily and that is with a roof over my head, this always makes me wonder about those that don't have a roof over their head, and if I am feeling cold then goodness what must they be feeling?

We took layers of clothes, thick socks, gloves, hat, sellotape and what was going to be our home for the night, cardboard, lots and lots of cardboard! It was quite remarkable how much cardboard you need to make some sort of suitable shelter, and actually how small most boxes are, something I had certainly never considered before?

We spent the night "sleeping" on concrete and that sadly is what so many people are faced with every night, however we were of course lucky as the next morning after a warm breakfast we headed home, already looking forward to our beds that night!

There are of course slightly comfier ways to support Wycombe homeless, please take a look at their website <https://wyhoc.org.uk>



Holy Trinity and St. Margaret's have a new website

At the start of the year, the decision was made to update our Benefice website and engaged the services of a local website designer, Jo Dickie Website Associates. Our existing site had been built in 2013 using HTML coding making it difficult to update without specific coding knowledge.

A staging site was used so that the pages could be added in phases to be checked, tweaked and approved to ensure they all worked smoothly before going live.

Ease of navigation between pages was required with content clear and easy to find.

Training was provided to all those with access to the existing site.

Finally, the new site went live at the end of April and we were delighted with experiencing a very smooth transition.

The website has regular updates, including the weekly news sheet, and the weekly services. It also has listings of our regular events and what's on information. All our special forthcoming services are listed as well as specific events such as the recent Quiz night, Christmas tree festival and looking further ahead to pancake day!

If you have yet to take a look then please do so as it provides lots of information on what is going on, and who's who in the Benefice - <https://holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk>



Mary Lee

Harvest Festival

This is traditionally the time of the year when crops have been harvested and we are giving thanks to God for this.

A number of years ago, the fruit and vegetables arranged in displays around the church would have been sold or given to members of the congregation afterwards, but these days, with the number of people suffering financially, it is a time for charities to attempt to restock their supplies by way of appeals. Apparently people remember them at Christmas and Easter but supplies are dwindling at this time of the year.

For the rest of the year, both our churches support One Can Trust but just over Harvest the gifts are given to Wycombe Women's Aid, which is also a local charity. Wycombe Women's Aid is a registered charity working in the Wycombe, South Bucks and Chiltern Districts of Buckinghamshire. We work with women and children who are experiencing or trying to escape domestic violence and who are dealing with its effects and consequences.

They request things such as tins, pasta and anything that has a long keeping life, as the families with whom they are involved appear all through the year and arrive with nothing.



Shoebboxes

At our family services in November we collected filled shoeboxes for children in Europe. This year the aim was to send two-thirds of the boxes to children in the Ukraine or neighbouring countries like Moldova and Romania.

We collected over 30 boxes from both churches filled with simple but lovely delights, colouring pencils, colouring books, hats and gloves. For these young children they will see their boxes as pure luxury in an area where there is great poverty, there will be no dismay only love.

“Tales from St Margaret’s Churchyard” By Ron Saunders

Julia Charlotte Bigge (1857-1927) & Caroline Amy Bigge (1867-1924). Walk from the entrance to St.Margarets Church to its front door and you will pass, on the left adjacent to the path, the last resting place of the above sisters. Daughters of the Vicar of Stamfordham in Northumberland they led lives dedicated to Christianity so much so that Mrs Becher in her diary describes Julia, “as making the Church more Holy with her presence”. They both ended their days at The Pines, which stood where the road which carries that name now runs. What gives them a place in history, however, is that they were the younger sisters of Arthur Bigge who was made 1 st Baron Stamfordham in 1911, principally for his work as Private Secretary to both Edward VII and George V, It was he who suggested in 1917 that the Royal family take the name Windsor rather than stay as Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, it was he, also in 1917 who suggested the King not offer asylum to Tsar Nicholas of Russia and it was he who introduced George VI to Lionel Logue who in the years ahead was to help the King cope with his stammer and finally he was to ensure that Bognor had the word Regis added to its name. He died in office in 1931



Church Bell Ringing

I expect most people, when asked what they know about church bell ringing, will mention weddings where it is traditional for the bride and groom to exit the church to the sound of ringing bells. However, church ringing occurs much more than at weddings. It is a traditional art and an important part of our national heritage.



Church bells are rung throughout the year to mark many important occasions in the life of individuals, the church and the nation. For centuries church bells have sounded on Sunday mornings, calling the faithful to worship. The sound of bells heralds other special religious services for Easter and Christmas. I am sure you can all think of at least one Christmas carol that mentions bells. Penn Church bells rang out joyfully across the parish earlier this year to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. They struck a sombre note when they were rung, or tolled, to mark the Queen's death and also on the day of the funeral. Bands of ringers will again gather next year to mark the coronation of the new king. Annually the first minutes of each New Year are usually celebrated with a bell ringing hence the phrase "Ring the new year in".

At Holy Trinity Penn we have a small friendly group, or band, of bell ringers that are keeping the historic tradition of ringing alive and who are keen to introduce new people to their hobby. Bell ringing helps keep you active physically, mentally and socially.

Bells at Holy Trinity Penn

At Holy Trinity Church Penn we have 6 bells and they are hung on a metal frame up in the belfry at the top of the church tower. The bell ropes hang down the tower to the ringing chamber which is on the ground floor where the ringers stand. The bells were made, or cast, at different times and the oldest are over 300 years old! They are different sizes to produce different notes. The smallest bell is called the treble and the largest is the tenor. For those of you who have an understanding of music theory they are tuned to the major diatonic scale. Although you don't have to have any knowledge of music in order to ring them!

History of Church Bell Ringing

Bells were introduced into Christian churches from around 400 AD but these were not like the church bells we know today. They were hung on a spindle and chimed by the clergy pulling on a rope. From the late sixteenth-century bell-hanging technology changed and each bell was mounted on a wheel as it is today which gave more control to the bell ringer. Then the addition of a stay and slider made things even easier, this allowed the ringer to rotate the bell a full 360 degrees and stop or start the ringing as required. It's this mechanism that is still in use today and which allows bells to be rung in continually changing patterns or 'methods'.

Change ringing is the art of ringing a set of tuned bells in a tightly controlled manner to produce precise variations in

their successive striking sequences, known as "changes". The ringing usually starts in rounds, i.e. the bells are rung in the normal sequence 1,2,3,4 etc. A change then occurs to change the sequence, i.e. the 2 and 3 swap places to give the sequence 1, 3,2,4. This then leads on to method ringing in which the ringers commit to memory the rules for generating each change, or by call changes, where the ringers are instructed how to generate each change by instructions from a conductor.

Some of you may have heard of the term "Peal of bells". A peal is the special name given to a specific type of performance of change ringing which meets certain exacting conditions for duration, complexity and quality, often lasting 3 hours or more! It requires a very experienced band of ringers to ring a peal, usually in a large church or cathedral for a very special occasion.

Learning to Ring

Church bell ringing is a fascinating and absorbing activity. It is a common misconception that bellringing requires a lot of physical strength but that's not the case. In reality it is much more about ringing your bell in the right place and at the right speed and it is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit.

If you are interested in learning then tuition from an experienced ringer is required to learn the basic skills of bell-handling. Having mastered the skill of handling a bell, the beginner will learn to ring 'rounds'. Rounds are comparable to a scale – the bells ring in order from lightest to heaviest (or highest note to lowest note). After rounds, the beginner will be taught call changes.



Anyone can become a bell ringer. No special skills are necessary but you will need a full range of movement in your arms and shoulders. At Holy Trinity, Penn the ringing chamber is very accessible on the ground floor. It's not necessary to be a churchgoer but once you have learned to ring it would be great if you can help out to ring for church services and other events like weddings. Everyone learns to ring at different rates and it has been compared to learning to drive; the younger you start, the quicker you'll learn. As a rough guide, expect to be ringing with the band after about six months.

The Penn ringers meet to practise on Monday evenings at 8pm and we are looking for new learners to join the band. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Peter on 07720 594880.

By Gary Clark

Christmas Services 2022

St. Margaret's...

11 December 4.00pm

Christingle (everything you would expect from a Christingle service - carols, oranges and a candle lit church)

24 December 3.00pm

Nativity Service (an interactive service for all the family - great fun for all)

24 December 11.30pm

Midnight Communion (Holy Communion with carols)

25 December 10.00am

Christmas Worship (informal worship for all the family)

Holy Trinity...

11 December 6.00pm

Lesson & Carols (seasonal readings and carols for all the family)

24 December 4.00pm

Crib Service (family friendly traditional crib service)

24 December 11.30pm

Midnight Communion (Holy Communion with carols)

25 December 8.00am

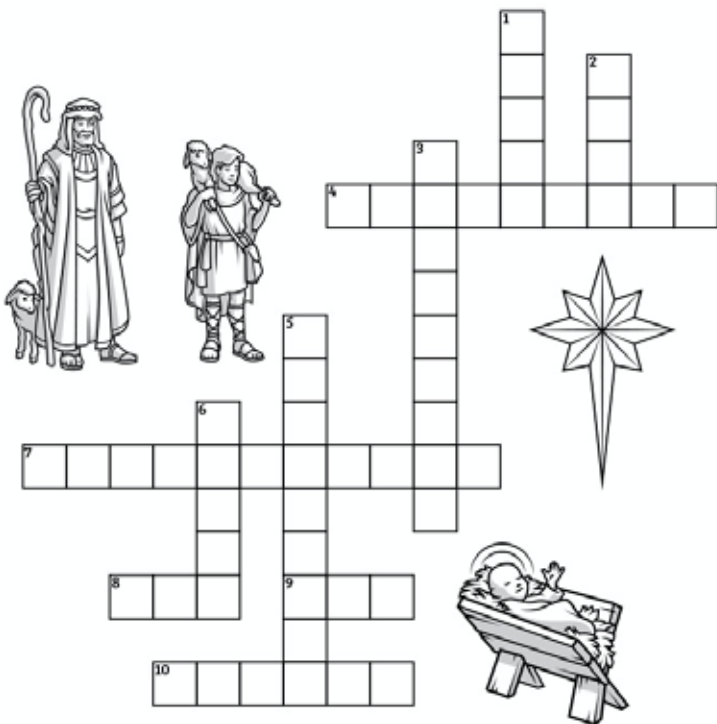
Holy Communion (traditional Book of Common Prayer service)

25 December 10.00am

Christmas Worship (informal worship for all the family)



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- _____ watched their flocks by night.
- Mary and Joseph brought _____ as a sacrifice to the temple.
- Angels brought good tidings of great _____.
- There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the _____.
- Jesus lay in a _____.

DOWN

- The wisemen brought gold, frankincense, and _____.
- The _____ appeared in the East.
- Mary and Joseph traveled to _____ to be taxed.
- Jesus was wrapped in _____ clothing.
- The _____ of the Lord shone down on the shepherds.



O HOLY NIGHT

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

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN



From the Registers To end October 2022

St. Margaret's Baptisms

Isobel Winder 4 September
Jude Christopher William Curtis 23 October

Funerals

Beatrice Wright 15 August
Christine Brown 18 August
Ann Stockwell 30 August
Roy Allen 1 September

Holy Trinity

Baptisms

Archibald Frederick Young Semple 12 June
Finlay Sheridan 11 September
Mabel Sheridan 11 September
Theodore William Embley 16 October

Funerals

Denis Winterburn (crem) 1 September

Deliverers Needed

We have an excellent team of people who deliver our Parish Newsletters every three months to all the houses in the Parish of St. Margarets, Tylers Green and Holy Trinity, Penn. Of course from time to time for various reasons, people can no longer help with the delivery. At the moment we are short of two people, one in the Sandelswood End area and the other in the Forty Green Road area. If anyone feels they could help with other of these deliveries please get in touch with Pat Seddon Tel: 01494 813268.

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Who's Who?

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Gail Wellings 813254

Parish Administrator

Gail Wellings 813254

Treasurer

John Scurrall 813181

Electoral Roll Officer

Hilary Forbes 816438

Parish Archivist

Miles Green 815589

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Flower Coordinator

Anna Taylor 815262

Baptism Coordinator

Mary Lee 07816 441386

Chief Bell Ringer

Peter Barrett 07720 594880

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Shirley Walsh 813594

Wedding Coordinator

Corrine Summers 814347

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Hilary Forbes 816438

Parish Office for St Margaret's and Holy Trinity

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PCC Secretary

Gail Wellings 813254

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Question Time with Mary

Mary Lee Licensed Lay Minister submits herself to a barrage of questions.

Q Tea or Coffee?

A Tea

Q New International version or King James version of the bible?

A For everyday use it has to be NIV but I do love the language of the King James

Q Favourite Christmas Carol?

A O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Q MacDonalds or KFC?

A Oh dear!

Q Cats or dogs?

A Dogs

Q What was the last thing you watched at the cinema?

A No Time to Die, Daniel Craig's final outing as James Bond

Q Tomato ketchup or brown sauce?

A Depends on the meal, I like both

Q Sprouts on the Christmas dinner?

A Definitely!

Q Where's your next holiday?

A Vienna

Q What's your favourite bible verse?

A Ephesians 6.11 - "Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil".

Q Christmas cake or Christmas pudding?

A Christmas Pudding

Q What's the nicest thing someone has said about your preaching?

A "It was lovely and short"

Q If you could give your teenage self one piece of advice what would it be?

A "I wouldn't do that if I was you"

Q What is a favourite family Christmas tradition you have?

A Spreading Christmas over both Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Q If you could encourage people to support a specific charity what would it be?

A Arctic One - The charity believes that sport should be accessible to all and aims to provide people, groups and clubs with disabilities the opportunity to get involved in sport and become more active, both adults and children. The Junior paratriathlon which they run each year remains the only event in the UK exclusively for children with any disability to have a go at triathlon. The Charity Arctic One Foundation was established in 201 and is based locally at Chesham.



WHAT'S ON?

If you are new to the community you may not know yet all that is happening in our churches. The best way is to have a look through our website (www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk) but to summarise events during the week...

MONDAYS

Bell Ringing Practice at Holy Trinity 7.45-9.15pm. Ringers meet in the bell tower. Contact Peter Barrett 07720 594880

TUESDAYS

Coffee in the Sanctuary

Please drop in any week between 10 and midday for coffee at St Margaret's Sanctuary. Everyone welcome!

Bible Study Group every Tuesday morning at various local venues. Call Annik Heal (673188)

Afternoon Home Groups

Every 1st and 3rd week, 4.00pm in the North Room. Contact Sue Wallace (812879).

WEDNESDAYS

Evening Home Groups

1st/3rd weeks at David Carter's home, 4 Rushmoor Ave. Call 813015 - location may vary.

THURSDAYS

Coffee follows the 10am service at Holy Trinity on the 1st Thursday.

Evening Home Group

*1st week of month at Roger and Christine Edwards' home, 7 Woodlands Drive, Beaconsfield. Call 672021

SUNDAYS

Service at 8.00am Holy Trinity

9.30am at St Margaret's with TYGRE Club

11.00am at Holy Trinity

