## DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS



Minister: Rev Simon J Carver, MA, BSc, - 01727 854041

Church Secretary: Chris Penn—01727 864116 Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley—01727 752732

Property: Ray Saunders – 01727 830260

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs – 01727 760623

Youth and Children's Worker: Tim Napper—07974 149700

Cross Street: 01727 846891

**Charity Registration Number:** 1127791

### **PASTORAL CARE MATTERS**

The Minister, Simon and members of the Pastoral Team are always



happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

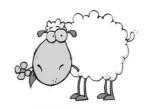
Our Minister, Simon (01727 854041) can be contacted direct

Brian Branch (01727 852738), Marjorie and Leslie Jones (01727 841845) Jessie

Blair (01727 768887) and Ray Saunders (01727 830260) are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

Simon and the team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

### Pastoral Team



### **December Services**

	10.30am	6.30pm
December 4th	The wolf will live with the lamb Isaiah 11:1-10	ITMA Matthew 3:1-12 Communion
December 11th	Christmas Family Service	My soul magnifies the Lord Luke 1:45-55
December 18th	Joseph's Dilemma Matthew 1:18-25 Communion	Carol Service
December 25th	Christmas Day Service NB: 10.15	

### **January Services**

	10.30 am	6.30 pm
January 1st	Service for New Year's Day Communion	
January 8th	The Servant of the Lord Isaiah 42:1-9	The Journey of the Magi Matthew 2:1-12
January 15th	Jonny Fillis Binley Woods Church	I waited patiently Psalm 40 Communion
January 22nd	And so it begins Matthew 4:12-23	Christian Unity Service NB: at St Albans Abbey
January 29th	The Search for Joy Matthew 5:1-12	Faith through Film: Parenthood NB: at Marshalswick

### Dear Friends,

On an odd occasion one hears or reads words having been said by an unexpected individual. This happened to me as I was thinking what to write in this magazine article. I was reading a newspaper and saw a piece about Jeremy Clarkson's new television show on Amazon Prime. Clarkson was describing the moment he decided on the format of his new show. This is how the newspaper reported what he said:



Clarkson said he had that "eureka" moment while watching, in his underpants, an episode of True Detective in which a Baptist minister preaches in a tent. "Yes," he exclaimed to colleagues the next day, "We'd be rootless, peripatetic, like music teachers in the 70s. Or gypsies."

I apologise for leaving you with this image of Jeremy Clarkson in his pants, but I was struck by his reference to a Baptist minister and without a trace of mockery too.

Clarkson, Hammond and May who had been such successful presenters on BBC's *Top Gear* have been forced to ply their trade elsewhere, but the BBC own the rights to many of the things that are associated with the show, including its studio. The new show will make a virtue out of a necessity and operate out of a large tent that will be moved to a different location each week.

One may not imagine that Christmas – and hence winter, in the northern hemisphere – goes hand in hand with living in a tent. But we do well to remember that Baptist preacher and his tent mission, because when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Bible tells us that 'God pitched his tent among us'.

Much of Jesus' life is marked by a sense of impermanence – from his birth away from home in Nazareth, living as a refugee in Egypt

and then, later, relying on the kindness of strangers with whom he lodged and who supported him ... and lent him donkeys!

We do well to remember that Baptist minister, but we do better to remember Jesus, 'the Son of Man who had nowhere to lay his head'. And then let us consider those things in our lives on which we should loosen our grip.

**Best Wishes** 









### The Christmas Ball

- 1. Through the darkened garden
  Shadowlike he came
  Late that rainy evening
  A man of slender frame
- 2. He tramped across the gravel
  To the mansion by the lake
  He went to join their winter ball
  For much was now at stake
- 3. A door was opened to him He seemed to glide right through The hallway's Christmas light bulbs Were garish bright and new
- 4. He seemed to be expected A welcome guest that night He smiled and said "good evening" His teeth showed pearly white
- 5. He wore a patterned eye mask And he had a faded scar That glistened in the lamplight He propped the door ajar
- 6. He opened a soft rucksack Which he carried in his cape The bag was clearly heavy But fluid in its shape

- 7. He called to those around him To come and watch or see He'd show them endless riches For to wealth he had the key
- 8. An empty brass container Encircled with a band Disgorged a stack of coins It worked by sleight of hand
- He reached in his hip pocket
   And brought a wallet out
   He waved when it was empty
   It filled without a doubt
- 10. He held a box before them Hand crafted out of wood He said he'd take their treasures And increase them if he could
- 11. He tied the box with cable But they had been misled Puffs of smoke suffused the room In yellow white and red
- 12. The man had simply vanished
  According to his plan
  Everything had disappeared
  And so the search began!

See the following page for the mystery puzzle!!



### The mystery continues...

Far from being a welcome guest it seems that the winter ball had been gate crashed by one "Snaffles", master of disguise and infamous crook of legend. Inspector Clue of the Yard arrived quickly on the scene. After a quick reconstruction, the first thing she wants to discover is how the culprit got away. There are footprints leading from the



front door and lots of possible forms of transport. She needs to find them before the trail (and the Christmas dinner) goes cold...

There are at least 15 forms or methods of transport hidden in this rhyme (things like bike, scooter, tube, metro etc but these examples are not in the rhyme). Each word counts once. Can you find them all?

#### 

The solution to this puzzle can be found at the back of the magazine.(Page 48)





### **Christmas Post Box**



The Christmas Post Box will be available on the Upper Link on Sundays Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 11<sup>th</sup>.

This is for cards for regular worshippers.

Cards will be available and given out on Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.

Donations in lieu of postage please, will go to our Christian Aid Project.

### The Postal Team







### ST ALBANS GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

– St Albans 830713 –

# Could you join local volunteers in the St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme who have been making a difference to the lives of hundreds of local people for over 36 years?

We are currently seeking new drivers to escort people to medical appointments, the shops, visit friends/family – mileage allowance paid. The volunteers tell us which days they are available and how often they wish to help. We also need volunteers to receive telephone calls (between 9am and 1pm) in their own homes just one day a month to match the client's needs with the services our volunteers offer – telephone expenses paid. A friendly telephone manner, clear handwriting and a desire to help others is all that is required – training given.

We hope to continue our service to the local community and would welcome your help in a Scheme which is much appreciated by so many. Please telephone the Scheme on

St Albans 830713 to find out more or visit our website: www: sagns.org or talk to Gill Bateman



Company No: 367149 Registered Charity No: 1074638



"If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God wants you to be."

Wanda E. Brunstetter

We are coming into a busy time of the year so let us not forget to pray for those who are unwell or recovering, awaiting surgery or healing and also those feeling frail and unable to get out as much as they used to.

Please remember the following when you pray: Alison Pinder, Beryl Russell, David Hance, Sheila Fricker, Elspeth McKenzie, Christine Boot, Frances Taylor, John Luck, Jo Ashmore, Pip Lyall, Kai Kipgen, Julie Miller.

If I'm standing on the mountain
Or drowning in the sea
If I am filled with hope
Or crying out for mercy
If I'm singing hallelujah
Or scared to make a sound
When I am learning how to walk
Or when I'm falling down
I'm saying You are still my God
Jesus, you are still my God
- Avalon

Pastoral Team



### UNICEF CHRISTMAS CONCERT- SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 7:30 pm

You may have already read in the November magazine about the next Quorum Singers of St Albans concert? I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all and tell you a little more about the concert.

As you may know, Quorum has a special connection to Dagnall Street, and is delighted to be performing in the church once again. With the current world situation, we felt it very appropriate to raise funds for UNICEF on this occasion and as some may be aware, this was a charity very dear to the late Frank Warren, former member of the church and avid Quorum supporter!

The concert, 'Joy to the World' will feature Christmas songs old and new from around the world. There will also be a few audience carols for you to join in with, to get you into the Christmas spirit.

We are also absolutely delighted to have a very special guest Soprano soloist at the Concert. Alla Kravchuk (or Alla Alban as she is known locally by her many pupils) was born in the Ukraine and studied at the Kiev Conservatoire and later in London with Vera Rosza. She now lives in the UK, after being

based in Germany as soloist with the Niedersachssische Staatstheater, Hannover. A highlight of her career in Hannover was the production of Debussy's "Pelléas et Mélisande", in which she took one of the title roles.

Alla performs a wide range of music from Opera and Oratorio to recital programmes ranging from popular English, German, French and Russian Lieder and Art song to the less familiar work of her native Ukraine.

At this concert Alla will perform extracts from Handel's Messiah, Schubert's 'Ave Maria' as well as beautiful Christmas Songs, including a very moving Ukrainian piece for choir and Soprano, which Alla will sing in her mother tongue. We are extremely grateful to Alla for her most generous support.

Admission to the concert is free, with a retiring collection in Aid of UNICEF. Please do try to come along to support us!

### Jíll Halsey





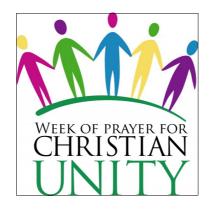


### FREE CHURCH CHAPLAINCY AT THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF ST ALBAN

The Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place this year at the Abbey on 22nd January at 6.30pm and I have been invited to preach.

It will also be the occasion at which I will be welcomed to the Abbey as the **Free Church Chaplain** and a member of the chaplaincy team.

This will be a good opportunity to meet with fellow Christians and share in worship together.











### **Pastor's News**

A brief update on a number of items that might be of interest to the congregation and the wider readership of the magazine.

#### **Bible Studies**

In our Bible studies in December we will be continuing to look at the story of Jesus sending out 72 disciples from Luke 10. There is a choice of two meetings – 10.30am in Cross Street, or 8.00pm at the Manse. Both these meetings will be on Tuesday 13th December. Anyone is welcome to come to either. The topic for January's Bible studies will be *The Servant of the Lord* and these will meet at the same time and locations as above on Tuesday 10th January.

### **Church Meeting**

Our next church members' meeting will take place in the Cross Street Centre on **6th December at 7.45pm**, at which we will be confirming the church budget for 2017. If you are a member of Dagnall Street Baptist Church, please try to attend.

### **Special Church Meeting**

At the December Church Meeting, it is likely that we will be calling a Special Church Meeting to decide on calling an Associate Minister. If this is agreed, it will take place on **Tuesday 17th January 2017** at **7.45pm**. Please keep the date.

### Radio Verulam and Premier Radio

My regular *Premier Radio* slot to discuss some of the latest films from a faith perspective will be on Thursday 8th December 8.00am and 9.00am and then at the same time on 29th January. You can also hear me discussing the latest films at the cinema and on television with Danny Smith every Friday from 6.30pm – 7.00pm on **Radio Verulam 92.6FM**.



Hate lies hard as iron
Upon the troubled world.
'If you don't fit, you're out of it!'
Is yelled out loud and cold.

We're frightened of the 'other'
We shrink into our shell.
We only want the life we knew.
All changes will be hell!

But what's this Christmas message Of giving, change and care? "When I was hungry, naked, ill, in prison, a stranger - you loved.

Has love left the building?
Has she left our street?
Remember who He cared for
To make your life complete.

John W. Peters Christmas 2016



### Grill the Clergy! SS Alban and Stephen, Beaconsfield Road 7.30pm 24th January

No, this isn't a new barbecue idea, but an opportunity to hear from and ask questions of church leaders from six of our city centre churches – Methodist, Church of England, Roman Catholic, United Reformed Church, Salvation Army and ... Baptist.

In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this is an opportunity to meet together and find out what unites us as well as hear about the differences in our history and theology. Come and ask those questions that you have always wanted to ask such as, 'why do Catholics worship Mary, and Baptists worship John the Baptist?'

\* [Spoiler alert – neither of them do.]





# Singers of St Albans

Conductor: Marianna Freeman present:

# Joy to the World!

with Special Guest: Alla Kravchuk (soprano)

### Saturday 3rd December at 7:30pm

Dagnall Street Baptist Church St Albans

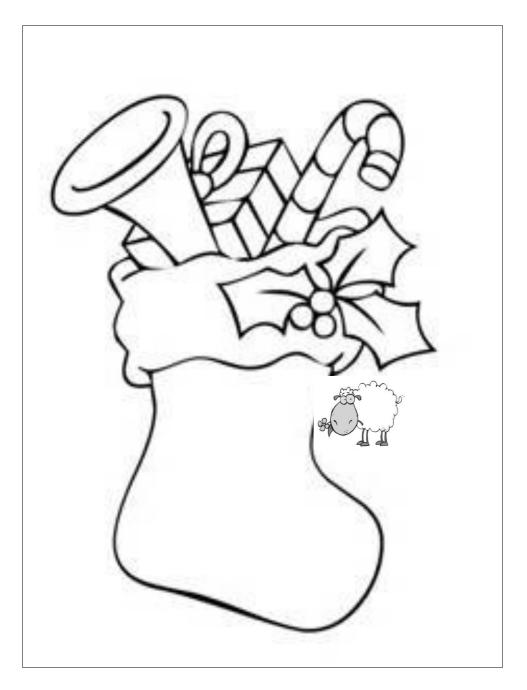
### Admission free

Retiring collection in aid of Unicef





Information: quorumsingers.org.uk



### **CHURCH & CENTRE ROOM BOOKINGS**



To contact Danny Smith regarding Church and Centre room booking enquiries:

Tel: 01727 568162 (new number) email: bookings@dsbc.org.uk



### Monday Table Tennis/ Games Club



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December will be our last meeting this year.

Recommencing on:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 through to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April.

We meet every Monday from 10.30am till 1pm in the main Hall

Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool – Carpet Bowls – Chess – Draughts and other table games.

Refreshments available in Cross St; Centre Cafe

All are welcomed for a time of fun and fellowship

### Trevor Oakley





Scrabble Club will be held on Tuesday 13th December and Tuesday 10th & 24th January, 2017, at 2.30pm in the Cross Street Centre.

Everyone Welcome!

#### FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

The Fellowship Lunch this month will be held on Thursday, 15th December and Thursday, 19th January at 12.30pm in the Cross Street Café.

Everyone is welcome.

### Díane Graham



### WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT!!

Who Let the Dad's Out will be held on Saturday, 10th December and Saturday,14th January, 10—12pm in the Lower Hall.

Come along and have some fun!

#### KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group will meet on Tuesday, 20th December and Tuesday, 17th January in Cross Street from 11am—12.30pm and welcomes anyone who would like to join with us. Some bring their own knitting or crochet projects whilst others knit and crochet for the charity 'Knit for Peace'.

Judy Pendal





Daycare meets every Tuesday during school term time, at the Age Concern Centre, St Peters Street. If you know of anyone who would like to come along for lunch and companionship please contact Jessie Blair on email: jessieblair37@gmail.com.



### **MISSION NEWS**

Recently we received news from our current mission partners, the Drew family, and also from our former partners, Susan and Gary Anderson

Reproduced below is the latest prayer letter from the Drew's, who are currently in France waiting patiently to return to their work and home in Nepal.

Dear Friends,

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

Greetings! We've had a strange few months with plans chopping and changing and uncertainty about the future. These verses remind us that continued trust in God will help us ride out the "heat" and the "drought" and even remain fruitful during them. As we continue to live with change, please pray this for us. Back in May, when we last wrote, we described how Chris was involved in negotiating a new five year agreement for INF, the organisation he helps to lead in Nepal. This agreement outlines the work that will be undertaken as well as the number of expatriate visa posts the government are prepared to allocate for that work. Due to delays, all the expatriates [around fifty people] had to leave before the summer while negotiations continued. It is sad for us to share that, six months on, none of the expatriates have been able to return to Nepal; this is despite an agreement having been signed off for half of the work. The situation is complicated, but it is clear that international organisations, and Christian organisations in particular, are coming under increased pressure from the Government of Nepal. There are stricter requirements on qualifications for expatriates - minimum Masters degree level - and the generous visa allocation that INF enjoyed previously is being questioned.

We had planned to be away for June and July anyway and had good times visiting many churches, friends and families. But it was disappointing not to be able to return to Nepal as planned for the start of school in August. We ended up going to stay with friends in France who have a house with plenty of space and setting up a temporary office and home school there. We have tried to make the best of the time of waiting, although it has been hard to live with the uncertainty. As you can imagine, many thoughts have gone through our minds... is this a nudge that it's time to move on or is it a question of trust, patience and perseverance? How to know? As we've talked with others and prayed, we've felt it right to continue to wait to return. Many within INF will not be able to come back - they won't meet the new visa requirements, for example. Chris' visa should be the least controversial to award and we feel that his role will be key in helping INF respond to the changing environment and transition to new ways of working. For some time now a long term aim of INF has been to enable Nepalis to take on more responsibility and leadership so that what has been achieved has the best chance of continuing into the future. These latest events are likely to mean that process will be expedited and it will be good for Chris to be able to help with the transition

There are so many things we would appreciate your prayers for...

- Rebekah, Sam, Tabea and Josh; they have experienced much disappointment over the last few months and all want to get back to what is normal for them – school, home, their dog Frodo! But they've also grown and are learning that when circumstances are outside our control, God is always with us.
- The BMS Action Team a team of four young women arrive in Nepal in October for six months of their gap year. Debbie was really looking forward to supervising them, having herself been In an Action Team that went to Brazil in 1993, but will miss at least the first few weeks. Others have stepped in to help, but pray for a life-changing time in Nepal.
- That our visa can be processed quickly so we can return to Nepal.

- That we can find a new house to rent and move without too much stress. Our landlord has asked for his house back by mid-December. Grrrr... more packing.
- For all the Nepali employees and expatriate volunteers whose plans and jobs are up in the air.
- In the midst of organisational upheaval, that the Nepali people can continue to be touched by INF's work serving their physical and spiritual needs.

Despite the challenges, we have been totally humbled by the kindnesses of our friends (and their friends) in France, support and hospitality from our families and the encouragement of many of you. A reminder that we don't walk this path alone, but are part of a body that reaches out in love to support those who need it.

With our love

Chris and Debbie

### And on 16<sup>th</sup> November we received this update from Debbie Drew:

"We heard yesterday that our visas have finally been approved by the Nepali Government, so we are free to return and work. Just a week ago we had neither a house nor visa; now we have both. Thank you God.

Chris is already in Nepal so will stay on and we'll join him shortly. We're excited to get back, though sad to leave everyone in the UK again.

Whilst it was good news for us, not all the INF visas were approved, so our friends and colleagues continue to wait and we pray for them and for wisdom in the negotiations that Chris will be involved in

During this strange chapter of our lives, I've often been reminded of the two British women that went to India in the 1930s and lived, waited and prayed for 16 years on the border with Nepal for permission to enter. Imagine waiting that long! What faith they had. We should return only four months later than originally planned and that has, at times, felt quite a trial.

THANK YOU for your prayers and encouragement,

Debbie and Chris.

Our previous BMS Partners, Susan and Gary Anderson, left BMS a little over a year ago. They are also facing challenges which need our prayer support. They write:-

'We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.' (NLT) Romans 5:3-4

Gary and Susan Anderson, 58 Packhorse Drive, Enderby, Leics. LE19 2RN

We hope that you are well and we look forward to hearing your news! In this update, we aim to give you a few snapshots of life since leaving Albania and to bring you up-to-date with our current situation.

Family and Friends: One theme over the past year or so has been family. Our four nieces are growing up. One started school this September and her younger sister started nursery! The eldest is now 8 years old and the youngest 2 years old. In August, we were able to take the older three nieces and Nanna (Susan's mum) on holiday to Westonsuper-Mare. We had a great time together. Being back in England also allowed us special times with Susan's nanna before she died in April this year. In the weeks after the bereavement, Susan counted it a



blessing and privilege to be able to spend time with her uncle leading up to the funeral. In July, Susan was a bridesmaid for one of her bridesmaids! The day went well and Susan was armed and ready with an array of emergency items! We are part of a supportive housegroup and Gary is on the team overseeing the soon-to-begin new church building.

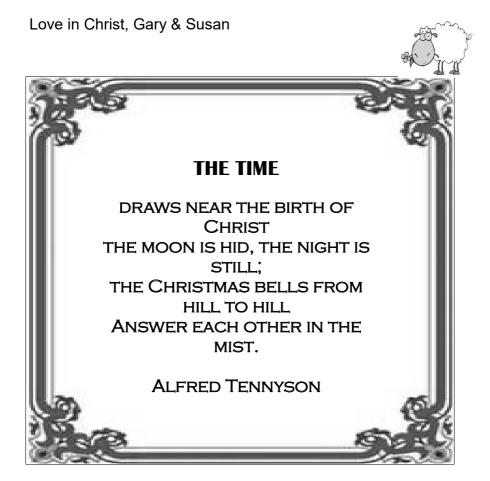
Home Sweet Home!: Another theme over the past year or so has definitely been houses! Until September, we lived with Susan's mum, then housesat for friends, then lodged with our housegroup leader and his wife. (Yes, this does make people smile since Susan's maiden name was 'Lodge'!). In September, we began to rent a lovely house - hopefully, our home for the forseeable future. (The address is typed at the top of this letter.) We thank God for His faithfulness, provision and abundant blessing poured out through family and friends who gave us (and those who offered) places to live. We are so thankful for the love, grace and generosity shown to us through others. We look forward to hosting and receiving visitors as time goes on. The theme of housing is wider than our housing. This year, we helped Susan's mum through the whole daunting house selling process and she is now happily settling into her home. Also, in the summer, Gary regained possession of his house (in which he grew up) and it is now going through a time of TLC!

Health: Susan now has a B12 injection every three months along with B12 vitamin tablets which together seem to be making a difference. Praise God! We are especially thankful for this improvement because Gary was recently diagnosed with AL amyloidosis, a rare disease which involves protein cells not working properly, building up and causing damage to major organs. Gary's kidney(s) and liver have been impacted. There is no known cause or cure for AL amyloidosis but there is treatment which aims to stop production of further bad cells. Gary's treatment started today, (17<sup>th</sup> Oct.), with blood tests in preparation for chemotherapy. His treatment involves chemotherapy (injection and tablet form) and steroids, accompanied by various tablets to



counteract side effects. The first cycle is 3 weeks, then subsequent cycles will be 5 weeks. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTcWtVpBcgA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTcWtVpBcgA</a>

Thank you so much for your interest, love and support over the years. We do value your texts, emails and, of course, prayers. Please do continue to pray – God is Almighty and is blessing us with His peace. We will send some specific prayer points. For now, if you are someone who prays, please pray for Gary, especially, as we enter this period which is very much unknown.





### CHILDREN'S GIFT SERVICE



The picture shows last year's response, with over 30 parcels submitted for distribution amongst needy children. This year we will be accepting gifts during our Christmas Family Service on Sunday morning 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The plan is to invite you all to include an extra item on your Christmas shopping list, which you could buy at a toy shop. We suggest that you then wrap it up and include a brief description, (age range and gender if appropriate), on a post-it note stuck to the outside, so that it can be appropriately given to a suitable child.

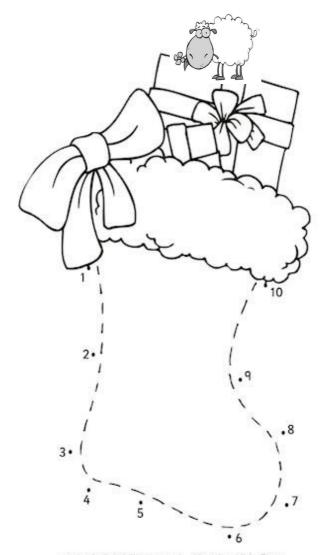
The presents will be received at the Christmas Family Service on Sunday morning 11<sup>th</sup> December and then passed on to the St Albans & Hertsmere Women's Refuge for distribution amongst needy children in time for Christmas.

Happy toy-shopping!

The Mission Team



### Dot to Dot



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

### Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer

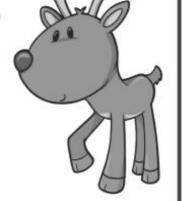
Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer Had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw him, You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer Used to laugh and call him names. They never let poor Rudolph Join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve Santa came to say: "Rudolph with your nose so bright, Won't you guide my sleigh

Then all the reindeer loved him, And they shouted out with glee, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, "You'll go down in history!"

tonight?"



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

### Christmas Walk



Our walk this year wil be on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December and will be along the rivers Ver and Colne between Colney Street and Bricket Wood.

We will be meeting at The Moor Mill just off Smug Oak Lane, west of Colney Street at 12:00 for lunch. The pub has a large car park and, of course, toilets.

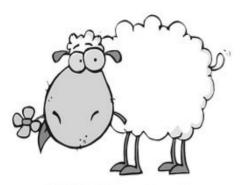
Weather permitting, this will be followed by a 3 mile walk starting at about 13:00. It will be easy for anyone who wants a shorter walk to retrace their steps along-side the river back to the cars.

Please join us for the walk, the lunch or for both.

For further information, speak to Colin or Sue Owen.

P.S. If you want to see dramatic topiary ( see picture ), come and join us!





# Nativity Sheep Trail

On **26th November**, another flock of (knitted) sheep will be let loose in St Albans. They will find their way into some of our city centre shops where

they will nestle down for a couple of weeks. During that time, we hope that a number of children will have been able to locate the sheep and have been able to report back to the Head Shepherd (Linda Roberts) by completing one of our *Nativity Sheep Trail* forms. Linda – who knows all her sheep by name – will be going out to round up her flock the sheep just before the shops close on **Saturday 10th December**.

At our **Nativity Family Service** on **11th December** all the children that have been on our Nativity Sheep Trail will be invited to come and receive a reward for their hard work.

Full details of how to take part in the *Nativity Sheep Trail* – which is open to all children – can be found on the leaflets, which each include a form. These will be available from the Cross Street Centre and at all our children's activities during November.

Smion

(How many sheep can you find in the magazine?)

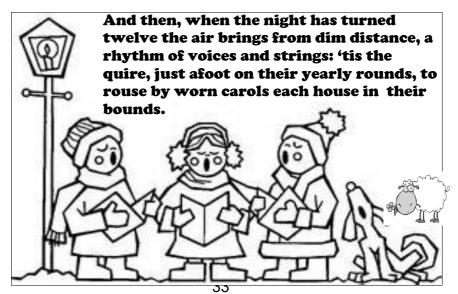


I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and kind messages during these past months of my sister Veronica's illness and passing. Your love and support has helped me through this difficult time.

My brother-in-law, Alan, needs continuing care. He is due to be transferred from Poole Hospital to a nursing home in Bricket Wood, which will be nearer his old friends and myself.

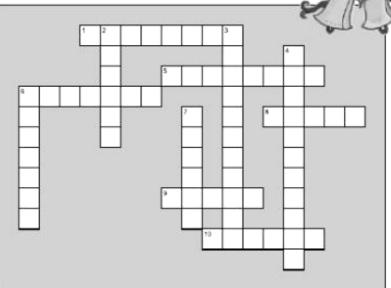
I look forward to spending more time in St Albans in the New Year

### Christine Boot









### <u>Across</u>

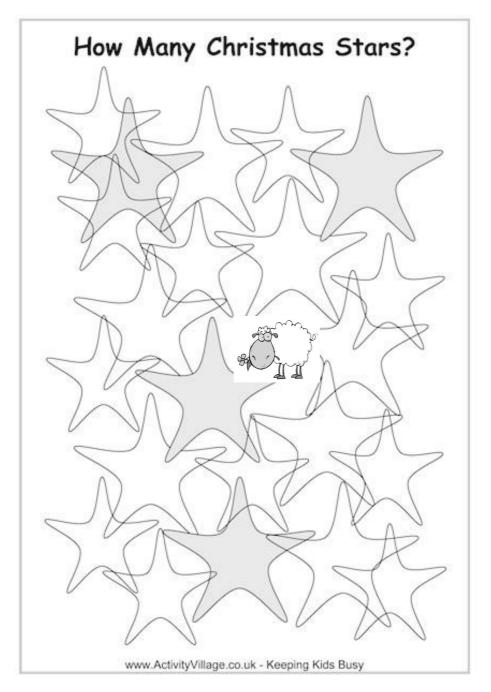
- 1, Hang it up on Christmas Eve
- They're covered in fur and pull the sleigh
- Pull with a bang to get the hat and toy inside
- It's green and spiky with red berries
- 9. Little helpers
- Open this calendar one day at a time!

### Down

- If you eat too much you'll be stuffed like the bird
- Christmas cookie made into houses or men?
- Put these on the tree before the lights
- When Santa comes down this watch out for the soot!
- Silent Night and the Holly and the lvy



www,ActivityVillage,co,uk - Keeping Kids Busy





### Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along The unbroken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

cont..

With peace on earth, good-will to men!"
It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail.

## Henry Wadsworth Longfellow







# COPY DUE DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2017

#### Dear All

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It seems a bit previous to be typing this in November! But by the time the magazine is in the church by the last Sunday in November I expect everyone will be well into their Christmas organisation and present buying.

I will be spending Christmas with my 'Friend Family', that means my friend and her family in Baldock and my 'supermodel' friend, Jan Morse . her husband, John, and hopefully their son Nathan. Nathan is returning home in December after some months in India training as a yoga teacher. He has had a wonderful time and I expect the weather will be a bit of a shock after the heat of India.

Jan is having a day procedure in hospital on her shoulder this weekend, so I hope that goes well.

My family in Australia have no big plans for Christmas this year other than enjoying it at home with friends and children. Freddie will be 20months at Christmas—not yet old enough to be fully aware of the excitement of Christmas—I think next year it might be a bit rowdier. I have sent their box off and hopefully they will get it soon so that they can put it under the Christmas tree for Christmas Day.

I have cooked all the Christmas cakes and have boiled the Christmas puddings. So I am prepared for my Christmas visits! I come with cake and pudding!! Just the mince pies to go!! I have still a few presents to buy but each year it becomes increasingly more difficult to think of unusual present s for everyone! Thank goodness for the internet!

The choir has been called with dates for rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Service, which I am really looking forward to. I enjoy

singing with the Church choir and learning new anthems.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year and don't forget anything interesting happens let me know and I can include it in the magazine.

*Glynís* 07709 618571 01462 733665 glynis.gibson\_1@btinternet.com



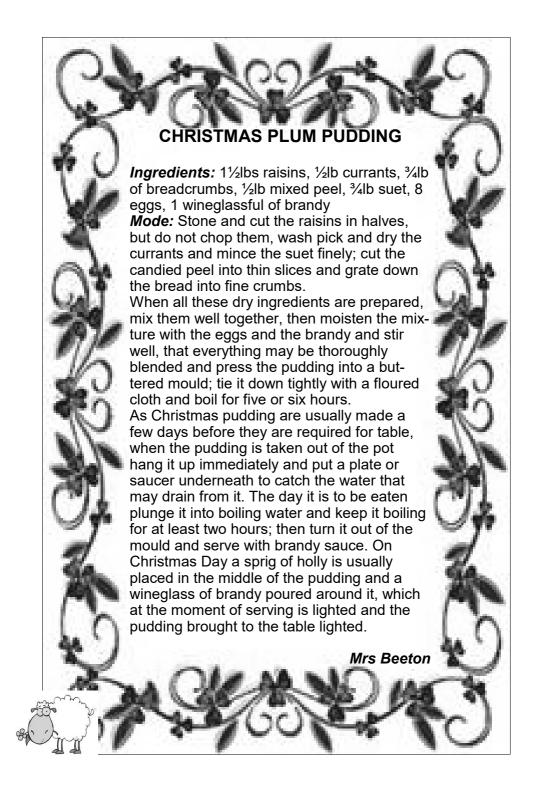
### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

The December Christmas Lights Competition started 3 years ago as part of plans to enhance the sense of community in the residential streets near the City Station, especially Alexandra, Bedford and Inkerman Roads (near the URC church with the red spire, about 10 minutes walk from DSBC).

The event this year will run from the beginning of December until 21st December. Residents pay a small entrance fee for local charities and decorate the front of their houses, mainly traditional Victorian terraces, with lights and baubles. It is one of the best sights in the area and well worth a visit to walk through these streets to see all the different displays. The best time to view is in the early evening in the final week when the street s look almost as bright as day! As the streets are quite narrow it is best to visit on foot but there is parking at the station and several bus stops nearby.

Do come and have a look if you are in the area as it is always something very special for the festive season.

Megan







### **BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER**

3rd—Bill Tromans 14th—Agnes Waller 22nd—Leslie Jones

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat, Of "Peace on earth, goodwill to men".

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1807-82

### **BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY**

3rd—Ruth Seckerson 9th—Brian Branch 10th—Barbara Penn 26th—Frances Taylor

As the earth keeps turning, hurtling through space, and night falls and day break from land to land,

Let us remember people—waking, sleeping, being born and dying—one world, one humanity.

Let us go from here in peace.

A prayer used at the sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (Vancouver 1983)

Still relevant in 2017

Línda Williams



## "MOREOVER AS FOR ME..." (1 Sam.12:23)

It is an important and valuable thing to know where one's personal duty lies.

We share the general apprehensiveness of the times. Central Europe is the focus of far-reaching possibilities; we sense that the immediate welfare of the human race is again hanging perilously on a mere thread. A wrong move, an ill-considered action, a hasty demand or threat or withdrawal might easily precipitate a catastrophe. But what can WE do? The feeling of helplessness is observable in many serious minded people.

According to the Scriptures above it would be 'a sin against the Lord to cease to pray'. That puts our personal responsibility in the strongest light. We are not called upon to know the answer before we pray (otherwise we should rarely pray at all), nor are we endeavouring to give advice to God. We are expected to realise that in NOT praying we are deliberately closing a door of help and hope.

What would happen if all professing believers in 'the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ' gave themselves without stint to persevering and importunate intercession - no one can tell. By thus allying ourselves with the forces of good in the world we contribute to their victory. Indifference or despair strengthens the powers against us.

"For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friends?"

F.F.P.

Published in the DSBC Church Magazine December 1948



# Faith through Film:

# **Parenthood**

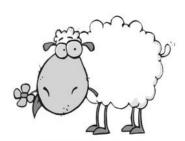
4.00pm and 7.00pm January 29th at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church

Parenthood was released at the cinema in 1989 and since then it has been the basis for two television series. While Steve Martin plays the main character, Parenthood is an ensemble piece about life in a multigener-

ational family. It has something to say about family life, and specifically about fatherhood.

Our friends at Marshalswick have invited us on this occasion and there will be an opportunity to watch the film at 4.00pm and this will be followed by tea and cake before the service at 7.00pm. I will be showing clips from the film as illustrations and it won't be essential to have seen the film beforehand.







# IAPPY NEW YEAR

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WISHES

REFLECTION FUN CALENDAR

# **CHRISTMAS**



The bells of waiting Advent ring.
The tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hooker's Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew.
So that the villagers can say
"The Church looks nice" on Christmas Day.

Provincial public houses blaze
And Corporation tramcars clang.
On lighted tenements I gaze
Where paper decorations hang.
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says, "Merry Christmas to you all".

And London shops on Christmas Eve Are strung with silver bells and flowers As hurrying clerks the City leave To pigeon-haunted classic towers. And marbled clouds go scudding by The many-steepled London sky.

cont..

And girls in slacks remember Dad, And oafish louts remember Mum, And sleepless children's hearts are glad, And Christmas morning bells say, "Come!" Even to shining ones who dwell Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true?
This most tremendous tale of all.
Seen in a stained glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me.

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent.
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells, No carolling in frosty air, Nor all the steeple shaking bells Can with this single Truth compare-That God was man in Palestine And lives today in Bread and Wine.

John Betjeman



### The Christmas Ball

- Through the darkened garden
   Shadowlike he <u>came</u>
   Late tha<u>t rain</u>y evening
   A man of slender frame
- 2. He **tram**ped across the gravel To the mansion by the lake He went to join their winter ball For much was now at stake
- 3. A door was opened to him He seemed to <u>glide right</u> through The hallway's Christmas light bulbs
  Were garish bright and new
- 4. He seemed to be expected A welcome guest that night He smiled and said "good evening" His teeth showed pearly white
- 5. He wore a patterned eye mask And he had a faded <u>scar</u> <u>T</u>hat glistened in the lamplight He propped the door ajar
- 6. He opened a sof<u>t ruck</u>sack Which he <u>car</u>ried in his cape The bag was clearly heavy But fluid in its shape
- 7. He called to those around him To come and watch or see He'd show them endless riches For to wealth he had the key

### **MYSTERY SOLVED**

- 8. An empty brass container Encircled with a band Disgorged a stack of coins It worked by **sleigh**t of hand
- He reached in his hip pocket
   And brought a wallet out
   He waved when it was empty
   It filled without a doubt
- 10. He held a box before them Hand c<u>raft</u>ed out of wood He said he'd take their treasures And increase them if he could
- 11. He tied the box with <u>cab</u>le But they had been mi<u>sled</u>
  Puffs of smoke suffused the room
  In yellow white and red
- 12. The man had simply <u>vanished</u>
  According to his <u>plan</u>
  <u>Everything had disappeared</u>
  And so the search began!

The words are: Camel, train, tram, glider, cart, truck, car, horse, sleigh, ship, raft, cab, sled, van, plane.

Megan Thompson 2014



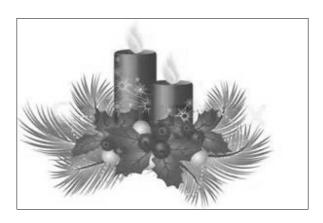
# Special Christmas Services at the Abbey:



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Service:** Children and adults alike love this joyful service which ends in candlelight. Starts at 3pm.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Carols on the Hour: These services last half an hour and are open to anyone who wishes to attend, no entrance tickets are required. Hourly from 11am to 4pm.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Crib Service: A very popular and lively service lasting no more than an hour, and intended mainly for children and young families. Children visit the crib in the Cathedral and join in singing carols. Starts at 2.30pm.



# What, When and Where December 2016

Saturday 3 Prayer Hour

10.00am Cross Street Room 5

Tuesday 6 Church Members meeting

7.45pm Room 3 Cross Street Centre

Wednesday 7 Free Church Service in the Abbey

11.00am The Rev'd Dr. David M. Chap

man Chair Beds, Essex, & Herts

Methodist District

Saturday 10 Who Let the Dads Out?

10.00am - 12.00pm Lower Hall

Saturday 10 Carols in Christopher Place

12 noon

Tuesday13 Bible Study

10.30am Cross Street Centre, 8.00pm

at the Manse

Tuesday13 Scrabble Club

2.30pm Cross Street Centre

Thursday 15 Baptist Fellowship Lunch

12.30pm Cross Street Centre

Tuesday 20 Knitting Group

11.00am – 12.30pm Cross Street Centre

Wednesday 28 Christmas Walk

### **Sunday Services**

10.30am and 6.30pm, with groups for children at the 10.30am service

6.30pm services in January and February will be held in Cross Street Centre



# What, When and Where January 2017

Wednesday 4 Free Church Service in the Abbey

11.00am The Rev'd Simon Carver

Minister Dagnall Street Baptist Church St

Albans

Saturday 7 Prayer Hour

10.00am Cross Street Room 5

Tuesday 10 Bible Study

10.30am Cross Street Centre,

8.00pm at the Manse

Tuesday10 Scrabble Club

2.30pm Cross Street Centre

Saturday 14 Who Let the Dads Out?

10.00am - 12.00pm Lower Hall

Tuesday17 Knitting Group

11.00am - 12.30pm Cross Street Centre

Thursday 19 Baptist Fellowship Lunch

12.30pm Cross Street Centre

Thursday 19 Deacons' Meeting

7.45pm Room 5 Cross Street Centre

Tuesday24 Scrabble Club

2.30pm Cross Street Centre

### **Regular Events**

Mondays: Table tennis & Games Club 10.30am – 1.30pm Lower

Hall

Tuesdays: (term time) Daycare 10am - 2pm Age Concern St Pe-

ters Street

Wednesdays: (term time) Toddlers 9.45am – 11.15am Lower Hall

Fridays: (term time) TFN 6.30pm - 8.30pm Lower Hall

Fridays: (term time) TFN Seniors 7.00pm - 8.30pm Cross Street

Centre

Dagnall Street Baptist Church and Cross Street Centre Magazine

