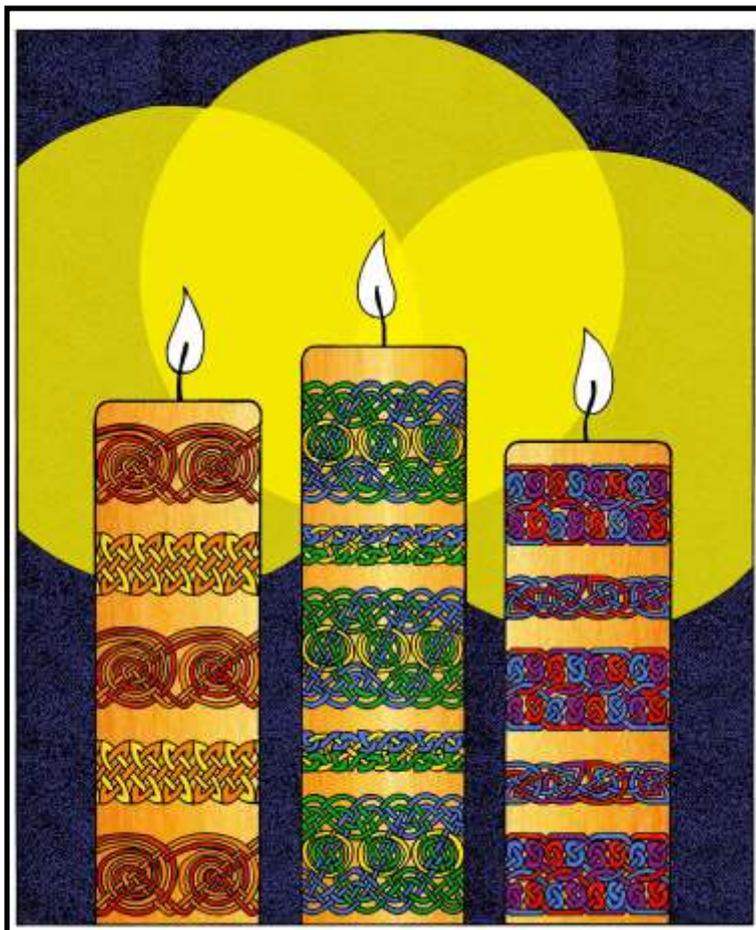


# Llantrisant Parish Monthly Magazine

December / January 2021



***'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'* John1 v 5**

**Price 50p**

**[www.parishofllantrisant.org.uk](http://www.parishofllantrisant.org.uk)**

Llantrisant Parish-Registered Charity No. 1132553

## **Rectorial Benefice of Llantrisant**

The churches of Llantrisant, Miskin, Beddau, Llantwit Fardre, Llanharan, Brynna, Pontyclun, Talygarn and Llanharry have now joined together and form The Rectorial Benefice of Llantrisant

**Rector** – Rev'd Vincent Gardner – Tel. No. -07709 589924  
email – [Rector@llan.org.uk](mailto:Rector@llan.org.uk)

**Vicar of Pontyclun, Talygarn & Llanharry** - Rev'd Rosemary Hill  
email - [vicarptl@llan.org.uk](mailto:vicarptl@llan.org.uk)

**Vicar of Llanwit Fardre** - Rev'd Philip Gullidge

**Benefice Wardens** –

Shirley Evans – Llantrisant

Gareth Jones – Llantwit Fardre

We look forward to working with all our brothers and sisters in the 9 churches of our new Benefice. We pray that we will encourage each other, share resources and work together for the good of our communities and spread the good news of the Gospel.

**Churches in the Rectorial Benefice of Llantrisant-**

St. Illtyd, Gwynno & Dyfodwg, Llantrisant

St. David's, Miskin

St. Michael's Beddau

St. Illtud's, Llanwit Fardre

St. Paul's Pontyclun

St. Anne's, Talygarn

St. Illtyd's, Llanharry

St. Julius & St. Aaron, Llanharan

St. Peter's, Brynna

Please look out for announcements  
regarding services in the Benefice.

## Magazine advertisers

In these unprecedented times of the Corona-virus pandemic we will not be charging our advertisers for their adverts this year; we haven't actually printed any magazines since March.

Please continue to support local businesses and if you use any who advertise with us please remember to tell them where you found their details.

### Please remember in your prayers :

Please remember in your prayers the families of all who have recently died including: Carole Powell, Leighton Holcombe, Anthony Maitland, Arthur Smith, Richard David, Betty Pine, Philip Williams, Eirwen Hardwick, Malcolm Doster, Chris Jones, Enid Ratliff, Jean Golding, Ray Pope, Ann Groves, Jackie Holmes, Joan Whitty, Neville Jones, Judy Davies, Paula Baylis, Jonathan Smart, Joan Phillips, Stan David, John Jones, Tony Cale, Margaret Manley and Nancy Mummery (formerly Willis).



### Please Pray For:

Alex Morgan, Chris Clark, Linda Rigby, Peggy Utting, Pat Parkinson, Margaret Hocking, Ron Havard, Susan Saunders and Lindsey, Beverley Duddridge, Phillis Williams, Kitty Evans, Betty France, Christine Smith, Mary Evans, Tess Marchman, Rebecca and Steve Davis and family, Jeff and Anne Howells, and Gill Evans and Rowan. We also pray for those living with dementia and their carers, and all those suffering with coronavirus, those in isolation and all who are worried.



## STEWARDSHIP

We know it is still difficult for all those who normally give to the parish through their stewardship envelope or the yellow gift aid envelopes, however, we are able to take card payments over the phone.

If you would like to do this please ring Roger 208312 or Shirley 226006 – just have your bank card ready and you can tell us how much you want to give.

Cheques can be sent to Mrs Shirley Evans, 21 Clos Leland, Llantrisant. CF72 8QN. Please give your envelope number if you have one.

Thank you to all those who give by Standing Order, these will carry on as usual. If you would like to set up a Standing Order with your bank (you will probably need to do so online or over the phone at the moment) ring Roger for the Parish bank account number and sort code. These are difficult times for all of us and reduced income for all the churches in the Benefice over this period has had a big impact.

Please pass the message on.

Many thanks.



### COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS RCT local lock down

If anyone needs any help please let us know.

#### **Contacts-**

Shirley Evans for Llantrisant

Len Morris for Miskin

Mary West for Beddau



## 10 Ways to Avoid Stress this Christmas

1. Change your expectations this Christmas. Don't waste time lamenting what should have been. Instead, try and enjoy whatever is possible this year.
2. Make a list. Include sending cards, buying presents and organising food for the big day. Having a lists helps keep you in control of your life.
3. Set a reduced budget this year. With a pandemic raging, this no time to take on Christmas debt. If you can't pay for it this month, probably best not to buy it.
4. Exercise each day – it releases happiness-inducing serotonin. That will help you to keep calm and positive over the festive period.
5. Don't overindulge. Too much alcohol and rich food won't improve your life.
6. Keep calm and keep kind – urge your family members to try and avoid any flare up of family tensions. If you need to cry, cry, but then, keep on keeping on.
7. Remember those everyday essentials: batteries for new toys, toilet paper, milk, paper towel. Those things you never think about – until they are gone.
8. Entertain the kids: plan ahead various films, games and whatever it takes to give them a memorable Christmas.
9. Make the most of Zoom this year with far-flung relatives and friends.
10. Most of all, include God in your Christmas! This is His Son's birthday – include Bible readings and carols in your family routine over the festive period.

**It was:** 30 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1990 that British and French construction workers on the Channel Tunnel broke through the last wall of rock separating the two halves, and Britain and France were linked for the first time in thousands of years.

## **A Treasurer's Reflection on 2020**

I know we will all be grateful to see the end of 2020. It has been a testing time for everyone. However, I feel it has also been a time when we have become closer as a Church Community. As a Treasurer, I was particularly concerned about what effect the pandemic would have on our finances. I even worried that the limited monies available to us would not be sufficient to keep us going. I now know that I need to be more trustful and know that God has given this Parish such faithful members, who recognise that it is God's will that we should support his Church.

My thanks to everyone for their increased support this year. Without regular services our income has fallen, but because so many of you have continued to make regular donations, either by standing orders or making card payments over the phone, we can look forward to 2021.

One final personal thought. I have very much enjoyed my chats over the telephone with members making their donations, many of whom I would not normally expect to share such conversations.

*Roger*



### **Stewardship**

Thank you so much to everyone who has kept up their Stewardship giving by whatever means during the pandemic. The Stewardship envelopes for 2021 are being prepared, if you would prefer not to have envelopes next year but make other arrangements for regular giving, please let us know.

Standing order is the preferred method as you are in total control of the payments and are able to change or cancel them at any time, it just helps us to budget for the year knowing that we have this regular income.

For any help with this please contact Roger Hambley 208312 or Shirley Evans 226006. Many thanks



Received from Uganda 18th November

*Hi Shirley and Huw ,*

*We send you greetings in the name of our lord Jesus Christ. We hope that you and the family are well. For us we are well and we are having much rain. Are you also having rain?*

*Yesterday we had wonderful church worship. We had great attendance of Christians and there was joy in the church as we sang songs of praise and worship to God. The minister preached from Psalm 34;9-15. The message was there is blessings in obedience. We were encouraged to fear the lord, obey him and always walk in his ways and we shall lack nothing. So We were urged to seek the lord, keep our tongue from evil and our lips from speaking lies then we shall be blessed. In verse 15 the minister encouraged us to live a holy life in order to maintain our relationship with God as he himself is holy and his eyes are on the righteous and his ears attentive to our cry. Have you resumed church worship?*

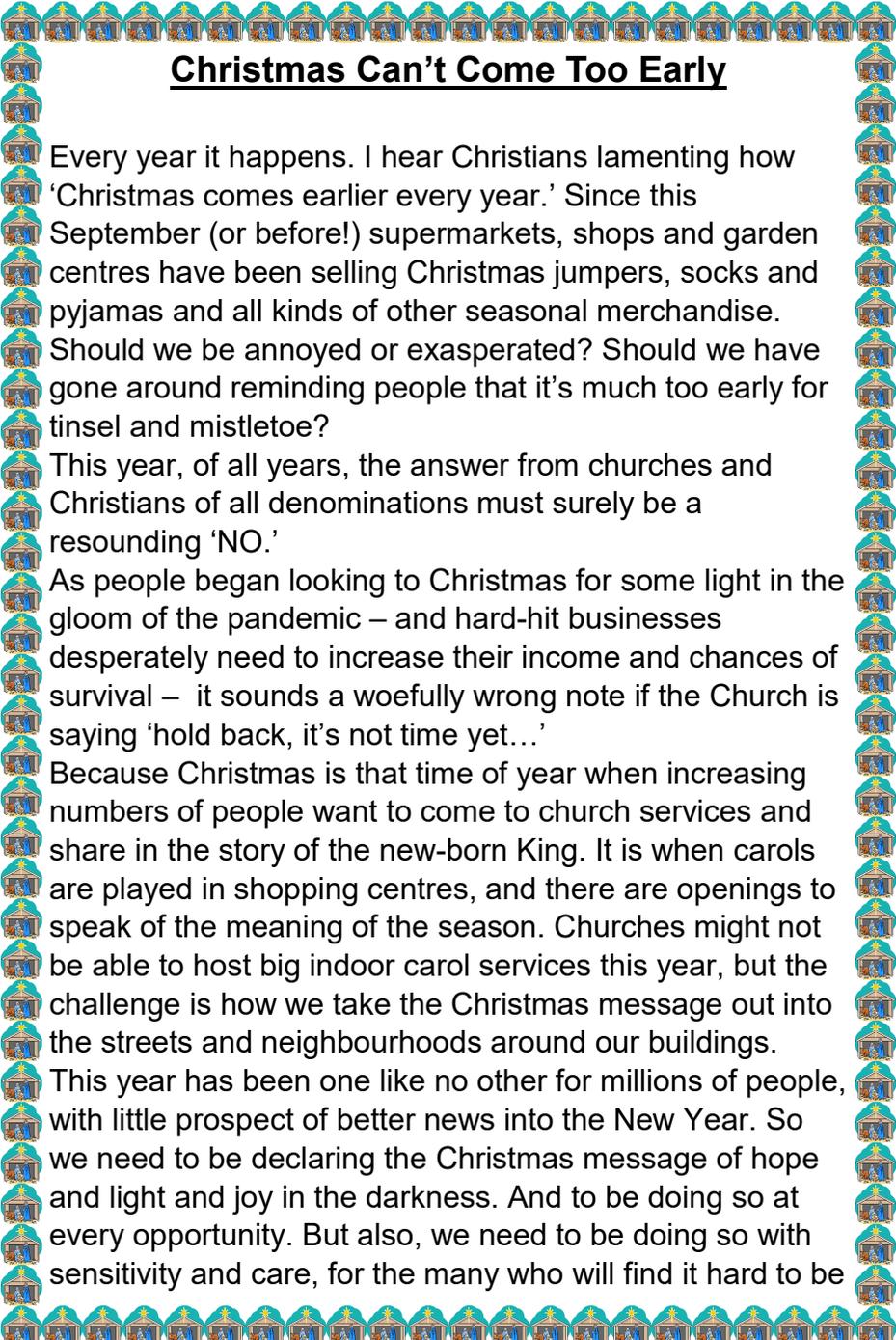
*Blessings.*

*James and Joyce.*

Please continue to pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Sibembe Church Uganda. Thank you

Llandaff Diocese have resources on Spiritual and Mental Wellbeing if you are looking for support at this difficult time:

<https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/faith-and-ministry/spiritual-wellbeing/>



## Christmas Can't Come Too Early

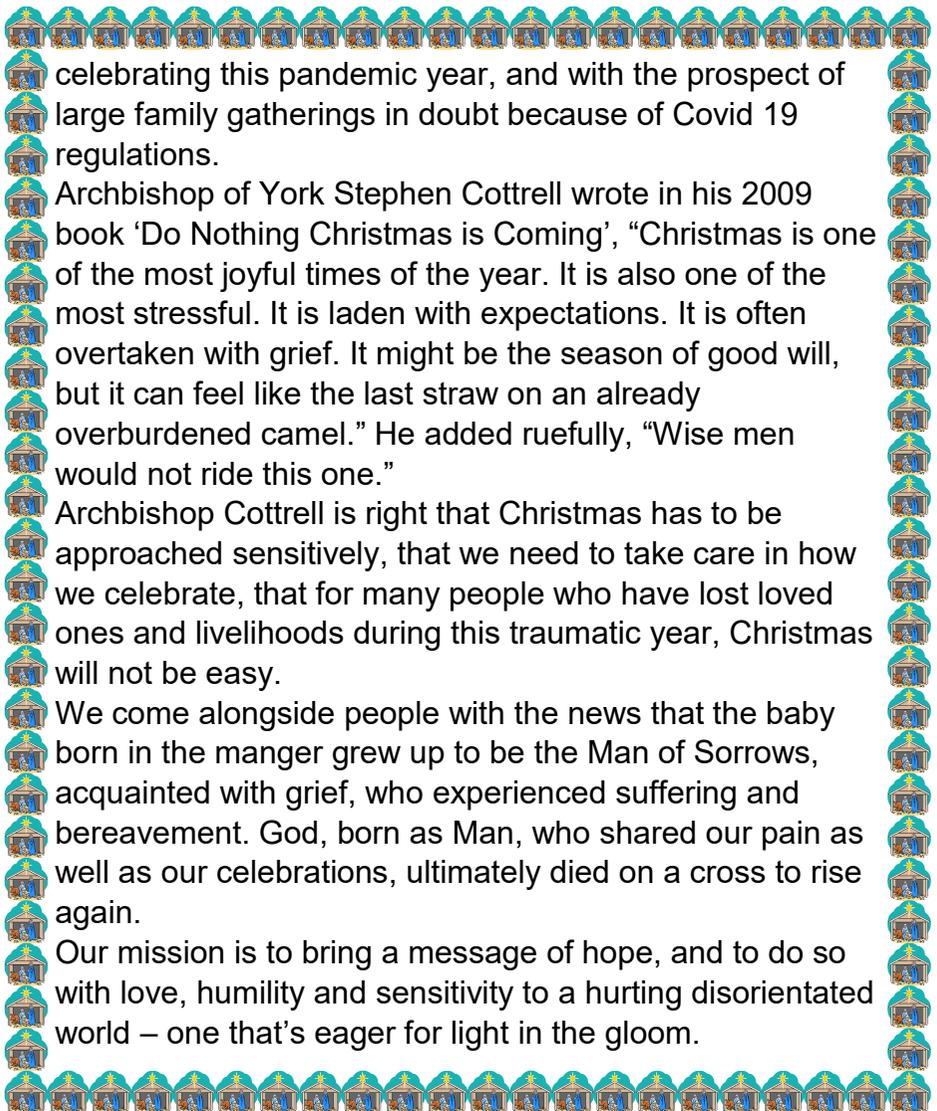
Every year it happens. I hear Christians lamenting how 'Christmas comes earlier every year.' Since this September (or before!) supermarkets, shops and garden centres have been selling Christmas jumpers, socks and pyjamas and all kinds of other seasonal merchandise. Should we be annoyed or exasperated? Should we have gone around reminding people that it's much too early for tinsel and mistletoe?

This year, of all years, the answer from churches and Christians of all denominations must surely be a resounding 'NO.'

As people began looking to Christmas for some light in the gloom of the pandemic – and hard-hit businesses desperately need to increase their income and chances of survival – it sounds a woefully wrong note if the Church is saying 'hold back, it's not time yet...'

Because Christmas is that time of year when increasing numbers of people want to come to church services and share in the story of the new-born King. It is when carols are played in shopping centres, and there are openings to speak of the meaning of the season. Churches might not be able to host big indoor carol services this year, but the challenge is how we take the Christmas message out into the streets and neighbourhoods around our buildings.

This year has been one like no other for millions of people, with little prospect of better news into the New Year. So we need to be declaring the Christmas message of hope and light and joy in the darkness. And to be doing so at every opportunity. But also, we need to be doing so with sensitivity and care, for the many who will find it hard to be



celebrating this pandemic year, and with the prospect of large family gatherings in doubt because of Covid 19 regulations.

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell wrote in his 2009 book 'Do Nothing Christmas is Coming', "Christmas is one of the most joyful times of the year. It is also one of the most stressful. It is laden with expectations. It is often overtaken with grief. It might be the season of good will, but it can feel like the last straw on an already overburdened camel." He added ruefully, "Wise men would not ride this one."

Archbishop Cottrell is right that Christmas has to be approached sensitively, that we need to take care in how we celebrate, that for many people who have lost loved ones and livelihoods during this traumatic year, Christmas will not be easy.

We come alongside people with the news that the baby born in the manger grew up to be the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, who experienced suffering and bereavement. God, born as Man, who shared our pain as well as our celebrations, ultimately died on a cross to rise again.

Our mission is to bring a message of hope, and to do so with love, humility and sensitivity to a hurting disorientated world – one that's eager for light in the gloom.

## **Magazine Deadline**

The deadline for articles for February's Magazine is

**Friday January 22nd 2021**

## **St James the Least of All (second time around)** **On the Best Ways for a Vicar to Disrupt Christmas**

*The Rectory  
St James the Least of All*

*My dear Nephew Darren  
I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.*

*Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.*

*We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.*

*But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.*

*Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on*

*the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.*

*I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.*

*And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.*

*Your loving uncle,*

***Eustace***



## **PARISH HALL BOOKINGS**

At this present time, due to Covid 19, the Hall is unavailable for bookings. We are reviewing this periodically in line with Government advice.

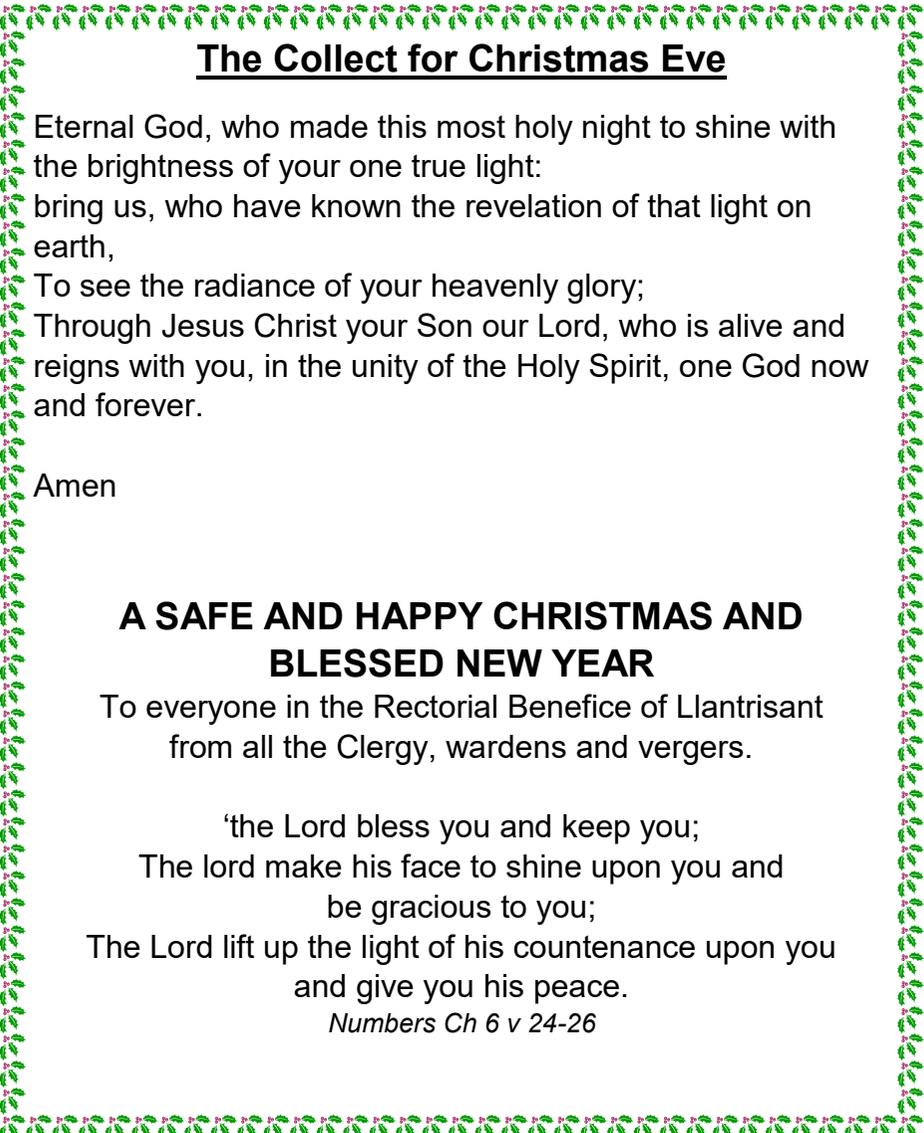
However for information for the future, at present:

The cost is £10.50 per hour plus an additional £10.50 if use of the kitchen is required.

Please could all enquiries be sent to Shirley using [hall@parishoflantrisant.org.uk](mailto:hall@parishoflantrisant.org.uk)



**MANY THANKS**



## The Collect for Christmas Eve

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,

To see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen

## **A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSED NEW YEAR**

To everyone in the Rectorial Benefice of Llantrisant  
from all the Clergy, wardens and vergers.

‘the Lord bless you and keep you;

The lord make his face to shine upon you and  
be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you  
and give you his peace.

*Numbers Ch 6 v 24-26*

DIOCESE OF LLANDAFF  
ESGOBAETH LLANDAF



# Day of Prayer Advent

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER  
10AM - 4PM

facebook.com/LlandaffDiocese



If you are interested in taking part, you will need to register on the Llandaff Diocese website—Home church resources page

Link : <https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/faith-and-ministry/home-church-resources/>

## Mistletoe

This time of year you can see all sorts of traditions played out with regard to Christmas decorations. Strict adherents use holly, ivy and of course, mistletoe. While holly and ivy are to be found in gardens and hedgerows, mistletoe usually only appears in greengrocers' shops, or high in a tree well out of reach.



Mistletoe is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients. Its favourite host trees are apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak and it normally hangs as a large globe, tantalisingly high and totally visible once winter arrives and it is the only green left on the tree. There are some spectacular examples in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the River Thames.

We all know about the almost translucent white berries, fleshy and sticky, which form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds. When birds have enjoyed the juicy flesh, they wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch [somewhat like small children wiping sticky hands on any surface close by – mummy's face or clothes?]. With luck the seed remains stuck to the bark and solves mistletoe's problem of reproduction.

In Greek mythology, mistletoe gave access to the Underworld. Romans thought it represented Peace, Love and Understanding and perhaps that is how it has sidled into our Christmas celebrations. The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the sixteenth century. Some people think a berry should be removed after each kiss. Given the small size of pieces generally available these days, perhaps that is a practice not to be pursued!



## 2021 Theme: 'Rebuilding hope and confidence.'

The 2020 theme of Building hope and confidence has been timely and pertinent, as the MU has reached out to those who are suffering in deep and unique ways because of the global pandemic. Sadly we recognise that the effects of this pandemic will continue to be felt across the world throughout 2021. Therefore, it seems appropriate that we continue to develop our theme to encompass Rebuilding hope and confidence.

As people seek to come to terms with loss of all kinds, from bereavement to loss of livelihood, relationships, wellbeing and other challenges, the MU's work of rebuilding hope and confidence will be vital.

All within the MU have confidence in the sure and steadfast hope of God, as we reach out to a hurting world and at this tough time wish to extend to you and your families a very Merry Christmas and an extremely Happy and Healthy 2021



Are you internet savvy? Do you belong to Facebook? Are you 'friends' or 'followers' of Llantrisant Parish Church?

Get all the up to date information on this page on what is happening in the Parish, especially at this present time.

News and of course all the latest photos are also being published on our page too.



# Wordsearch (answers on page 16)

## Silent Night



This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorfbei, Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

<b>Silent</b>	<b>Night</b>	<b>Loved</b>	<b>Carol</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Sung</b>	<b>Stille</b>
<b>Nacht</b>	<b>Heilige</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Eve</b>

**Father**  
**Joseph**  
**Mohr**  
**Young**  
**Priest**  
**Organist**  
**Midnight**  
**Mass**  
**Melody**  
**Single**  
**Bing**  
**Version**  
**Third**



# Sudoku

## Easy Grid

5	7			3	6
		4	9	6	
				2	1
2	5		8	9	6
4	8		2	7	9
		1	3	4	7
	2	8			
		7	3	8	
3	9			8	7

© 2013 KrauyDad.com

## Medium Grid

6	1		7		
			4	5	2
			8		3
	7	8		9	
		2		6	
	3		2	8	
4			5		
1	6	3			
			4		9
					7

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## Crossword

**Across:** 1. Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6) 4.'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6) 7. What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4) 8. Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8) 9. Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8) 13.'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3) 16. Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9) 17. National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1) 19. Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4) 24. Able dock (anag.) (8) 25. The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4) 26. Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6) 27. Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

**Down:** 1. Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4) 2. Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9) 3.'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5) 4. A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5) 5. One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4) 6. 'Reach out your hand and — —

into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2) 10. Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5) 11. 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3) 12. Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5) 13. Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9) 14. Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4) 15. One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4) 18. Narnia's Lion (5) 20. One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5) 21. Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5) 22.Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1) 23. Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

1	2		3	4	5	6	
7			8				
9		10		11	12	13	14
15							
16							
17	18		19	20	21		
		22					23
24					25		
26					27		

## Children's Area



**Mouse Makes**

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour has been born today! ...  
*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased!*"  
from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**  
Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21



A picture to colour for Christmas. Colour in one star each day as you count down to Christmas!

Dec20 © Deborah Noble • parishpump.co.uk

## Bible Bites

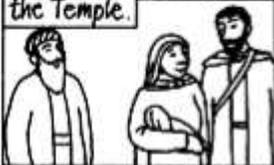
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were bad, He would send a Leader to save them. He told Simeon it would happen in his life time.

God told Simeon to go to the Temple.



He saw a couple with a baby.

Mary and Joseph had come to give their offerings for their first-born, Jesus, and for child birth.



Simeon held Jesus and praised God.



I can now die in peace because You have kept Your promise.



I have seen the one You have sent to save Your people and all the world!



Mary and Joseph were amazed! Simeon blessed them, but said..



This child will show what people are really like inside and this will mean pain for you as well.



Anna the prophet was also in the Temple.



Her family was from the north of Israel and she was very old.

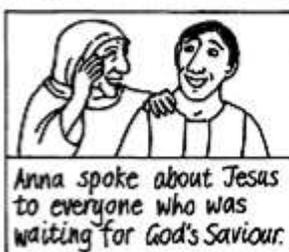
She spent every day praying in the Temple.



When she saw Jesus she praised God.



Anna spoke about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for God's Saviour.



## Answers to this Months Puzzles

### Wordsearch



### Crossword



### Sudoku Easy Grid

5	9	7	8	1	2	3	4	6
1	3	2	4	9	6	5	7	8
8	4	6	5	7	3	2	1	9
2	7	5	1	8	9	6	3	4
4	8	3	2	6	7	1	9	5
9	6	1	3	4	5	7	8	2
7	2	8	9	5	1	4	6	3
6	5	4	7	3	8	9	2	1
3	1	9	6	2	4	8	5	7

### Medium Grid

6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	1	6	4	5	7	2
7	2	4	5	8	9	1	6	3
5	7	1	8	3	6	9	2	4
8	4	2	7	9	5	6	3	1
9	6	3	4	1	2	7	8	5
4	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	6
1	9	8	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7

How did you do? More next month!

**Take care and stay safe**

**Alastair Collins**

**Painter and Decorator**

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**References available**

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