

# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Hatfield, including Duncroft, Dunsville,  
Hatfield Woodhouse and Lindholme

Of the  
Father's  
love  
begotten  
ere the  
worlds  
began to be  
of the  
things  
that are  
and have been  
and that  
future  
years shall  
see  
evermore



December 2025 50p

Church Officers	Local Information
<p><b>Vicar</b>     The Rev'd Chris Bishop Tel: 07946 118 230 Email: <a href="mailto:father.chris@outlook.com">father.chris@outlook.com</a></p> <p><i>The church is not a postal address but the postcode for SatNavs is DN7 6HN, what three words is caressed.ports.heartless</i></p> <p><b>Associate Priests</b>   The Rev'd Gill Salter <b>Curate</b>                 The Rev'd Chris Wroot <b>Priest with PTO</b>       The Rev'd Joyce Barker <b>Readers with PTO</b>    Beryl Adamson                                  Viv Stubbs</p> <p><b>Organist</b> Vernon Hoyle   tel: 07486 895608 <a href="mailto:vernonhoylemusic@yahoo.com">vernonhoylemusic@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Youth, Children's and Families Worker</b> Rachel Ridler   tel: 07851 991286 <a href="mailto:rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk">rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Parish Office</b>     tel: 01302 350591 email: <a href="mailto:hello@hatfieldstlawrencechurch.com">hello@hatfieldstlawrencechurch.com</a></p> <p><b>Church Wardens</b>    Terry Raper                                  tel: 07980 378475                                  Chrissy Grindle                                  tel: 07842 513695,                                  please text initially</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary</b>         Shaun Holt                                  email: <a href="mailto:shaunholt@gmail.com">shaunholt@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>   Glenys Mashford                                  tel. 01302 841852</p> <p><b>PCC Treasurer and Giving Director</b>                                  Julie <a href="mailto:treasurerhatfieldstlawrence@outlook.com">treasurerhatfieldstlawrence@outlook.com</a></p> <p><b>Chair and contact for all Social &amp; Fundraising events</b>   Sennette Wroot                                  email: <a href="mailto:sennette67@gmail.com">sennette67@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Housekeeper</b>         Freda Thubron                                  email: <a href="mailto:freda2mick@yahoo.co.uk">freda2mick@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Barn bookings</b>         Anne Render                                  tel: 07977 142001</p> <p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b>   Viv Stubbs                                  tel. 01302 846318</p>	<p><b>Childline</b>             tel. 0800 1111</p> <p><b>South Yorkshire Police</b>                                  Emergency 999 or 112                                  Non-emergency 101</p> <p><b>Hatfield Health Centre</b>                                  tel. 01302 897600</p> <p><b>Out of Hours Doctor</b>                                  tel.01302 761172</p> <p><b>Homestart</b>                                  tel. 01302 340856</p> <p><b>Family Lives</b>                                  tel: 08088 002222</p> <p><b>Bus help line</b>                                  tel: 01709 515151</p> <p><b>Travis St Lawrence C of E Primary School</b>                                  Lower School tel. 01302 840200                                  Upper School   tel. 842164</p> <p><b>Roman Catholic Priest</b>                                  Roman Catholic Priest:                                  Fr Joseph Okeke                                  tel: 01405 812248                                  Parish Mobile Phone:                                  07714 793120</p> <p><b>Methodist Minister</b>                                  Mrs Liz Worsley                                  Email: <a href="mailto:elizabethworsley17@gmail.com">elizabethworsley17@gmail.com</a>                                  tel:01302 210286, 077771 92212</p> <p><b>Weldricks Pharmacy Ash Hill Road</b>                                  tel : 01302 842799</p> <p><b>Funeral Directors</b> <b>Charles Carpenter Funeral Services</b>                                  tel. 01302 841679</p> <p><b>B A Wright &amp; Sons</b>                                  tel. 01302 841296                                  tel. 01302 880450</p> <p><b>Wade's Funeral Service</b>                                  tel. 01405 812966</p> <p><b>Magazine Editor</b>     Chrissy Grindle                                  <a href="mailto:maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com">maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com</a></p>



Friday November 28th  
Christmas Fayre with tower lights switch on, 5-8 p.m.



AND Christmas Fayre on Saturday 29th too  
10-2, and Father Christmas is coming!  
*Other dates on pages 14-5*

**Christmas Gift Wrapping**  
**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 9am-12noon**

Hatfield Heroes Youth Group will be providing a present wrapping station at Lawrence's Place Community Café.  
Bring your gifts and save yourself the wrapping!  
Donations to their trip fund welcome.



# Waiting, Wonder, and Worship

Advent is a season of joyful expectation or waiting with hope! As followers of Jesus we live between two horizons: the first coming of Christ in humility, and the second coming of Christ in glory. That is the tension we hold each December: we celebrate the child in the manger, while longing for the King who will return, *robed in dreadful majesty!* (As the advent hymn 'Lo he comes') puts it.

Scripture reminds us of this double horizon. *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9.2). That light shone in Bethlehem, and it will shine again when Christ returns. *"The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people"* (Titus 2.11), but Paul goes on to say we are *"waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2.13). Advent is about living in that waiting room, not idle, but active in faith, prayer, and mission.

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity, hope of pardon, hope of peace with God & hope of glory. This is because at the Father's will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later he might hang on a cross. One of my absolute heroes of the faith, the Anglican



Clergyman The Rev'd John Stott put it even more starkly:

“The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man.”

Christmas is not just about shepherds and angels, but about the astonishing truth that God came down, took our place, and opened the way back to Himself.

Our liturgy helps us live this truth. The Church of England gives us rich seasonal prayers: collects that speak of Christ's coming in glory, readings that stretch our vision beyond the manger to the throne. The **Advent wreath** is a teaching tool for us all: each candle marking hope, peace, joy, and love, with the central white candle proclaiming Christ as the light of the world!

The **Blessing of the Crib** during Midnight Mass (at the earlier time of **8pm** – in the hope that more people will feel able to attend) reminds us that this is not just a charming tableau, but a sign of God's astonishing grace, Emmanuel, God with us!

Here in Hatfield, Advent and Christmas are not only about services and carols, but about how we live as a community. We know the pressures of modern life, the tensions of change, and the weariness many feel. Advent invites us to slow down, to pray, and to remember that Christ is our hope.

Lighting the wreath in church reminds us that light grows week by week and perhaps we can be that growing light in our village, through kindness, hospitality, and witness. The crib reminds us that God came close and so we too are called to draw close to neighbours, especially those who are lonely or grieving at Christmas.

So this December, may we wait with expectation, wonder at the incarnation, and worship the Saviour who came once in humility and will come again in glory. And may our parish life here in Hatfield St Lawrence reflect that gospel. A living and growing community renewed in faith, released in ministry, and rejuvenated in mission.

Every blessing this Advent and Christmas,

*Fr Chris – Vicar of Hatfield*

# Arrangements for Baptism (Christening) and Weddings

St Lawrence would love to celebrate your special day with you and your family. The first step in arranging a Baptism or a Wedding is to attend one of our services. Please introduce yourself to Chris our Vicar, who will speak with you about the next steps.

These are joyful and life changing events! Both require making serious promises before God and some preparation will take place before a date can be set.

Another option for Parents is a 'Thanksgiving Service' rather than a Baptism. This is a great way to celebrate the gift of a child with family and friends for those who aren't quite sure about God, but would still like to thank Him for the gift of a new life! Thanksgiving Services can be booked directly with Chris our Vicar and don't require any preparation.

## Funerals

James Thomas Dewsnap

Anthony Frank Hickson

Patricia Wheatley



Chris our Parish Priest is very happy to be contacted directly by email or phone to arrange a convenient time for any of the following;

- A conversation for spiritual guidance and advice
- The Sacrament of Confession
- House Blessings
- Visiting parishioners, especially the sick
- Ministry at the time of death (day or night)





### Christmas Eve Services at St Lawrence

**This year our main service on Christmas Eve will be celebrated at 8.00pm by our Vicar, Fr Chris.**

It will take the form of a **traditional Midnight Mass** — complete with all the trimmings: candlelight, incense, carols, and glorious live organ music from our wonderful Director of Music, Mr Vernon Hoyle.

You may wonder why 8.00pm rather than midnight? The earlier time makes it easier for those who don't drive late at night, and anyone who wants to join in the beauty of the liturgy without the challenge of a very late finish. We hope this will allow more people to share in the joy of Christmas worship together. For those who cherish the "midnight" tradition, there will also be a **Said Communion at 11.30pm**, kindly celebrated by the Revd **Gill Salter**. This quieter service offers a reflective way to welcome Christmas for the night owls among us.

So whether you come at 8.00pm for the full festive celebration, or at 11.30pm for the stillness of midnight, we look forward to welcoming you as we rejoice together in the birth of Christ.

Children's Nativity Services also take place as usual at 3pm & 5pm on Christmas Eve!

*Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*



## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



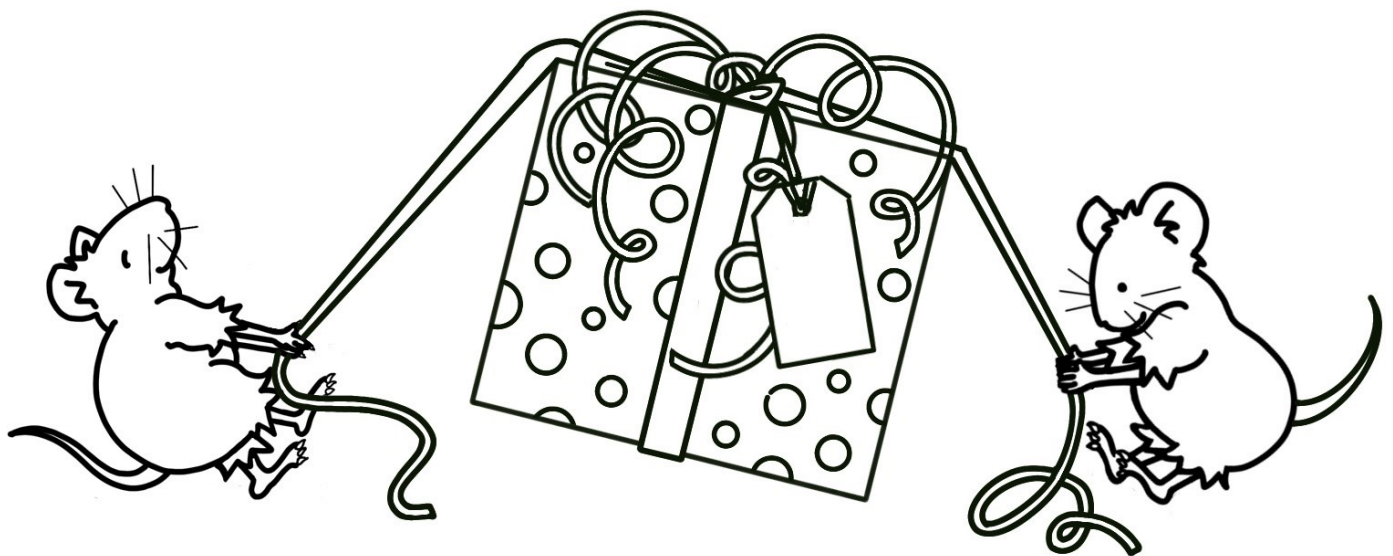
Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive 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



These are not, of course, St Lawrence mice, but just as good to colour in!

# Christmas started far more than 2,000 years ago!

Yes indeed! The Old Testament contains many prophecies about a coming Messiah which were fulfilled by Jesus. Here are just some examples:

## **He would be born of a virgin.**

Isaiah foresaw: 'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

## **He would be born in Bethlehem.**

Micah wrote: 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.' (Micah 5:2)

## **His lineage would be of the line of David.**

Jeremiah prophesied: 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

## **He would bring healing**

Isaiah looks forward to: 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6) And the Psalms add that He will be the one who 'forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.' (Psalm 103:3)

## **He would be betrayed**

The Psalms prophesy: 'Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.' (Psalm 41:9)

Zechariah even prophesies the price of that betrayal: 'So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.' (Zechariah 11:12)

## **He would be crucified**

Psalm 22 foresees the horror of His crucifixion: 'My God, my God, why



have you forsaken me?... All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death...Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

And Isaiah explains this suffering: 'Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.' (Isaiah 53: 4-5)

### **He would rise from the dead**

Malachi declares: 'But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.'

And the Psalms put it this way: 'Therefore my heart is glad ... because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. ...You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.' (Psalm 16: 8-11)

### **Finally, in Acts, Peter uses the Old Testament to explain Jesus to the crowd at Pentecost:**

"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

"Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that He was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did His body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.... Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." (Acts 2: 29 – 36)



## **An Advent Quiet Afternoon at St Lawrence Church, Hatfield on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm, finishing at 4pm with Holy Communion from The Book of Common Prayer.**

As Christmas draws near, life often seems to speed up, lists to complete, preparations to make, and little time to pause. Yet Advent is a season that calls us to do the very opposite: to wait. Not with frustration or impatience, but with **hopeful expectation**, trusting in God's promises even when they are unseen.

Our Advent Quiet Afternoon, on the theme “**Waiting in Hope,**” offers a gentle space to step aside from the busyness of daily life and enter into stillness. It's an opportunity to rest in God's presence, to listen for His voice, and to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ afresh this Christmas.

There will be moments of silence, short reflections, and a number of simple prayer stations to explore at your own pace. Each station invites you to pause, pray, and reflect on what it means to wait with faith and hope.

As you arrive, you'll be given a small **prayer journal** to use throughout the afternoon, somewhere to write or draw your own prayers and thoughts as you journey through the space.



## Christingle Quiz



OK, you've been to a Christingle service before. In fact you've been several times, and loved it each time! That makes you a nearly expert. So these questions are easy for you...

What does the orange represent?      What does the ribbon represent?

Why does the ribbon go all the way round?      Why are there four sticks?

What are the fruits/sweets for?

What does the lighted candle represent?

Please come and receive a new Christingle on Saturday 9th December at 16:00, and realise all these meanings which you got right, and those you got wrong, are meant for YOU. Even better, bring a friend of any age, all the meanings are for them too!

**Grammar Grandma: Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses!**



## DIARY DATES

..last ones for 2025 !

Each MONDAY coffee afternoon 13;30 -15:00 Hatfield Woodhouse Methodist

Each WEDNESDAY coffee after church at St Lawrence, Holy Communion at 10, chat, coffee, light a candle, sit quietly, 11-12:00

Each WEDNESDAY coffee morning 10-11:30 at Stainforth Methodist

Each THURSDAY coffee morning 10-11:30 at Dunsville Methodist, Greens Road.

Each THURSDAY chair exercise group 13:30-14:30 at Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall

Each SATURDAY 10-12 coffee morning Hatfield Woodhouse Methodist church

2nd Tuesday Garden Club, 19:30 Working Men's Club at Hatfield Woodhouse (every first Tuesday)

4th Thursday Stainforth History Group 19:00 Stainforth Methodist Church (every first Thursday) this December they have the great pleasure of Stephen Gay coming to surprise and delight you with beautiful photos of trains all over Yorkshire. REALLY worth going!



6th Saturday Lawrence's Place community café 9-12

**6th Saturday, Advent Retreat from 1 pm with a BCP Holy Communion Service at 4. Prayer stations, reflection and a quiet space**

12th Friday 7:30 pm Markham Main Brass Band, tickets in church

**13th Saturday 4 pm, Family Christingle, with a Hot Chocolate**

## **Station!**

13th every second Saturday coffee afternoon 14:00-15:30 Dunsville  
Methodist Church Greens Road

**21st Sunday Traditional Carol Service at 6:30 pm, Mince pies  
and mulled wine!**

**24th Wednesday Christmas Eve**

**3 pm toddler nativity**

**5 pm children's nativity**

**8 pm Early Midnight Christmas Mass**

**11:30 pm Late Night Communion**

**25th Christmas Day!**

**10:00 am Christmas Day Communion**

JANUARY 2026!

3rd Saturday Lawrence's Place community café 9-12



*The Editor apologises for  
late notification but the  
wonderful Harmonix  
choir visit raised  
£226.50 for the church,  
and £226.50 for the  
Parkinson's Support  
Group!*



# November 100 Club

First prize Sandra Brooke

Second prize Joy Mawker

Third prize Terry Gibbs

Congratulations all of you, just in time to buy some extra tinsel or a very little tipple for Santa. I could not believe my ears the other day -and I was wearing my hearing aids- when I heard on the radio that some Christmas shops had sold out of Christmas trees the previous weekend, it was only November. I saw my first decorated Christmas tree this year when I was walking back from the cenotaph last Sunday and thought "no, too early ". I appreciate most of you will not have the ten day rule to guide you i.e. our Vera needs to have her birthday cards up for ten days like the rest of you, therefore no Christmas decorations until almost Christmas, how I envied my brother and sister their April birthdays although they moaned "we only get Easter eggs ". Katy Smith was a Christmas day baby, I bet Glynis and Derek do not follow the 10 day rule, have a wonderful day Katy x.

Going back to Remembrance Sunday it was wonderful to see the Church and cemetery so full and to witness again people honouring the dead who gave up their lives for our future, but I do wonder what they would think of us ? The way we live so thoughtlessly abusing our planet and the amount of warfare there is in the world, shall we all try harder to be the people they died for?

On a lighter note, was I the only mad person out in the garden yesterday frantically filling my green bin before the last collection today? I met one of our new neighbours when I was carting my excess greenery to Maureen's green bin, I felt she deserved an explanation for what appeared to be a strange hobby, filling someone else's bin, Maureen and Anne let me fill their extra space because despite having compost heaps I still have loads of green bin stuff. It was a very good conversation starter and a good example of what a lovely street we live on.

Rhys and I would like to thank the people who supported our fund raising for Parkinsons, we raised £231.30p, it has surprised me how many people are affected by this disease and also how varied the symptoms are. I am enjoying the dancing group we now go to Wednesday mornings definitely more than Rhys does but it is important to keep active, and wouldn't you think he would be glad to talk to some one other than me! Even I bore myself sometimes because as we all know I am like Shirley Valentine I will talk to the wall if there is no one else to chat to.

I hope you are all looking forward to the Christmas Fayre and tower lights switch on, the new team are busy getting ready for the big day, it does not happen by magic so please give them your support, and then come and listen to Markham Main Brass Band on December 12th at 7.30pm, their music was so entertaining at the garden party we just had to have them back, wear your Christmas jumper, dance in the aisles and have fun. Bring a hip flask and hot water bottle until you get warmed up, Santa is watching you .

I am sure you all know the reason for the season so give yourself a break and come and say hello in "his house" there will be something for every tradition to feel blessed by.

Vera x



Goodness me, is it time for  
Christingle organising,  
tower lights putting up,  
carol service planning ,  
midnight service  
explanation, and how to  
meet the heating bills  
already?



## **The Friends of Hatfield Church Building Trust**



We had an email from Recycling for Good Causes saying they were now collecting old cameras so if you have any that you were thinking of disposing of, please send them our way for recycling - film, digital, video, cinema, hi-8, super-8, etc, working or broken. Please put them in the large, white recycling box behind the door in the Church porch and we'll collect from there, thanks in advance.

We were very pleased with jewellery sales from our stall at the Friends of Quarry Park Community Coffee Morning in the Library on 25th October, making £54.50 profit and it was a lovely, busy event. Thanks to them for the invitation.

We will be selling our pre-loved and new jewellery again in Hatfield Library at their Christmas Fair on Friday 28th November in the evening from 4pm and again over in St Lawrence Church on Saturday 29th November 10am to 2pm at their Christmas Fayre.

We wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas and a wonderful new year 2026! And hope our members enjoy reading our latest Newsletter.

Information – You can become a 'Friend' for a minimum donation of £5 per year. These subscriptions are the backbone of our fundraising efforts with all funds raised going only to maintain, conserve and restore our wonderful Grade 1 Listed building and grounds. Anyone can join us. For more information and to pay Membership renewal fees please contact Jean Singleton, Eastby, Cuckoo Lane, Hatfield, Doncaster, DN7 6QE. Tel 01302 842363.

Tina O'Hallloran





Thank you so much to Wendy Larner, second from the right between Viv and Janet, for helping us make beautiful wreaths for our doors and to put on the graves of our loved ones.  
As always it was a happy and chatty time,  
and we all felt as though we were very creative!

## Rev. John W. Sweed

Noreen, Jules and Tim would like to thank all those from Hatfield Church who came to John's funeral service or sent cards, letters and messages of condolence.

These have all been a great comfort to the whole family.

As your vicar for 21 years I can testify that he loved and cared for you all.

So thank you for helping us celebrate his life.

Noreen



# Diary of a Youth, Children's and Families Worker

November has been a month of stepping out in faith, as we saw the launch of the Youth Alpha Course at Ash Hill Academy. Whilst it has been smaller than hoped (we have a consistent group of 4 coming along), this is more down to admin difficulties and that form tutors haven't reminded people to sign up or come along. The RE Lead is more than happy for me to run it again in the future, so all the donations given will be used don't worry! Please pray that God continues to move in the school and that our presence there is a positive one. Pray also for the four young people attending who are really engaged in the course, chatting through the questions about faith and life together and enjoying lemonade flavoured popcorn and other less disgusting snacks!

As an Open the Book Team, this month we have faced many challenges. From illness, to holidays, to props falling apart and whole classes standing up and exiting the hall in the middle of our performance, the whole team has really embodied the phrase "THE SHOW MUST GO ON!!!". I am so proud of every single one of the team. They have come with amazing ideas, made props and costumes, jumped into parts last minute as needed, and just brought the joy of these Bible stories alive to the children of our Parish. I am excited that we will be performing at our Christingle service in December, so you can see what it's all about. We are building a lovely community too, where we pray for and

support one another, and would be happy to welcome any others who want to join us. We visit schools and rehearse on Tuesdays during term time, so do get in touch to find out more.

Another highlight of the past month





has been taking 6 of our young people to the Diocese Young Leaders Community Gathering at Sheffield Cathedral. These young people have stepped up to lead bible study groups at our Youth Group, lead prayers and liturgy in our café church services, and to run tech and be part of the worship band in that service too. They help out at one off events and are growing in their leadership giftings, so it was lovely to spend time with them and invest in them.



December, as always, is a busy month for me. There are extra services and school visits, as well as keeping the regular groups and activities going. Please do buy me a bar of chocolate or pop along to be an extra pair of hands when you can! I can't wait to celebrate Christmas 2025 with the growing number of children and families here at Hatfield. God Bless you all. and families here at Hatfield. God Bless you all.

Rachel

**Rachel Ridler**

**Youth, Children's and Families Worker at St Lawrence Church, Hatfield | [The Diocese of Sheffield](#)**

**Tel** 07851 991286     [rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk](mailto:rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk)



Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: When you are singing 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night' this Christmas, consider the aeronautical and musical display which the angels put on! Even if you're an angel, you don't learn those skills overnight!

## Flying Lessons

The angels that the shepherds saw -  
Whose singing led them to adore  
The new-born Jesus in a stall -  
At one time could not fly at all!

To hover, singing, o'er a hill  
While playing harps – well, that takes skill!  
And blowing trumpets as you fly  
Without falling from the sky?

So novice angels all must go  
And learn the facts that they must know –  
Aerodynamics, and such things  
Before they even get their wings!

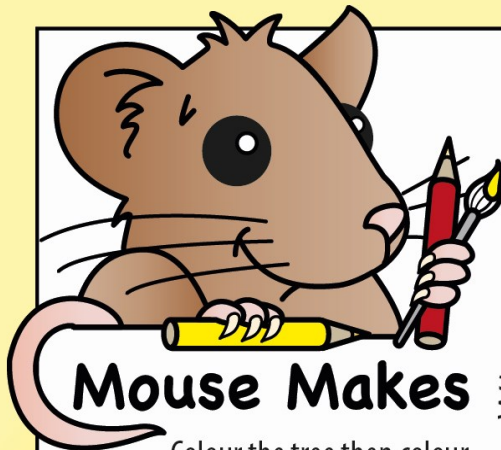
Then they practice flying well  
For crashing just might break the spell  
The shepherds won't be 'sore afraid'  
If laughter drowns the carols played!

It's sad, but some are never meant  
For soaring through the firmament.  
But they can spend eternal days  
Writing hymns of angel-praise!

But some soon grasp the things they're taught  
Becoming singing aeronauts!  
Formation flying? Piece of cake!  
And what an awesome sight they make!

And, like the angels in the sky  
God teaches us both how and why  
That we should learn, this Christmastime  
To praise His name in song and rhyme!

(P.S. You have to be an angel to fly. **Don't try this at home!**) By Nigel Beeton



Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?



**A STAR**  
shows the way  
to Jesus  
Read  
Matthew 2:1-12

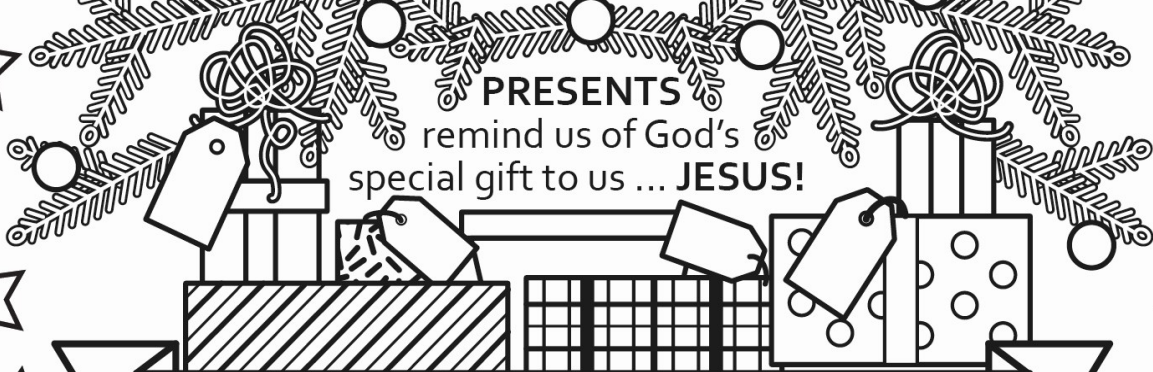


**ANGELS**  
bring messages from God  
Read about  
Gabriel's message in  
Luke 1:26-38

Read the  
shepherd's story in  
Luke 1:26-38



**LIGHTS  
AND CANDLES**  
remind us that Jesus  
lights our way to God  
Read Luke 2:29-32



**PRESENTS**  
remind us of God's  
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

Presents at Christmas  
under the tree,  
A red Christmas stocking  
waiting for me,  
But what really is Christmas,  
What is it about?  
Just look and the Bible  
and you will find out!  
It's about **JESUS**  
- the best present of all,  
**JESUS** our **Saviour**,  
God's gift to us all!

## Irish Christmas Blessing

The light of the Christmas star to you,  
The warmth of home and hearth to you,  
The cheer and good will of friends to you,  
The hope of a childlike heart to you,  
The joy of a thousand angels to you,  
The love of the Son and God's peace  
go with you.

*~ Author Unknown*

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# The Adventures of Mary & Joseph - The Road Movie

The best short film telling the story of Christmas that I have ever seen, now on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDA255C9F898135C7> but made by the Bible Reading Fellowship in 2012.

Or enter Youtube paperlesschristmas-the road movie

Watch it with two year olds, or 102 year olds. Watch it to make yourself laugh. Watch it to make yourself cry. Watch it to remind yourself of the truly wonderful story. You'll know the backing track mix...

I have just watched it again, there are 9 x 1-minute episodes, and while I don't guarantee that episode 9 will bring tears to your eyes I don't mind admitting that it did to mine. Again. The sheep are lovely Swaledales, but I had to look up to check that in Israel they drive on the right..... go on, watch it, you're intrigued now aren't you....



## WEATHER WARNING

**SOUTHERNERS ARE URGED  
NOT TO TRAVEL UNLESS  
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**

**NORTHERNERS YOU WILL  
NEED YOUR BIG COAT.**

*We apologise that the heating in church hasn't been working, and are grateful to Bill from Harry Taylor of Ashton for coming promptly to service and check it. It is old and hugely expensive to run, but it will be working for services as soon as possible!*





One off cleans

Weekly, Fortnight  
monthly

## Sarah's Cleaning Service

07563808300

Sarahbridge82@gmail.com

### ***Joining in on Facebook!***

You can join Rev'd Gill or Rev'd Chris Wroot on Friday mornings at 8:30 for a short Morning Prayer— 10 minutes  
Go to the St Lawrence Hatfield page and try it out!



*Please ensure that copy for the magazine is with the editor by the 15th of each month, preferably in writing. This means that the magazine can be put together, printed and collated and in church by the last Sunday in each month, and to be delivered by the time of the first activities in the month.*

*Copy to*  
Chrissy Grindle, letter in church or to  
60 Station Road, or email:  
maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com

*Thank you.*

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# Regular worship times

Each Monday to Thursday Morning Prayer at 9:15 in church

Each Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion followed by Open Church from  
11.00 – 12.00 join us for coffee, chat, light a candle, quiet prayer.....

Each Thursday 15:00 Holy Communion Service Book of Common  
Prayer (BCP)

*All these services happen every month, for additional services this  
month please see pages 7, 14 and 15.*

## **Sunday 7th December Advent 2**

10:00 Choral Communion

16:00 Café Church

## **Sunday 14th December Advent 3**

10:00 Choral Communion

## **Sunday 21st December Advent 4**

10:00 Choral Communion

16:00 Café Church

18:30 Healing and Wholeness

## **Sunday 28th December Christmas 1**

8:30 Holy Communion BCP and Breakfast, come early for the 8:30  
service and stay to breakfast, or come early to have breakfast,  
THEN to the 10:00 service!



10:00 Choral Communion



This is the QR (quick response)  
code for St Lawrence Church,  
There is also a card reader in church for  
easy payments towards the mission and  
ministry of our beautiful church, and  
there is a facility for gift-aiding there too.