

The United Benefice of the parishes of Melbourne,
Smisby, Stanton by Bridge and Ticknall



The Christmas Bulletin

A weekly publication for the Parish of Melbourne



The Fourth Sunday of Advent - 24th December 2017

10.30am **Parish Eucharist**

Readings: pages 8/9

Settings: *Willan Kyrie/Harris*

Gradual: *Magnificat plainchant* (page 9)

Hymns: 6, 11 v.5 men, v.6 women/children [181] 9

Anthems: *There is no rose John Joubert*

Creator of the stars of night Malcolm Archer

Organ Voluntary: *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Brahms*

4pm **Christingle Service** (Please see Order of Service)

11.30pm **Midnight Mass** (Please see Order of Service)

Christmas Day

8am **Holy Communion**

10.30am **All Age Eucharist** (Please see Order of Service)

Welcome and Happy Christmas!

Welcome to all worshipping here today with a special welcome to those who are visitors or newcomers.

CONTACT US:

Revd Steve Short: (Rector) 864741 (day off Monday)

Joanna Hocknell: (Churchwarden) 865492

Cliff Warner: (Churchwarden) 01283 701542

Parish Office: Kate Landenberger 862153

or email: melbourneparishchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.melbourneparishchurch.co.uk

Across the Benefice Today

Melbourne: 10.30am – Revd Michael Rogers
4pm – Revd Steve Short (Christingle)
11.30pm – Revd Steve Short/Fr Neil Roberts

Smisby: 6pm – Canon David Edwards (Carols)

Stanton: 11am – Revd Steve Short

Ticknall: 11pm – Revd Margaret Jacques



Christmas Day

Melbourne: 8am – Revd Steve Short
10.30am – Revd Steve Short

Smisby: 9am – Canon David Edwards

Taking responsibility for Church life today:

10.30am Parish Eucharist

Sidespersons: Carolyn Tasker, Annabel Needham

Crucifer: Kit Emery

Server: Kate Landenberger

Reader: Mary Bolton

Coffee: No Coffee today

4pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sidespersons: Linda Latchford, Janet Warner

Crucifer: Graham Truscott

Server: Paul Fletcher-Read

Reader: Roger Kington

Intercessor: Joanna Hocknell

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion

Sidespersons: Karen Grewcock, Ann Rafferty

Server: David Dore

10.30am All-Age Eucharist

Sidespersons: Sheena Wilkins, Gordon Hughes

Crucifer: John Tivey

Server: Jo Glaze

Reader: Simon Collins

Intercessor: Margaret Brackenbury

illuminating the Tower: To make your booking, please call the church office-862153. Donations to sponsor the lights for an evening should be placed in a clearly marked envelope and put in the Sunday collection or put through the Rectory letterbox.

A Christmas message from the Rector:

There is an old story associated with a long-serving parish priest whereby 'the congregation joined in with the words of the vicar's often-used Christmas sermon'.

From a certain point of view, this wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing because it would mean that everyone hearing would know what the priest was trying to say about Christmas. It might also mean that the priest concerned might need to spend a little more time in sermon prep...

Each year as Christmas approaches, I try to spend at least some time in Advent reflecting on the story that we know so well, looking for a fresh angle or two. Often, I try to see the Christmas narrative through the eyes of one of the main characters - what was it like for them? What did they see and hear? What did they feel? How did they respond?

The joy of the Christmas story is that we are *all* involved in it as God calls each of us to play our part and to gaze afresh on the mystery of the Word made flesh, 'pitching his tent' among us.

This is my first Christmas with you all in the benefice and it has been a joy. Here's to the future and being made ever more familiar, not just with the words of sermons, but with the words of grace, love and salvation that God, in Jesus Christ, longs us to hear each and every day of our lives.

Happy Christmas!

Yours in Christ's service and love, *Steve*

Thank yous:

Thank you so much to everyone who has worked incredibly hard to make our celebration of Christmas so memorable. We know well that this is already a very busy time of year so we are doubly grateful to everyone, often working out of sight and behind the scenes, who enables us to throw open our doors to our town and offer to God the best worship we can give.

Thank you and Happy Christmas!

The Rector and Church Wardens

Choir Raffle Results:

The First prize of a Chocolate Hamper was won by Ros Bell, the Second prize of a box of chocolates was won by Sheena Wilkins. Thanks to all who took part.

Romey Cunnington

The Great Mince Pie give-away: Many, many thanks to all those who supplied mince pies for this Churches Together Event. More help on the day would have been welcome, but a good time was had by all, and folks out and about, or working in the centre of Melbourne, were well fed on mince pies and very appreciative. Most were amazed that they didn't have to pay for them, one wanted to know how to contact the church in Breedon on the Hill (about a wedding I think) and Revd Margaret got the opportunity to wear a Santa hat with her dog collar and go in a pub before lunchtime! So thanks again to all who took part in one way or another.

Revd. Margaret & Sheena

Mothers' Union AGM:

May I take this opportunity to wish all Mothers' Union members a happy Christmas. Our usual January AGM and festive nibbles will be held on Tuesday January 9th at 2pm. (We felt that the previous Tuesday was too close to the New Year.) We have also agreed to push back the February meeting to 13th February, Shrove Tuesday, as so many of our members are heading away with the Bell Ringers for a week on Lundy Island.

Ros Bell

Easy fundraising:

Don't forget when purchasing items on line, Melbourne Parish Church can often receive a donation, if you do it through Easy Fundraising - and it doesn't cost you a penny more!

(1) If you are already registered previously and have already selected Melbourne Parish Church as your charity then:-

- Go to the easy Fundraising web page
- Search for the shop you want to purchase goods from

- Select the shop and you will be transferred to the Shop's web page.
- Shop as normal
- Check out and our Church will receive a donation.

(2) If you are new to all of this and have not previously registered.

- Go to the Easy fundraising web page
- Select find a Cause to support
- Search for Melbourne Parish Church and select
- Select Join us
- Fill in your details and a password
- Select Create my account
- and hopefully if all has been done correctly you will be told to get started.
- Then search for shop and proceed as per (1)

Revd Margaret Jacques

Our Diocese:

Revd Canon Tony Kaunhoven writes:

‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory’

I was struck by one of the reasons an online blogger gave for people staying away from the Church, “People don’t need to be dazzled with big churchy words, eschatological frameworks and theological systems.” He went on to call for down to earth talking about love, joy, forgiveness, death and peace, not forgetting God, and by doing so, “they’ll be all ears”.

Christians certainly have a gospel to proclaim that has all of these things and more, but in the sharing and proclaiming we need to bear witness to, and leave room for, some awe and wonder, as well as mystery in order for people to be able to think, reflect and want to learn and discover more about the nature and purpose of God.

I think as Christians within the Diocese we connect with the message that the Church needs to adapt, become more mission focused, change the way we do things and to be open to God’s Spirit forming and shaping vision and helping us to remember that it is not about believing God is in charge, but then planning and behaving as if we are. However, what many feel is the need to engage and grow more confidence in their understanding of what it means to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus and to speak personally to others about what it means to be beloved by God, filled with the joy of knowing a God who entered our world as a child, died and rose from the grave in order for people to know the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

Put like that, they aren’t big churchy words, but if they are to mean anything to other people they need to be spoken within a personal story of finding faith, knowing and loving God, feeling that through being found by Jesus and strengthened by the energy, love, joy and peace of God’s Spirit we can find a

way through times of sadness, despair and uncertainty as well as to live lives that try to mirror the image and command of God to love and serve. Talking like this is one way other people's ears may begin to turn towards the gospel of hope, but amidst the ideas and resources to underpin Diocesan, Deanery and Parish change and initiative is the need for Christians to explore what they believe, what it means and how it transforms personal lives in ways that isn't dramatic or sudden for most of us, but healing, renewing, fulfilling, challenging and life changing all the same. Amidst the glitter, yearning for a traditional Christmas, the stress, overspending, worries about who to spend Christmas with etc etc is the reason for the season- Godbeing-with-us in all our states and situations, bitterness and division, love and rejection. He comes to share our lives, to shine light into darkness, bring hope into despair, and life into death. Incarnation- the awe and wonder. Mystery- why would God do that for me?

A peaceful and blessed Christmas to you and all humanity.

Revd Canon Tony Kaunhoven (taken from the Diocese of Derby website)

Future Choir trips.....

Thanks to all those of you who supported our trips in 2017. The choir values greatly the company and support of the congregation and other friends on these occasions. Future dates are listed below.

Dates for 2018

- Saturday 17th February: daytrip to Southwell, Notts
 - Low Sunday, 8th April: daytrip to Tewkesbury
 - Bank Holiday Mon, 7th May: daytrip to Worcester
 - Bank Holiday Mon, 28th May: daytrip to St Albans
- 25th and 26th August: Weekend at Chichester, West Sussex
 - Saturday 27th October: daytrip to Peterborough via Stamford

These trips are increasingly popular and I do encourage you to come along if you are yet to experience one. They are relaxing days "doing your own thing" and Choral Evensong to enjoy before the journey back home.

All this, door-to-door, in the company of people you know!

(Enquiries: 01543 258777, simon.e.collins@btinternet.com or after services).

Simon Collins, Director of Music

CHOIR QUIZ: Eager quizzers are reminded that the deadline for submitting your answers is officially 6pm on Christmas Eve (today!). The marking team can be a little bit flexible as it is away over Christmas anyway but please try to get them in as soon as possible as we are expecting bumper numbers to mark!

Clive Avery

Intercessions:

It will soon be time to prepare the next Intercessions rota. If YOU would like to take a turn at leading the intercessions at the 10.30 service on a Sunday, please have a word with me (01332 405303). There are books available in church to help and it is hoped that a workshop may be arranged next year.

Alison Gregory

Angels' Delight:

The new term for Angels' Delight will be starting up again on Wednesday January 3rd. If you would like to help, please contact Steve or Rachel or Alison Gregory.

This week in connection with Melbourne Church

Thursday:	9.15am	Holy Communion
Saturday:	4.30pm	Church prepared for Sunday worship

[Please note that the Church Office is closed next week for the Christmas break. Re-opening Wednesday 3rd January.]

A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church, we can pray together

Monday: Those in great poverty or need.

Tuesday: Those who have asked for our prayers: Ruth Barkaway, Anne Brazier, John Hubbard, Roo Hubbard, Madge Limbert, Wendie Moore, Betty Park, Ruth Smith, and Margaret Stockley. Also those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage.

Wednesday: Our group of parishes.

Thursday: The church worldwide. All Christian people. The local church. The Anglican Communion.

Friday: All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

The Departed

In our prayers this week, we can remember those who have died recently, among them Eric Robinson, and those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them Florence Caroline Paget, Danny Blinco and John Rowatt.

Next Week at Melbourne: The First Sunday of Christmas

8am **Holy Communion**

(Sidespersons: Noreen & Tony Taylor)

10.30am **Benefice Eucharist & Coffee**

(Sidespersons: Jenny Jackson, David Smith)

(Coffee: Sarah Kington, Kate Landenberger, Janet Warner)

6.30pm **NO Evening Services in the Benefice**

The Readings, Christmas Eve at 10.30am:

First Reading: *2 Samuel 7.1-11,16*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

The Gospel Reading: *Luke 1.26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the

house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Gradual at 10.30am: *Magnificat* (sung in plainchant by the choir)

During the singing of the Magnificat, please turn to face the gospel reader in the aisle.

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he
promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Additional Collect:

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Midnight Mass:

First Reading

Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Gospel Reading: *John 1.1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Readings for Christmas Day at 8am:

First Reading:

Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time

came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Additional Collect for Christmas Day:

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

