

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



The Bulletin

A weekly publication for the Parish of Melbourne



The Fourth Sunday of Advent - 23rd December 2018

8am **Holy Communion**

10.30am **Parish Eucharist, Junior Church and Coffee**

Readings: pages 7-8

Settings: *Willan Kyrie/Harris*

Gradual: *Magnificat plainchant* (page 8)

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

Anthems: *The Waiting Sky Oliver Tarney*

E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come Paul Manz

Organ Voluntary: *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Brahms*

6.30pm **Festival of Lessons and Carols**

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

(Please see Order of Service)

Welcome!

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

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Across the Benefice Today

Melbourne: 8am – Revd Steve Short
10.30am – Revd Michael Rogers/
Dr Nick Gravestock
6.30pm – Revd Steve Short
Smisby: 6pm – Canon David Edwards
Stanton: 6pm – Revd Margaret Jacques
Ticknall: 2.30pm – Revd Steve Short



Taking responsibility for Church life today:

8am Holy Communion
Sidespersons: Joy Hill, Ann Rafferty
Server: John Tivey
Reader: Joy Hill

10.30am Parish Eucharist, Junior Church & Coffee
Sidespersons: Ros Bell, AnnabelNeedham
Crucifer: Brian Dollamore
Server: Jo Glaze
Reader: Rachel Reid
Intercessor: Alison Gregory
Junior Church: Rachel Coupe
Coffee: Griselda Kerr, Sheena Wilkins, Margaret Brackenbury

6.30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols followed by refreshments
Sidespersons: Paddy & Joe Laban

Tonight at 6.30pm

*Festival of Lessons and Carols
Mulled wine and mince pies served
afterwards
All are welcome!*



In keeping with tradition the collection from tonight's Carol Service goes to the Padley Centre, and the Christingle Service collection goes to the Children's Society.

Christmas 2018:

It was wonderful, earlier this week, to travel to Derby Cathedral and meet (briefly!) our new diocesan bishop – the Rt Revd Libby Lane, currently the suffragan bishop of Stockport in the diocese of Chester. As many of you will know, bishop Libby was the first woman in the Church of England to be consecrated as bishop so she is a pioneer and carried the weight of expectation on her shoulders. Her appointment to Stockport was eagerly anticipated by many and, by all accounts, was worth the wait.

Bishop Libby spoke very movingly about her hopes for our diocese and the part she will play, under God, to realise those dreams. Any bishop, particularly a diocesan, has an apostolic ministry – bishops in the early church were seen as the successors to the apostles and they still wear that (increasingly) heavy mantle today. They need and deserve our prayers. I have no doubt that bishop Libby will be a fantastic diocesan bishop appreciating that each of us will probably have a different idea of what makes a fantastic diocesan bishop! I now say the following, fully acknowledging the oath of canonical obedience I have taken to the bishop of Derby and his successors – no bishop is a messiah, we already have one of those!

We have a messiah who ‘pitched his tent among us’ two thousand years ago (to roughly translate the New Testament Greek from John’s famous prologue). If we want to know what God is like, in Jesus, we have our ultimate frame of reference. Jesus, too, was long awaited, eagerly anticipated and carried the weight of the whole universe upon his shoulders. In the manger, time meets eternity as history meets salvation as we see what a King-sized bed really looks like.

Even in the darkness, *especially* in the darkness, we are invited to gaze upon the light that the darkness will never overcome. As Nick Baines, the bishop of Leeds recently wrote: *It is time, once again to be surprised by heaven, and to have our imaginations grasped by a God who comes among us as one of us and whispers behind our defences: “I am with you, I am on your side.”*

Happy Christmas! And thank you to so many in our church family who have worked incredibly hard to make our Christmas celebrations possible.

Steve

Christingles:

We are making Christingles today directly after the 10.30am service on 23rd December in the Honner Room. If you could spare just one hour to help Avril with this fun task (especially for children), please grab your coffee and head over to the Honner Room. The more people there are to help the quicker we shall be. Many thanks, Avril

News from Living Waters.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday January 15th at 10.30am.

Till then we wish you all a very happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.
Revd Margaret, Allan, and all those at Living Waters.

CHRISTMAS 2018 AT MELBOURNE PARISH CHURCH

SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Messy Christmas - 4 pm

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Junior Church Nativity - 10.30 am

SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER

Carol Service - 6.30 pm

followed by mince pies & mulled wine

MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER - Christmas Eve

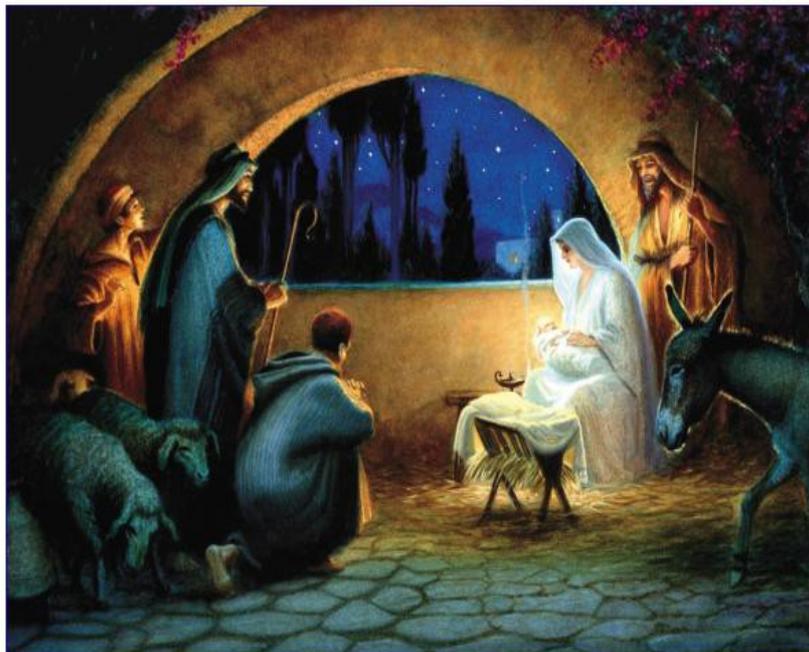
Christingle and Nativity - 4 pm

come dressed as your favourite nativity character

Midnight Mass - 11.30 pm

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER - Christmas Day

Family Eucharist - 10.30 am



Countdown to Christmas:

Friday December 14th saw the beginning of a marathon Countdown to Christmas weekend with a puppet show in the Church when Cameron Camel invited the audience to Camel TV's recording studio to hear their popular 'top 5', interspersed with commercial breaks. This show presented the Christmas message in a unique and fun way with excellent puppeteering (the young people had obviously worked very hard in rehearsal). We hope there will be more performances of this type to allow more people, young and old to come and enjoy this engaging activity. *Christine Franks*

'Let the children come to me.....'

Well, in the past week they have kept on coming.

On a cold, wet Saturday afternoon, 19 children brought their parents to Messy Christmas where they found a range of interesting activities – sticker art, mini-cribs using lolly-sticks, Jelly-baby Jesus lying, not on a bed of straw but in a chocolate-crispy manger, colour your own angel for the Christmas tree, pebble-painting etc. And, for the more muscularly inclined, skittles in the aisle. Steve led a joyful act of worship and then, a delicious tea was enjoyed by all. Next morning, the 10.30 Eucharist started with an extempore Nativity play with a narrator and 8 young actors. Of course, Mary, Joseph, Herod, shepherds and angels featured...but a spy?? Other people were involved in scene-shifting, actor-shifting, music and prompting and it was good to see the venture being supported by so many parents, grandparents and siblings. Congratulations and thanks to Rachel Coupe for master-minding a grand weekend.

And that's not all:

On Wednesday, 26 children (with their carers) enjoyed the Angels' Delight Christmas party. As well as playing with toys as usual, there was a hunt-the-angel treasure-hunt and the children made party hats and biscuit crib scenes (Jelly-baby Jesus in evidence again) and printed pictures onto gift-tags. Steve told the story of the first Christmas and then Santa Claus came in with a sackful of gifts. He even remembered our kitchen elves. I won't disclose the name of the elf who demanded (and received) a kiss from the dear old gentleman. Special festive snacks were eagerly devoured and then everyone went happily home for the holidays. We meet again on Wednesday, January 16th. *Alison Gregory*

Quizzes:

Clive says thanks to everyone who bought one of his quizzes and hopes you are enjoying it(!) They are still available and he can always print more. Meanwhile, Wendy says don't forget '**Choir Babies**'. Choir 'regulars' have

kindly submitted their baby photographs to her safe keeping (the fools). £2 per sheet of babies with clues at the bottom and can be purchased from Wendy Robinson. The person to identify all babies wins £10 plus an award-winning Christmas Pudding! Winner to be announced Sunday 23 December. You have until week ending 22 December (closing day) to really study the choir and submit your entries. *Clive Avery, Wendy Robinson*

Please Note: The office will be closed from 24th December until 3rd January.

This week in connection with Melbourne Church

Monday:	4pm	Christingle Service with Nativity
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Tuesday:	8am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Family Eucharist
Saturday:	4.30pm	Preparing church for Sunday worship

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, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Margaret Kent, Madge Limbert, Vicky Murray, Betty Park, Ruth & Bob Smith and Margaret Stockley. 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, and those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them John Rowatt, Wendie Elizabeth Ann Moore and Kathleen Winifred Jackson.

Next Week at Melbourne: Christmas 1

10.30am **Benefice Eucharist, Junior Church and Coffee**

(Sidespersons: Ken Gibson, David Smith)

(No Coffee)

(Junior Church: Rachel Coupe in creche)

Please note: there will be no 8am Communion on the 30th December.

The Readings at 8am and 10.30am:

First Reading: *Micah 5.2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

The Gospel Reading: *Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

[And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.']

Additional Collect:

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gradual at 10.30am:

The 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.