

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 First Sunday of Christmas - 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018

10.30am **Benefice Eucharist and Junior Church**

**Readings:** page 4

**Introit:** Rejoice and be merry *English trad. arr. Reginald Jacques*

**Settings:** *Rutter / Rogers / Pulkingham*

**Hymns:** 29, 21, 32 omit v.4 [28] 33 vv.1,4, & 7

**Anthem:** Gabriel's Message *Old Basque Noël arr. Pettman*

**Organ Voluntary:** Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

(BWV 729) *J.S.Bach*

**Welcome!**

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

**CONTACT US:**

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## Across the Benefice Today

<b>Melbourne:</b>	10.30am – Revd Margaret Jacques
<b>Smisby:</b>	– No Service
<b>Stanton:</b>	– No Service
<b>Ticknall:</b>	– No Service



### Taking responsibility for Church life today:

#### 10.30am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church

**Sidespersons:** Ken Gibson, David Smith

**Crucifer:** John Tivey

**Server:** Ros Bell

**Reader:** Carolyn Tasker

**Intercessor:** Joanna Hocknell

**Junior Church:** Rachel Coupe

### 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

**Mothers' Union:** The next meeting of the Mothers' Union is at 2pm on 8<sup>th</sup> January in the Honner Room.

**Please Note:** The office will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December until 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

## **This week in connection with Melbourne Church**

<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	11am -12.30pm	Ringing
	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, among them Derek Worthington, and those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them Florence Caroline Paget, Danny Blinco, Harriet Burden, Joseph Laban, Gladys Marston, Ronald Moore (priest) and Audrey Moore.

### **Next Week at Melbourne: Epiphany**

8am **Holy Communion** (Sidespersons: Joan Pass, John Tatam)

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

(Sidespersons: Griselda Kerr, Victoria Hancock)

(Coffee: Mary Bolton, Annabel Needham, Steph Hughes)

(Junior Church: Rachel Coupe, Rachel Hill)

6.30pm **Evensong** (Sidespersons: Sheena & Henry Wilkins)

## The Readings:

### **First Reading:** *1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26*

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

### **The Gospel Reading:** *Luke 2.41-end*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

### **Additional Collect:**

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.