

PARISH LINK



The Magazine of
St James' Chapelthorpe



JANUARY 2025

THE PARISH OF CHAPELTHORPE



Vicar	Rev'd KEVIN GREAVES kevin.greaves@leeds.anglican.org	01924 256031 07865 810133
Lay Licenced Minister (LLM)	Mr JOHN SEACOME	257000
Churchwarden s	VACANT	
Health and Safety	Rev'd KEVIN GREAVES	
PCC Secretary	LYNNE JOHNSON	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	STUART CANNON	
Treasurer	MICHAEL BROADHEAD	07980 237969
Organist	Mrs MARGARET POUCHER	01226 382136
Verger	Mrs BEV WAINWRIGHT	01924 240776
Sacristan	Mr KEITH WAINWRIGHT	01924 240776
Pastoral Team	CAROL HARGREAVES	01924 257333
Parish website	www.stjameschapelthorpe.org.uk	



From the Vicarage

January 2025

Dear Friends,

'How was your Christmas?' I'm sure those who followed my weekly cooking tips for Christmas Dinner would have had a memorable meal. The sprouts that had been on the boil since October, the turkey that had been placed in a blast furnace to make it so dry, you could feel every morsal hit your stomach. Truly your dinner must have been memorable for all your family and friends, for years to come.

You might think that Christmas is done and dusted for another year or is it? As we move into the New Year it might seem as if carol singing and 'baby Jesus' are a dim and distant memory of the 'old year'. The shepherds have gone back to their fields and there is not an angel to be seen! You might also think that the three kings are on their way home. But there you would be wrong, because the kings do not strictly belong in the Christmas story at all. Their story is a January story. It begins to unfold on 6th January when the Church celebrates the season of Epiphany (Epiphany meaning 'to reveal that which is hidden'). Baby Jesus was probably a little older and Mary and Joseph were unlikely to still be sheltering in a stable and this part of the story is set against a backdrop of the reign of a jealous tyrant king (Herod) whose cruelty will mean the young Holy family will soon need to flee and become refugees in another land.

But for now, a mysterious 'awe and wonder' moment; a visit by Three Kings from far off lands bringing gifts to the infant Jesus becomes the next instalment of the Christmas story; a story which gradually reveals to the world who this baby, Jesus, really is; a story that keeps on giving; a story which will change the world forever. The kings bring, for their part in the story, gifts of great value the best they could bring, and they lay them at the cradle of a child who is God, before returning home in the full knowledge that they have found the King they were looking for.

So, make Epiphany more memorable than your Christmas Dinner, unpack your crib scene again the holy family and the kings and put them out again. Tell the memorable story of Epiphany and remember next Christmas don't buy any cards (for Christmas) with the kings on, if sending before the BIG day.

Happy New Year!
Your friend and priest
Kevin



How the New Year and Resolutions began

1st January was not always the start of a New Year. The Babylonians began their New Year on 23rd March. For them, it was a logical choice, as with the arrival of Spring, crops were being planted, and a new cycle of life was beginning.

For centuries the Romans agreed with them, but they chose 1st March for New Year. It was the Romans who brought in the idea of making resolutions at New Year, mostly along the lines of acting more noble, and doing good to others.

Then in 46BC Julius Caesar changed the Roman Empire's calendar. His new Julian calendar realigned the year to the sun, and also began on 1st January. Caesar wanted to honour Janus, the two-faced god who looks backwards into the old year and forward into the new. January 1st didn't have any astronomical or agricultural significance, it was just a random date selected by Caesar.



Holy Days

6th Jan: What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

Holy Days

6th Jan: Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.



Holy Days

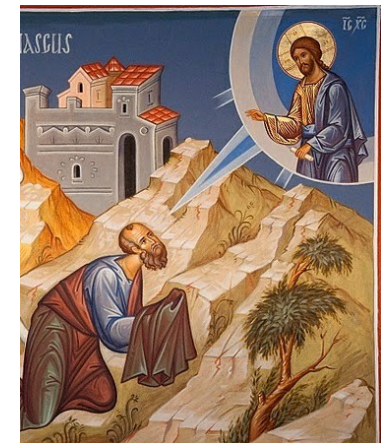
25th Jan: Conversion of St Paul

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.



POETRY CORNER

New Year 2025

If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near.

We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His blood
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
So let us trust and know just this -
Our times are in His hands.

By Megan Carter

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

On the importance of NOT keeping accurate minutes



My dear Nephew Darren

Since you were the one to ask this parishioner of yours to act as PCC secretary, you have no reason to complain about the minutes of meetings she produces. You should never let anyone act as a secretary unless they cannot speak English or are hard of hearing, and preferably, both. The more significant the committee and the more contentious the issues being debated, the more you should nobly put yourself forward both to chair the meeting and take the minutes. In the majority of cases, that will spare the other members that awkward moment when you ask for a volunteer, and they all feel the sudden need to stare at their feet.

If you act as secretary, then you can be certain that accounts of what took place will only be what you had wanted to happen and that the decisions taken will be what you had already decided before discussions started. Any inconvenient observations from other committee members can be omitted entirely.

Admittedly, the more observant may notice that your accounts of the meeting may not wholly agree with their recollections, but the skill of being a secretary is not to produce the minutes of the previous meeting until the day before the next one. This will mean that the great majority will have long forgotten what actually *did* happen two months previously, and that many will not have had the time to read them anyway and will avoid having to admit that fact by passing them.

Only the deeply committed will want to pursue apparent discrepancies. In that case, confess to the meeting that your hand-written notes were accidentally left on a bus and so you can no longer check the accuracy of what you have written. As a way of appearing helpful, you could even give the person challenging you the bus route number and time of day you travelled. Further challenges will rally the rest of the committee to your side, and soon someone will suggest you proceed to the next item on the agenda. Since you are also the chairman, you naturally bow to their request.

Just in the way that church rotas bear no resemblance to the people who actually turn up to do the jobs, minutes of meetings need not bear too much resemblance to what actually happened, especially if what did happen is inconvenient for you.

After all, democracy is all very well - provided a benign dictator is in overall control.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

All in the month of January

It was:

400 years ago, on 13th Jan 1625 that Jan Brueghel the Elder, Flemish artist, died.

150 years ago, on 14th Jan 1875 that Albert Schweitzer, German theologian, philosopher, physician, musicologist, writer and humanitarian, was born. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

125 years ago, on 14th Jan 1900 that the premiere of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's opera *Tosca*, took place in Rome.

100 years ago, on 3rd Jan 1925 that Benito Mussolini declared himself dictator of Italy.

90 years ago, on 8th Jan 1935 that Elvis Presley ('The King') was born. An American rock and roll singer, guitarist and actor, he died in 1977.

80 years ago, on 16th Jan 1945 that Adolf Hitler took up residence in the Führerbunker, a subterranean bunker complex in the garden of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. It became the headquarters of the Nazi regime, and he remained there for the rest of his life. He committed suicide there in April 1945.

Also 80 years ago, on 27th Jan 1945 that the Soviet Red Army liberated Auschwitz Concentration Camp in southern Poland. It was the largest Nazi concentration camp and at least 1.1 million prisoners died there.

75 years ago, on 6th Jan 1950 that the UK officially recognised the Republic of China and established diplomatic relations.

Also 75 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1950 that Israel declared Jerusalem was its capital city. Palestine also claims it as its capital.

70 years ago, US President Dwight D Eisenhower gave the first televised presidential news conference. It was filmed in the morning and broadcast that evening. The first live conference was given by John F Kennedy in Jan 1961.

60 years ago, on 4th Jan 1965 that T S Eliot, American-born British poet, playwright, literary critic and editor died. He won the 1948 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Also 60 years ago, on 24th Jan 1965 that Winston Churchill died. He was Prime Minister 1940-45 and again in 1955, and one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century. He was named as 'the greatest Briton of all time.' He won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature "for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."

50 years ago, on 20th Jan 1975 that Bob Dylan's album *Blood on the Tracks* was released.

40 years ago, on 1st Jan 1985 that the first mobile phone call in the UK was made by comedian Ernie Wise. He rang Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katherine's Docks in London.

Also 40 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1985 that a debate from the House of Lords was televised live for the first time.

30 years ago, on 1st Jan 1995 that the World Trade Organisation was established.

Also 30 years ago, on 3rd Jan 1995 that the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that the cumulative total reported AIDS cases had passed the one million mark, with cases in 192 countries. (Including unreported cases, the total was estimated to be about 4.5 million.)

25 years ago, on 1st Jan 2000 that the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K 'Millennium Bug'.

Also 25 years ago, on 13th Jan 2000 that Bill Gates announced he was stepping down as chief executive of Microsoft. Company president Steve Ballmer took over, while Gates remained as chairman and chief software architect.

15 years ago, on 4th Jan 2010 that the Burj Khalifa in Dubai opened. It is the world's tallest structure, standing 2,722 feet (829.8 metres.)

Also 15 years ago, on 12th Jan 2010 that the Haiti earthquake took place. The capital, Port-au-Prince, was devastated and at least 100,000 people were killed and buried in mass graves.

10 years ago, on 7th Jan 2015 that the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris took place. Two Muslim brothers forced their way into the offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine and opened fire. 12 people were killed and 11 injured. The brothers were shot dead on 9th Jan. The magazine had published images of the Islamic prophet Muhammad in 2011 and 2012, and its offices had been firebombed in Nov 2011.

Remembering TS Eliot – author of The Wasteland

Sixty years ago, on 4th January 1965, T S Eliot, American-born British poet, playwright, literary critic and editor, died. He won the 1948 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in 1888 in St Louis, Missouri, but his family were prominent Unitarians, with roots in Boston. However, he had a Roman Catholic nanny, of whom he was very fond, and who took him to her church. This may have had some bearing on his converting to Anglicanism in 1927, the year he became a British citizen. He was baptised and confirmed secretly in Oxfordshire, saying he hated spectacular conversions.

He identified as Anglo-Catholic, saying he was "classicist in literature, royalist in politics, and anglo-catholic in religion". Much later he said he combined "a Catholic cast of mind, a Calvinist heritage and a Puritanical temperament".

Eliot married twice but had no children. His first wife was Vivienne Haigh-Wood, who he married in 1915 – the year that his first “professional” poem, *The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock*, was published. But the marriage was fraught, because his wife had mental problems and eventually went into an asylum. They separated in 1933. His second wife was his much younger secretary Esme, whom he married in 1957.

Eliot lived through two world wars but remained optimistic through his Christianity. He wrote *The Waste Land* in 1923 and *The Four Quartets* were published in 1941 after he became British and an Anglican.

He died of emphysema at his home in Kensington, was cremated and is buried at the parish church in East Coker, Somerset – East Coker being where his family may have originated: it was also the title of the second of the *Four Quartets*. He has a plaque in Poets’ Corner, Westminster Abbey.

Remembering Jan Brueghel the Elder – painting paradise

Four hundred years ago, on 13th January 1625, Flemish artist Jan Brueghel the Elder died of cholera in Antwerp. He was 57.

Taught to paint by his grandmother, he was known for his still life paintings, particularly of flowers, but also landscapes. He frequently collaborated with other painters, including his friend Peter Paul Rubens. Brueghel usually provided the landscape or still-life element, while Rubens contributed the figures. Collaboration between artists specialising in different genres was frequent in western Europe at the time.

Working for several years in Italy, Brueghel met an important patron, Cardinal Federico Borromeo, who played a significant role in the Catholic Counter-Reformation. When he became Archbishop of Milan, Brueghel became part of his household, and his work reflected the appropriate religious motifs as well as aiming for scientific accuracy and representation of progress in that field.

One of his nicknames was ‘Paradise’ Brueghel, because of his depictions of the imaginary landscape of Paradise, such as *Paradise with the Fall of Man*, though he also painted hellish landscapes as well as tackling some gentler, often floral, themes, from which he gained the additional nicknames of ‘Velvet’ and ‘Flower’.

In 1604 Brueghel moved briefly to Prague and the court of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II before moving back to his birthplace, Brussels, two years later, where he served as court painter to Archduke Albert of Austria and the Infanta Isabella Clara Eugenia of Spain.

Jan Brueghel was the son of Pieter Brueghel the Elder, one of the most significant and admired Renaissance painters. Jan’s first son, Jan the Younger, was also a painter who studied with his father and then ran a successful workshop. Jan the Elder’s first wife was Isabella, daughter of the printmaker Gerard Jode; after her death he married Catharina van Marienberghe.

ST JAMES CHURCH

Social Committee



Social Events

January 19th	Homemade cake stall after the Sunday service
February 8th	Bacon Butty Morning - 10.30 to 11.30
March 8th	Bacon Butty Morning - 10.30 to 11.30

Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather this year and came along to support us at the Christmas Fair.

We really do appreciate your help and support throughout the year in our fund-raising efforts for St. James' church

To date we have made £1,159, the final total will be in the February magazine.

The winning raffle number for the Christmas hamper is 799.

The Social Committee

All St James' Church social activities are detailed on the notice boards, both inside and outside of church.

Thanks

Bev, Margaret and their band of helpers would like to thank all who have supported them throughout the year.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year

The Light Lunches will resume on Thursday March 27th

Bacon Butties at St James

At only £3.00 each including a hot drink of your choice - this is a bargain!

We are also catering for vegetarians, offering a fried egg butty.

'Bacon Butty Mornings are on Saturdays from 10.30 to 11.30 and will be held on the following dates:

February 8th
March 8th



Carol & Christine

Deadline date for inclusion in the next edition of Parish Link is:

January 15th 2025

Editors: Kenneth and Dawn Poucher

Any contributions can be forwarded to
Rev. Kevin Greaves, David Wainwright, Keith Wainwright
or Margaret Poucher

HALL GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE



Hall Green Community Centre
1A Painthorpe Lane
Hall Green WF4 3LA.

Hall Green Event Dates 2025

Community Coffee Morning

Monday 10-00am

- ◇ 20th January
- ◇ 17th February
- ◇ 17th March
- ◇ 21st April Easter Monday
- ◇ 19th May
- ◇ 16th June
- ◇ 14th July
- ◇ 18th August
- ◇ 15th September
- ◇ 20th October
- ◇ 17th November
- ◇ 15th December

Friendship Group

Thursday: 10-00am

- ◇ January: No meeting.
- ◇ February 6th
- ◇ March 6th
- ◇ April 3rd
- ◇ May TBA
- ◇ June 5th
- ◇ July 3rd
- ◇ August 7th
- ◇ September 4th
- ◇ October 2nd
- ◇ November 6th
- ◇ December 4th

Community Church

Thursday 10-30am

- ◇ 20th February
- ◇ 20th March
- ◇ 17th April

Seated Exercise Class

Friday 1-00 pm

Starts Friday 17th January.

To book a place or for further information Contact :
Francesca: on **07738572995**

For more information Contact: Cynthia Binns on 01924-251544 or
Email: binnscynthia@yahoo.co.uk

CRIGGLESTONE VILLAGE INSTITUTE



The Parish Council meets at 6pm on the first Tuesday of the month except when advertised otherwise (please see the website) in August and the 2nd Tuesday in January in The Village Institute, High Street, Crigglestone, WF4 3EB. Anyone wishing to bring any issue to the attention of the Parish Council can do so during the 15 minutes public participation session held at the beginning of the monthly council meeting.

The vacancy for a parish councillor is still open

Could you be interested? If you would like to know more, then please contact the Clerk on 07419 585 227.

Broad Cut Farm Development Proposal

The Parish Council are aware of the development proposal and the community consultation held by the developer AAA Property, both of which have not been met favourably in the community. Once the planning application has been submitted to WMDC Planning Authority, it will be available for consultation. At this point the parish council will be considering its response very carefully, which at this moment in time maintain that this area of the Green Belt Land is not recognised as the best location for this development. The Parish Council wait to see the application before a formal position statement will be made.

Community Hero Award 2024

Application form will be printed on the last page of the parish council newsletter, which is due for delivery mid-November. Nominees will be considered during December with the winner's presentation taking place on Tuesday 4th February 2025 6pm at the Village Institute, Crigglestone.

The Parish's Public Rights of Way

The Planning and Rights of Way Committee are undertaking to research and ensure the parish's Public Rights of Way/Bridleways/Access paths are properly registered with WMDC, through the Definitive Map Modification Order process, before the closing date of 2026. This is a big undertaking and will take a considerable amount of time, but it is worth it historically and for the future benefit of the parish residents.

VE DAY 80th Anniversary – 8th MAY 2025

Details of how we will be marking the event will follow in due course.

Public Transport

The Parish Councillors continue to complain and report to the bus and train companies about the unsatisfactory service provided, in particular at Kirkgate Train Station and the absence of toileting facilities and a waiting room.

Safe Scheme (additional policing for our Parish)

The Safe Scheme report from PC Firth (Safe Scheme Co-ordinator) for the preceding months can be viewed on the Parish Council website at <https://www.crigglestonepc.org/police-safe-scheme/>

**'101 live chat' Contact the Police via the internet
Type in the link**

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/101livechat

This gives direct access to the Police without waiting on the phone.

Type in the details which are then distributed speedily to the appropriate Neighbourhood Police Team.

The more notifications 101 receives, the higher the incident figures show for that particular concern. This enables the Police to delegate officers to attend/make further enquiries.

Need a venue for your event look no further, contact

Crigglestone Village Institute

36 High Street, Crigglestone, WF4 3EB

Charity Registered No. 510193

Tel: Clerk to the Trustees 07384 977 412

Email: VICC@crigglestonepc.org

Bookings can now be made and paid for online through the website

Visit <https://www.crigglestonepc.org/village-institute/>

A venue that has undergone a noticeable upgrade which will meet your needs when holding your children's parties, coffee mornings/afternoon teas, regular user group sessions or as a small training venue. Kitchen facilities, baby changing, ample parking to the rear of the building, and disabled access are all available.

Classes and Groups: Please see the website <https://www.crigglestonepc.org/village-institute/> for the timetable of individual groups and their contact details.

Party/one off bookings: Contact the Caretaker Mrs Gordon on 01924 257350 between 6pm -9pm Monday to Friday.

Please note a £10 deposit and completed booking form is required to secure the booking. Visit the website for the hiring policy and booking form.

Suspicious, unusual or concerning behaviour dial 101
Emergency dial 999

Whats On @ Crigglestone Village Institute

- YOGA**
WEDNESDAYS
9.45AM - 11.15AM
&
6PM - 7.15PM
CONTACT NICKY
01924 240279
- GOOD VIBES TRIBE**
MONDAYS 9.30AM - 10.30AM
SEATED ZUMBA
MONDAYS 10.45AM - 11.15AM
CONTACT SARA
07740 196915
- YOGA**
MONDAYS 6.30PM - 8PM
&
THURSDAYS 7PM - 8.30PM
CONTACT FRANK
07814 627089
- CALLIGRAPHY**
TUESDAYS 1PM - 3PM
CONTACT THE VENUE FOR MORE
DETAILS @
VICC@CRIGGLESTONE.PC.ORG
- SAMANTHA'S
SCHOOL OF
DANCE (SSD)**
FRIDAYS 4PM - 6.30PM
&
SUNDAYS 9AM - 11AM
HTTPS://SAMANTHASSCHOOLOFDANCE.CO.UK/
- CREATIVE CRAFTS**
MONDAYS 1.30PM - 3.30PM
CONTACT THE VENUE FOR
MORE DETAILS @
VICC@CRIGGLESTONE.PC.ORG
- ART CLASS**
WEDNESDAYS 1PM - 3PM
CONTACT JEN
07956 674305
- POPPET TOPS**
FRIDAYS 9.45AM - 12.45PM
INFO@POPPETTOPS.CO.UK

HALL AVAILABLE
FOR PRIVATE HIRE
@ £12.50 PER
HOUR

BOOK FOR PARTIES ONLINE AT
WWW.CRIGGLESTONEPC.ORG

Regular bookings: Contact Claire Cooper - Clerk to the Village Institute Trustees email: vicc@crigglestonepc.org Tel: [07384 977 412](tel:07384977412).

Local History Week

Many thanks to friends old and new who came along and supported our local history week which was held in St. James' church in September. The event raised over £1,640 for church funds.

Over 350 people came along to the event, coming from as far afield as Newcastle, Lichfield, Birmingham and Scarborough.

It was wonderful to welcome everyone and also receive new material into our Parish Archive for use in the future.

Once again many thanks for all your marvellous support and thanks especially to those who helped in stewarding the exhibition and providing refreshments.

Keith W.



WORDSEARCH FOR JANUARY

Gifts of the Wise Men

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? One Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote the much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first Gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had!



GIFTS
GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH
HENRY
BURIAL
HONOURED
DIVINE

HOPKINS
CAROL
THREE
KINGS
ORIENT
SACRIFICE
DIE

WORSHIP
TEMPLE
SPICE
ANCIENTS
BODIES
GENTILE
FAITH

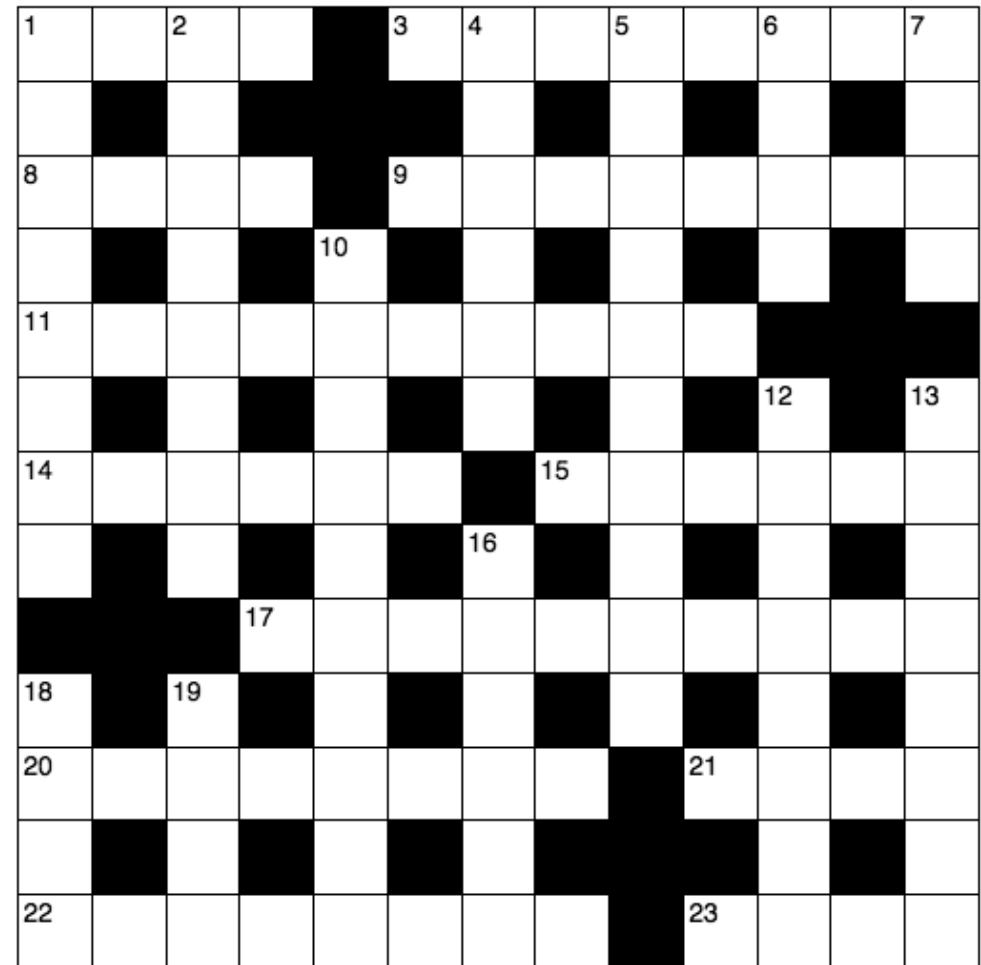
Crossword for January 2025

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



December crossword solution

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

SUDOKU

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

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December Puzzle Answers

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

U G S D C M F A M I L Y
 K M G Y H T L A E W I M
 P C N N R O R E P M E E
 O F I O I S T M D L H G
 O N K S S R E H T A F R
 R T C I T E E N R T K E
 A U O R M T G F E E M E
 I O T P A H R A F E E K
 G V S T S G E R L U D C
 C E N T R U R Y M L S Y
 O D G D S A L O H C I N
 T T H I R D B O R N T V

USEFUL CONTACTS

City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Switchboard 01924 306 090
 Typetalk 18001 08458 506 506

Email Address: es-contactcentre@wakefield.gov.uk

Environmental Services (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 506 506

Abandoned vehicles, Air Pollution, Anti-Social Behaviour, Blocked Drains, Bulky Refuse, Car Parking, Cesspools, Cleansing, Clinical Waste, Dead Animal Collection, Dog Fouling, Fallen Trees/Branches, Floods, Food & Hygiene, Fly Tipping, Graffiti, Grass left after Cutting, Highways Maintenance, Hypodermic Needles Disposal, Ice on Footpaths, Leisure Enquiries, Litter, Noise, Noxious waste, Overflowing Litter bins, Overhanging Vegetation, Pest Control, Potholes, Recycling, Refuse Collection, Septic Tanks Skip Hire, Snow Clearance, Spilled Refuse, Street Cleaning, Traffic Matters, Traffic Signals, Weeds Overgrown.

Social Care Direct (24 Hrs) - 0345 8 503 503

Adult Services, Advice, Assessment of need, Bus Passes *Disabled), Children's Services, Community Meals Service, Fostering, Guidance, Help with Adoption, HIV/Aids, Home Care

Wakefield District Housing (24 Hrs) - 0845 8 507 507

For all housing enquiries including: Allocations, Arrears, Lettings, Repairs, Tenancy Issues

Citizens Advice.....0844 499 4138

Council tax & Housing Benefits.....0345 8 504 504

Gas Emergency.....0800 111 999

Floodline.....0345 988 1188

NHS (24 hr non emergency).....111

Metro Access Bus.....0113 348 1903

Police (non emergency number).....101

Street Lighting Faults.....0800 783 1654