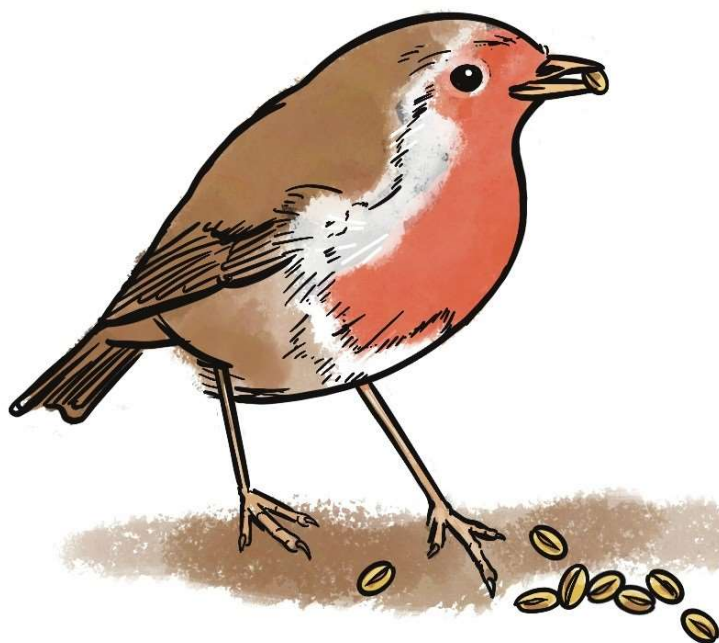


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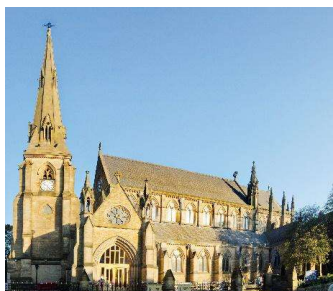


Parish Magazine
Dec/Jan 2023/4

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester



Situated on top of the small hill at the centre of the town, Bury Parish Church stands at the heart of one of the ancient parishes of Lancashire. The present splendid building was opened for worship on 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation, in 1876, and is certainly the third - possibly the fourth - on the site. It is impossible now to know just when Christian worship began here, a thousand or so years ago.



During its long history, the Church has ministered to the town in many different ways. Bury Grammar School began life here in the sixteenth century, boys almost certainly being taught originally by clergy from the Parish Church. Parish Charities were set up to provide for the poor and sick.

The Rector was heavily involved in the growth of the town during the Industrial Revolution: much of the urban growth of those days took place on his glebe land. Sir Robert Peel, future Prime Minister and son of a local textile manufacturer, was baptized here in 1788. All of the dozen or so Anglican parishes in Bury were carved out of the original parish. The Church has had close links with the Lancashire Fusiliers (now part of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers) since 1873 and continues to be a focus for the whole civic life of the Borough.

Today, we seek to continue to offer a wide variety of activities and opportunities to the whole town which we are called to serve for Jesus Christ's sake. This magazine gives its reader a snapshot, in one particular month, of what is on offer. We are always eager to find new ways of witness and service and should be glad to receive any constructive suggestions.

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Address: The Parish Office c/o. The Rectory, Tithebarn Street, BURY, BL9 0JR

Parish Diary December/January 2023/4

Regular events

Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist (also on Facebook Live) and Sunday School, followed by refreshments served in the Blackburne Hall.

4.30pm Evensong

Wednesday

9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Study Group -see Cornerstone

(To receive the Cornerstone, email: julian.heaton_1@outlook.com)

Thursday

10.00am Tiddlers meet in Blackburne Hall

Friday

8.00am Dustbusters – church cleaning

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

4.00pm Junior Choir Practice during term-time

7.00pm Adult Choir Practice

Baptisms & Weddings

Speak to any of the clergy after the 10.00am service. There is a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations near the back of the magazine

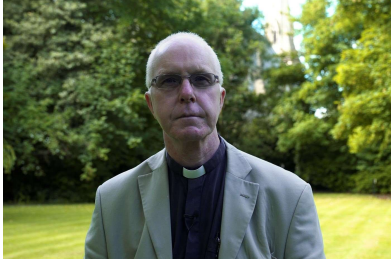
Events during December/January 2023/4

3 rd December	Carol service followed by Come to Rectory
10 th December	Toy service
16 th December	Children's Christmas Carol concert
17 th December	Christmas Lunch at 12 noon and Nine Lessons and Carols at 6:30pm
3 rd January	Come to Rectory Afternoon tea 2-4pm
28 th January	Patronal Festival Eucharist and Evensong

For list of Christmas Services see page 21

For list of Friday Lunchtime Concerts see page 22

From the Rector's desk



Dear Sisters and Brothers

Does life ever get better? This year seems to have been one long and continual downward slope, with an ever-increasing number of crises, some caused by humans, some caused by nature. What is the Christian take on this? Do we have anything worth saying to the world? Can we draw any clues from this Season we are about to enter?



The Season, from Advent to Candlemas, has the formal name of the Season of the Incarnation. I find this helpful. It stops us from over-focussing on Christmas and invites us to take a longer view. Advent looks forward. It declares both that we are in need of rescue and that God is on the case. Christmas tells us that life is infinitely precious. Epiphany challenges us to look beyond the immediate present and see God's glory in the world. In other words, what we experience now is not the only story to tell. Our lives, and the wider experience of living on planet Earth, need to be put in a longer timescale.

This sounds lovely. It is, if you like, the correct theological answer. However, I don't live in 'a longer timescale.' I live now. And it is here, in this life, in this town, in this particular set of political and environmental circumstances, that I have to

live out my life. How can being a disciple of Jesus Christ specifically help me? What does the Christian faith (or myself for that matter) have to offer to the world?

This whole Season of the Incarnation has a centre, a high point. It is the Incarnation, the birth of Christ. This is God's declaration that human beings are infinitely precious. We are not just 'ants' randomly inhabiting the earth. This insight is both a blessing and a challenge. It is a blessing because it says to us that what happens to us matters to God. Our highs and lows, our moments of ecstasy or despondency are known to the God who, in Jesus Christ, knows us intimately. We matter.

The challenge is this. If we matter, so do all those who have no capacity to change their circumstances, because of climate change or violence or illness. They matter too.

Our instinct to get involved in charity this Season is appropriate. It is one way we can act as God's agents. As God loves us, so may we, with his generosity and vulnerability, make that love real in the lives of others.

If you are wondering what charity I commend the work of the Children's Society (for their work with the vulnerable in this country) and Christian Aid (for their work, in Christ's name, working through local partnerships, abroad).

Happy Season of the Incarnation.

With love and prayers

Julian

Rector

L is for letters

It is letter-writing time. Christmas cards, emails, e-cards, old-fashioned letters – all sharing news, goodwill and seasonal bonhomie. We send messages because we recognise the power of communication, of imparting stories, insights and wisdom.

Valerio notes that supermarkets often invite customers to offer feedback. They put out cards for us to fill in, send emails to our inboxes, and even post envelopes seeking our opinions. And, usually, we ignore the opportunities, being both too busy and also wary of passing on yet more data about ourselves. Valerio challenges us to pick up the pen (it being, famously, mightier than the sword). Think about what it is you often buy and whether that product can be offered in a better way for the planet.



If you go to supermarkets now, you usually find FairTrade bananas. That is not by accident. It came about by customer lobbying. It is great that we can buy so many things. The quid pro quo is that those things which we can buy ought to be available to us ethically and as gentle on the environment as it is possible to be.

So, send the CEO of your favourite supermarket a Christmas/New Year message. Thank them for the work of their shops and their value to you. Invite them to be courageous in doing something for our world.

Follow the Star



For the period between Christmas Eve and the eve of the Epiphany, the Church of England has prepared material to help us on our journey through and beyond Christmas Day. We will be handing out bookmarks with information about this. There is also an app due out which you can download for free on your phone with the reading and reflection and prayer. Make use of these resources and point friends in their direction. If we can, we will put things up on Cornerstone about this throughout Advent.

Toy Service



On 10th December we are holding a 'Toy Service.' We are very conscious that many children will not be enjoying the Christmas experience

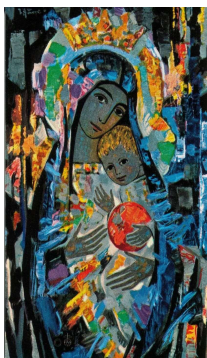
we might have had when we were young. If you are able to bring a toy, that would be fabulous. We ask you not to wrap your gift so that those who distribute are able decide where it will be delivered to. Thanks in anticipation.

Patronal Festival - 28th January 2024

Every Church of England Church has a dedication. You will be familiar with St Stephen's (Elton), St Paul's (Bury), and St Peter's (Manchester Road). The Cathedral has a great dedication to St Mary, St George and St Denys. Bury Parish Church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary appears a number of times in the Church's calendar:

- 25th March (The Feast of the Annunciation, often called Lady Day),
- 15th August (The Feast of the Falling Asleep of the BVM),
- 8th September (Birth of the BVM),
- 8th December (Conception of the BVM).
- The Feast of Candlemas, (properly called either the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple or the Feast of the Purification of the BVM) falls on 2nd February.



Our Church building was dedicated on this day in 1876. We transfer the celebration to the nearest Sunday, which this year falls on 28th January.

On this day we not only remember the event of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the Temple but also, like Mary, we seek to commit our lives afresh to God. We encourage you to come to Church, to worship, to give thanks for all that you have received from him and to seek his grace for yourselves and for us as a community, so that we may touch the world with the love of Christ.

There will be on the 28th a 10am Patronal Festival Eucharist and a 4.30pm Solemn Evensong.

Confirmation

We are running a Confirmation Course after Christmas.



What is confirmation?

It is an opportunity for people (adults over the age of 16) to explore the faith. We will be looking at the Creed, that great statement of the faith that we use every Sunday which begins with the words 'We believe.' At the end of the course, there will be the opportunity to stand up in front of others and in front of the Bishop, to declare one's faith.

Is this something you might be interested in? If so, have a word with one of the clergy. We will be running

this course after the Sunday morning services. We will begin on 14th January.

Bury Farsi Fellowship

Over the past few years you may have noticed a greater concentration of Iranian people in and around Bury. The majority of these people are refugees and asylum seekers, fleeing the current political circumstances in Iran. Many are also Christian converts, having converted in Iran itself, in a neighbouring country, or in the UK.



Unfortunately, there are very few opportunities for Farsi speakers to study the Bible and build community in the UK. Bury Farsi Fellowship is a group which offers Farsi speakers the opportunity to study God's word in their first language and meet and build relationships with other Farsi speakers. We hold periodic meetings celebrating important Persian cultural festivals and offer a monthly Bible study led by Rev Leila Nikroo.

Currently the fellowship is made up of members of BPC and Bury Baptist church, and holds events in both Churches. While the group clearly seeks to serve the needs of Farsi-speaking Christians, it is not an exclusive group: membership of the group is open to all Farsi speakers.

Please direct enquiries about the group to Sam.

Scouting Awards

The scouts have been awarded with:

- Chief Scout Bronze Award - Theo, Hamish, Skylar and Isla
- Chief Scout Silver Award - Magnus and Luke.
- Chief Scout Gold Award - Abbie, Freddie and Robson.
- 14 years of being a Scout Leader – Jon.



We also are welcoming Matthew back to the group as a leader. Congratulations all.

Light Party

On Sunday the 29th October 20 children and lots of parents and helpers gathered in the Church hall for a Light Party to celebrate the season of the Saints. This combined Halloween with All Saints and All Souls. The children ranged in age from babies to 11, so there was a variety of activities. The children made things with air drying clay, and decorated ceramic tiles. The younger ones played with toys and play dough and there were table top games.

A party tea of sandwiches, cakes,

crisps, biscuits and fruit was enjoyed, then there were games of pass the parcel, knock out bingo and fun and games tying up chairs with wool and then challenging other children to untangle them. The afternoon ended with a short act of worship, we sang some songs, said some prayers and thought about the season, and Jesus as Light of the World.

A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible, and the children and their parents for coming. Our next special event for families will be the nativity at December's parade service, then the Christingle on Christmas Eve. We are hoping to do a special event or an outing at February half term, so if you have any ideas please let me or Dawn know - Jackie Heaton

Come to the Rectory

Jackie and Julian invite you to two Open House occasions. It is always a joy to welcome people and it is a chance for folks who might not know each other to introduce themselves and connect with the Church community.

3rd December :

After the 4.30pm Advent Carol Service come for a drink, a bite to eat and a chance for a natter.

3rd January:

2pm – 4pm Afternoon tea. Cake, tea, biscuits. Come when you can, go when you must. Stay for a cuppa or stay the whole time. Please assume

that this invitation is for you. All ages catered for.

Sale of books and Santas

At the book sale held on Sunday 26th November we raised £162 for church funds. This amount included £58 for Santas Joan McVeety knitted. Thank you for everyone for your continued support.

Watch out for the date of our next sale which will be advertised in the Cornerstone – Margaret Hutchinson/ Pat Uden.

Dustbusters

Many visitors to our church have commented on how clean our church is. However, we really need more volunteers to come along to keep it that way.

We are a small friendly group who come along every Friday morning 8am to 9am.



Could you spare one hour of your time to help? If so, please come along- you will be made very welcome.

Support the work of Bury



Parish Church

You can donate to Bury Parish Church and the work we do by QR Code!

Cold Weather Night Shelter

Bolton Road Methodist Church are hoping to work with Bury rough sleepers team to host a night shelter for the homeless during exceptionally cold weather.

Those using the night shelter will be known to the rough sleepers team and are considered a low risk. A number of them are refugees who've been granted leave to remain in the UK and have therefore lost their state-funded accommodation.

We urgently need volunteers who are able to stay overnight from 9pm to 8am. This is not a regular commitment as the SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) scheme only runs when the weather forecast is 0 degrees or below. For this reason the shelter can be needed at short notice. Currently this is now running. We need a pool of potential volunteers so that we can quickly form a team from those available on a particular date..

If you volunteer, you would be contacted a day or so in advance to see if you are free to help. All volunteers will need a DBS check and we can arrange this for you if you need one.

If you are able to help, or would like more information, please contact me asap. Tel. 0161 764 1683 Email:

kathyselby@hotmail.com

Sale of Cards

There will be a sale of Christmas and greetings cards on Sunday 3rd December during coffee in the Blackburne Hall. PURCHASES CAN NOW BE MADE USING CASH OR CREDIT CARD. - Margaret Hutchinson

Raffle Prizes

Do you have any unwanted gifts that could be used as raffle prizes at Church social events? If so, these would be gratefully received by the Social Committee. Our next event is the Christmas Lunch on the 17th December. These should be handed to me, or, any member of the Social Committee. If you wish someone to collect them from you, please ring me on 0161 797 9051. Many thanks. PAT WEBBER, Chair of the Social Committee

Christmas Lunch – Sunday 17th December

Our Christmas Lunch will be 3 courses and will be prepared and served by The Social Committee in the Blackburne Hall at 12 noon. Tickets: £8.00 for adults and £5.00 for children under 15. Tickets are now on sale. Buy early to avoid disappointment. These can be purchased using cash or credit Card.

Pat Uden – Social Committee

20 + C + M + B + 24



What is this? It is a code of some sort. It means this. The 20-24 bit is obviously the year 2024. The C+M+B is a bit of Latin. **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**, means “May Christ bless the house.” The ancient Christian tradition is to mark houses with these numbers, crosses and letters asking the Good Lord as we do to make our coming and going from our homes a regular moment of prayer and expectant hope.

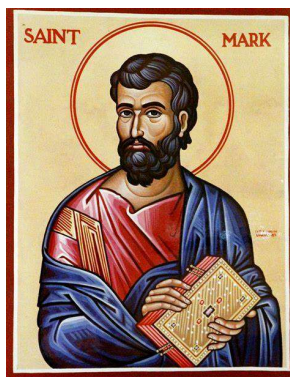
An alternative explanation of C+M+B is to see in the letters the names of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, the traditional names of the three wise men. This gives us a clue as to when we might mark the front doors of our houses – namely around the Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January

On Sunday 31st December we are going to hand out pieces of white chalk. If you take one, we invite you to put these letters, numbers and crosses over your door (or as near as is safely possible).

May your home be for you and for all who step inside a place of peace and joy and encounter with the living God.

Read, Mark, learn and Inwardly digest

Advent involves, among other things, a change of Lectionary Year. This means that we will hear a different set of bible readings this year. Our Gospel readings will mainly be from the Gospel of Mark (though, because it is short, we will also hear from St John too).



Mark is the shortest of the Gospels. It is also the earliest written Gospel, is immensely energetic and utterly urgent. We are going to have four evenings when we look at what it contains, what Mark wants us to know, how Mark wants us to live, and who Mark thinks Jesus is. It's quite a ride. Come and join us.

We start on 10th January at 7pm. It would really help if you could read Mark through first. There will be suggestions on the ebulletin.

	Readings for December/January	8.00 and 10.00am services	6.30pm Evensong
3	Advent Sunday	Isaiah 64.1-9 Mark 13. 24-end	Advent carol service
10	2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40. 1-11 Mark 1.1-8	Psalm 40. 12-end 1 Kings 22. 1-28 Romans 15.4-13
17	3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end John 1.6-8, 19-28	Nine lessons and Carols
24	4th Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve	2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 Luke 1.26-38	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-14
25	Christmas Day	Titus 2. 11-14 Luke 2. 1-14	
31	1st Sunday after Christmas	Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2. 15-21	
7	Epiphany	Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12	Psalm 98 Isaiah 60.1-9 John 2. 1-11
14	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Revelation 5.1-10 John 1. 43-end	Psalm 96 Isaiah 60. 9-end Hebrews 6. 17 – 7.10
21	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2.1-11	Psalm 33. 1-12 Jeremiah 3. 21 – 4.2
28	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Hebrews 2. 14-end Luke 2.22-40	Titus 2. 1-8, 11-14 Epiphany Carol Service

Music for December/January

3 December **Advent Sunday**

10.00am **Sung Eucharist**

Hymns: 39, 42, 32, 45, 50, 35

Mass: Antonio Lotti: Missa Brevis

Motet: Charles V Stanford: Pray that Jerusalem.

Voluntary: Piet Kee: Fantasia on 'Wachet auf'

4.30pm **Advent Carol Service**

Hymns Service Sheet

G P da Palestrina: Matin Responsory

Otto Goldschmidt: A tender shoot

John Stainer: How beautiful upon the mountains

Glenn Rudolph: Veiled in darkness

Anon: Rejoice in the Lord always

Charles Wood: O thou, the central orb

Philip Moore: Magnificat from Third Service

10 December **2nd Sunday of Advent**

10.00am **Sung Parish Communion**

Voluntary: J S Bach : Nun komm der

Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Mass Setting: David Thorne: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 30, 26 vs 1&2, 379 (T.337), 48, 38

Motet: Otto Goldschmidt: A tender shoot

Voluntary: J S Bach: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns: 33 (I), 44(i), 36

Responses: Harry Bramma

Psalm: 40. 12-end

Canticles: James Turle / George J Elvey

14 December 2022

7.30pm Police Carol Concert

Mykola Leontovych: Carol of the bells (Traditional Ukrainian carol)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Traditional Polish) arranged by David Willcocks

17 December **3rd Sunday of Advent**

10.00am **Sung Eucharist (Nativity)**

Mass Setting: David Thorne: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 27, 46, 37, Nativity carols on sheet, 47, 41 (omit vs 2&3)

Motet: Orlando Gibbons: This is the record of John

Voluntary: Andrew Carter: Toccata on 'Veni, Emmanuel'

6.30pm **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Hymns: As per service sheet

Carols/Anthems:

Sally Beamish: In the stillness

Stuart Nicholson: I saw three ships

Thomas Hewitt Jones: The holly and the ivy

Richard Shephard: The voice of the angel
Gabriel
Ryan Murphy: A child of hope
Bob Chilcott: The first Nowell
Elizabeth Poston: The Lamb
John Rutter: Star Carol

22 December

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert

Mykola Leontovych : Carol of the bells
(Traditional Ukrainian carol)
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Traditional
Polish) arranged by David Willcocks
Stuart Nicholson: I saw three ships
Thomas Hewitt Jones: The holly and the
ivy
Richard Shephard: The voice of the angel
Gabriel
Ryan Murphy: A child of hope
Bob Chilcott: The first Nowell
Harold Darke: In the bleak mid-winter
John Stainer: How beautiful upon the
mountains
Elizabeth Poston: The Lamb

24 December 4th Sunday of Advent

9.00am Said Eucharist with

hymns

Hymns: 50, 394, 43 (T.216), 51, 75
Voluntary: Bédard : Toccata sur 'IL est né
le divin Enfant'

Christmas Eve

6.30pm

First Mass of Christmas

Mass Setting: W A Mozart : Sparten
Messe
Hymns: 81; 80 (omit 3-5); 78 (omit 3-5);
83; 84
Motet: Sally Beamish : In the stillness
Voluntary: Christopher Tambling : Toccata
Noel

25 December Christmas Day

10.00am

Sung Eucharist

Mass Setting: David Thorne: Mass of St
Thomas
Hymns: 78 (omit 3-5), 72; 59; 60; 66
Voluntary: Eugene Gigout : Rhapsodie sur
les Noël's

31 December 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.00am

Sung Eucharist

Mass Setting: David Thorne : Mass of St
Thomas
Hymns: 65; 89, 70(omit 3); 88, 86
Voluntary: Robert Cockroft: A good king
chills out for spring
No Evening Prayer today

7 January

Epiphany

10.00am

Sung Eucharist

Mass Setting: Gloria : Nicholson in C
Herbert Sumsion in F
Hymns: 103; 102; 63; 105, 94
Motet: Peter Warlock: Bethlehem Down
Voluntary: William Harris : Epilogue on Dix

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns: 93; 94; 96(i)

Responses: Harry Bramma

Psalm: 98

Canticles: Herbert Sumsion in G

Anthem: C S Lang : Tres Magi De

Gentibus

Voluntary: J S Bach: Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schaar, BWV 607 (*Orgelbüchlein*)

14 January 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Mass Setting: David Thorne : Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 99 (1-3), 805, 227, 747, 748

Motet Thomas Attwood: Teach me, O Lord

Voluntary Norman Cocker : Tuba Tune

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns: 93, 52, 95

Responses: William Smith

Psalm: 96

Canticles: Raymond Lewis / Noel

Rawstone

Anthem: Thomas Hewitt Jones: What Child is this

Voluntary: Nicolas-Antoine Lebègue : Noël Une Vierge Pucelle

21 January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Mass Setting: David Thorne: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 80 (vs 1, 2 & 6), 97, 104 (vs 1, 2 & 5), 54 (vs 1 & 2), 801

Motet: Malcolm Archer: Grow in Grace

Voluntary: Florence Price: Toccata

4.30pm Evensong

Hymns: 362, 602, 628

Responses: John Sanders

Canticles: Herbert Brewer in D

Anthem: Thomas Dupuis: Not unto us, O Lord

Voluntary: June Nixon: Christmas Scherzo

28 January Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Hymns 110, 677, 113 (omit*), 396, 291 (vs.1, 5 & Dox),

Mass: David Thorne: Mass of St Thomas

Motet: Johannes Eccard: When to the temple Mary went

Herbert Brewer: Nunc Dimittis in D

Voluntary: Theodore Dubois: Fiat Lux

4.30pm Epiphany Carol Service

Hymns: On service sheet

Anthem: Harold Darke: In the bleake midwinter

Elizabeth Poston: The Lamb

William Crotch: Lo, star-led chiefs

Herbert Howells: Here is the little door

Vidi aquam Mode VIII

Anon.: Coventry Carol

Voluntary: Gaston Litaze : Epiphanie

Bury Parish Church

17 December 2023

12pm

Christmas

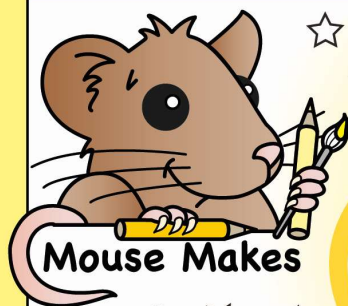
Lunch

Three

Course Meal

Tickets : £8.00 (adults) / £5.00 (children)

Tickets from Churchwardens



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

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

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Parish Weekend Retreat 17-19 November 2023



Ten people from the parish went on a weekend retreat to Foxhill House in Frodsham in November. We were led on the retreat by Jane Butler, who is a spiritual director from South Wales who works in the Ignatian tradition.

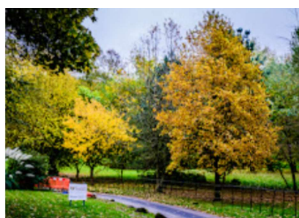
The weather forecast was for a mix of rain and sunny intervals and we were not short of rain! The House and grounds are spacious, though we were not permitted to go into the woods because of storm damage to the trees and the potential for falling logs. The food at Foxhill is hearty and substantial and the place was warm and comfortable. A good start!

In our opening session we introduced ourselves to Jane and she outlined the weekend for us. There was a full timetable, but we were to attend the sessions that we wanted – although some were particularly recommended! There were four sessions of worship a day – Mattins at 8.00, a Eucharist at 12.15, Evensong at 5.30 and Compline at 9.00. Most people came to most of the services, which was lovely and framed the days with prayer for us all.



There were sessions on imaginative prayer, working with a piece of Scripture, others on writing our own psalm, seeing where God moves in our lives, listening to what a poem has to say to us and working

with our own images of God. Some people took time out for a substantial walk on the Saturday afternoon when it was dry.



Jane is an excellent facilitator with a great deal of experience and people appreciated the care with which she took us through the programme. She also offered one to one talks with people and some of the group took advantage of those sessions too.

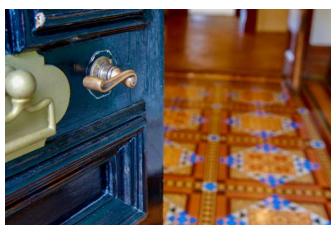
In the evenings after the meal the 'honesty bar' was open and we sat with a glass of wine or beer or a cup of tea and chatted together about matters great and small. Then Compline for most and we shared the Great Silence from after Compline until after breakfast the next day.

The silence was a new experience for many in the group but we adjusted and kept quiet space at various points in the schedule. It was interesting to see how God appeared to each of us over the days and how we heard different things pertinent to each of us.

Before we knew it, it was Sunday lunch – proper Sunday lunch with beef and Yorkshire puddings – or nut roast for the veggies! And we had our closing session with Jane which was very heartfelt.

All in all a great experience; one that created a sense of community and a journey of faith.

If we do another one, think about coming along!



Thoughts from a Pilgrimage - Starting point

All journeys have a starting point. Some starting points are notable. Think about the moon rockets (Cape Canaveral), Titanic (Southampton), or “Round the World in 80 days” (The Reform Club). Most of our journeys start at the front door. When we are consciously going on a journey, where the journey is as important as the destination, we often make something of the start. We take photos, we mark the occasion with food, and we make a mental note of the time and the day.

The pilgrim journey from Winchester to Canterbury started off in a medieval gatehouse in the Hospital of St Cross. There we asked for and were given a ‘dole,’ a small drink of beer and a piece of (stale) bread. It is the traditional offering from that church to those setting off on this walk.



I used to have a little booklet from the 1950s aimed at churchgoers. It was an instructional guide for preparing for Sundays. The photographs were of a family sitting down on a Saturday evening together to read the following day's passages from scripture as part of their preparation. These were followed by the family setting off for church and arriving in time to say their prayers before the worship began.

We might dismiss this as old-fashioned. Yet here is an image of Christians recognising that it is a good discipline to have a starting point, a conscious moment of recollection before setting off to encounter God.

What is your starting point for your walk with God? Could you, before you jump into the car on a Sunday, pause and prepare in your mind all the things you want to bring to God? Could you do that as you get out of bed?

Christmas Services 2023

Bury Parish Church

www.buryparishchurch.com

3 December

Advent Sunday

8.00am Said Communion BCP
10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist
4.30pm Advent Carol Service

5 December

6.00pm Bury Grammar School
Carol Service

6 December

7.30pm Bury Hospice 'Light up a
Life'

12 December

7.30pm Cadet Carol Service

14 December

7.30pm Greater Manchester
Police Carol Service

17 December **Advent 3**

10.00am Nativity Service
6.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols

22 December

12.30pm Bury PC Choir in
Concert

24 December

Advent 4 / Christmas Eve

9.00am Said Eucharist with
hymns
3.30pm Christingle Service
6.30pm First Mass of
Christmas

25 December

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.00am Family Eucharist
Service

31 December

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.00am Eucharist Service

28 January 2024

Patronal Festival

4.30pm Epiphany Carol
Service

Friday Lunchtime Concerts at Bury Parish Church

1st December
Chetham's School of Music

8th December **Kell Trio**



15th December **Imogen Garner (mezzo-soprano) and John Gough (piano)**



22nd December
Christmas with Bury Parish Church Choir



Tickets :
£5.00 on the door
Café open
Refreshments on
sale from 11.30am



Concerts resume -
12th January **Yirui Ma (piano)**



19th January **Minsung Park (piano)**



26th January **John Sabar (piano)**





Children's Christmas Piano Concert 2023

Saturday,

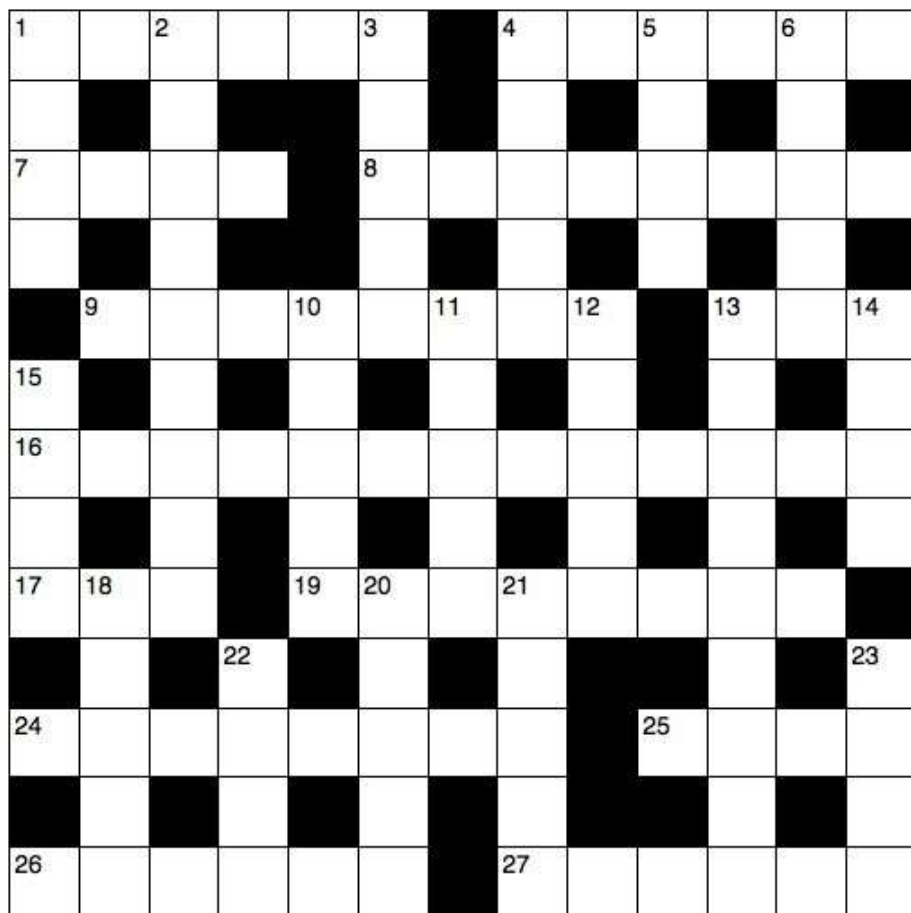
16th December

4.30pm

Bury Parish Church

The Rock BL9 0AH

All raised funds would support **Francis House Children's Hospice**



Across

1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)

4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)

7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)

8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)

9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)

13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)

16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)

- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



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Flower Donations and Dedications

The flowers are dedicated to:

*The late Carol, Glenys, Clive and family in loving memory
Of a wonderful Mum & Dad, Wyn & Bryn Anderton
on their anniversaries – 6th & 19th December*

And from:

*Vera Scoffier and Marilyn Algin
in loving memory of their dear parents Harold and Violet Dixon
on their birthdays and at Christmas time.*



And in January to:

*Kathryn Harding in memory of her mother
Margaret Turner who died on 26th August 2023.
The flowers in memory of Margaret's birthday – 28th January.*

If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers that are arranged in Church in memory of a loved one or maybe to mark a celebration, here is what you need to do. To give you an idea, an average amount of the cost of weekly flowers is between £25.00 - £30.00.

- Put your donation in a white envelope with your name and a contact number on the front and mark it “flower donations and dedications”. Inside the envelope you need to write the dedication details and the date when the flower display is required. This should then be handed to **Jean Sutcliffe**, or to one of the Wardens for passing on to **Jean**.
- A list of dedications will appear in the magazine the following month.
- If you are a tax payer and have completed a Gift Aid declaration form, the Church can reclaim 25p in tax for every £1 that you donate. If you are not signed up for Gift Aid, then please put your donation in a pink envelope, and remember to complete the name/address details before placing it in the white envelope.

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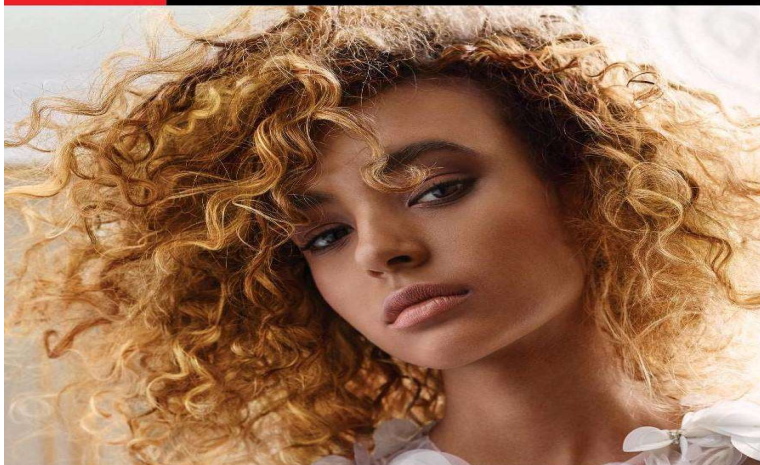
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