

## WHO'S WHO

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## +++REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**Tiddlywinks:** held in the Church room every Tuesday (during term time) 10am – 12 noon; a group for children between birth and 5 with their carers to meet in a warm safe environment to play and chat. Coffee, tea, squash, biscuits and cake provided.

**Vestry Hour with Rev. Mark Thomson:** held in the church room every Wednesday between 6 and 7pm to book Baptisms, Weddings or just to talk to Mark. No appointments needed.

**Mid-week Communion:** Wednesday at 10 am in church

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** – men's group at The Horseshoe (see Rev. Mark)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** – Ladies group (see Rev. Heather)

**Coffee morning** – last Friday of the month



## St. Botolph's Chronicle

December 2017



'Tis Christmas Time

## Christmas at St. Botolph's

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – All Age Worship for Advent**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 6pm Carol Service (please note time)**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 4 pm Crib Service**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 11.30 pm Midnight Communion**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30 am** Christmas Day Communion for all ages (children are invited to bring a favourite toy or Christmas present with them)

We are not holding our own Christingle service this year as there is to be one held in St. Denys on the afternoon of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also Rev. Mark will be sharing the Christingle message in St. Botolph's School in two assemblies one for each Key Stage.

**There will be no mid-week communion on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – 11 am 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Celtic Communion**

**Thank you to The Four Seasons Garden Centre for the gift of a Christmas tree for the church.**



## Answers to last month's Quiz

1: Fishermen, .2: The road to Damascus, 3: The Prophet Elisha, 4: Old Testament books Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1,2 Samuel, 1,2 Kings, 1,2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah and Malachi. New Testament Books Mathew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1,2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1,2 Thessalonians, 1,2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1,2 Peter, 1,2,3 John, Jude and Revelations. There are 66 Books in the Bible. 5: Duggie Dug Dug (Doug Horley), 6: A man that was blind from birth, 7: Reuben, Simeon, Levites, (The priestly Tribe) Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph and Benjamin, 8: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Mathew, Bartholomew/Nathaniel, Judas Iscariot, Thomas, Philip, Simon (The Zealot) and Judas/Thaddeus, 9: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. 10: Blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness and the death of the firstborn or Passover. 11: A Raven. 12: It's someone who Prays well and sometimes hard, someone who sees and feels Him constantly through the Holy Spirit and speaks to him like a friend. 13: The Candy Cane Consists of two Stripes, red and white. The red stripe is for the blood Jesus shed for us and The white stripe is for his Holiness and the rock candy is for the love he has for us is sweet and the rock is our true foundation. It's the shape of Candy Cane at Christmas that is important. The round bit facing up is a Shepherd's staff and Jesus is the true Shepherd and facing down is J is for Jesus. 14: The Christmas Wreath has different representations, 3 of them they are the circular shape represents eternity, the Holly and evergreen branches represents the crown Jesus wore at his crucifixion and the berries are the Blood he shed for us. 15: Noel means Birthday or Christmas. 16: Helmet of Salvation, breastplate of Righteousness, Belt of Truth, Shoes of the Gospel of peace, Shield of Faith, Sword of the Spirit. 17: King David only wrote 73 of the Psalms. Other Authors include: Moses, Heman the Ezrahite, Ethan the Ezrahite, Solomon, Asaph and the sons of Korah, 18: Jacob was the Grandson of Abraham.

### **A View from the Rectory**

I wonder if you got caught up in the Black Friday frenzy in late November? Were you attracted to buy a few things at discounted prices or did you resist all the hype and the advertising? Perhaps you used it as an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and save money at the same time. Now as we get into December and approach Christmas the big stores do all they can to attract us to spend our money in their establishments. These big companies spend millions producing TV adverts, which are really mini films. All of the adverts reveal the delights that the stores have to offer, and they do their best to draw us in, and draw money out of our purses and wallets and into their tills.

The adverts are very well made and focus on the products on offer in store. The little jingle in the Sainsbury's advert mentions all kinds of things that you can buy in store such as sticky tape, terrible jumpers, socks, paper hats and even sprouts! The jingle revolves around the phrase "Every bit of Christmas". The John Lewis advert is entitled "The Greatest Gift" and in the short film a little boy receives a special surprise present from the monster that lives under his bed. The surprise gift is a night light that beams stars up onto his bedroom ceiling. The film ends with the words "For gifts that brighten the world". Tesco has made a series of short films showing ordinary families at Christmas time. Each of the films ends with the words "Everyone is welcome at Tesco".

As we might expect, none of the films makes any mention of the story of Jesus' birth in a stable in Bethlehem. There is no mention of the mother and baby; the guiding star; the wise men bearing gifts; or of adoring shepherds. But we can see hidden in the TV adverts parts of the true message of Christmas. Every bit of Christmas can be found in the stable. We can see the greatest gift of all revealed in God's son, a gift that truly brightens the whole world. And everyone is welcome at the stable, everyone is welcome to come and worship Christ the Lord. So let us use some of these advertising catch phrases to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

In closing, I pray that you will all have a wonderful Christmas and I hope to see you in church over the festive period as we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the baby Jesus.

Every Blessing, Rev Mark

### **Carole's Rocky Road -**

I am no Delia Smith, I find it impossible to stick to recipes, more of a Jamie Oliver! So when people have asked for my recipe for my rocky road (also known as Black sin!) it's a bit difficult as I don't measure things and I substitute if I can't get something. But here goes: ingredients are chocolate digestive biscuits (mix of plain & milk), mixture of nuts, golden syrup, butter, mini marshmallows, crunchie bars, twix bars, chocolate buttons, bars of 70/80% chocolate for topping (I get the ones from Aldi). Method: break up the biscuits, nuts and chocolate bars (in a blender or with a rolling pin) putting them into the dish you are going to use so that you can see when you have enough. Melt the butter and golden syrup in a saucepan then add the biscuit mixture making sure it is evenly covered, mix in some of the marshmallows, save some for the top. Once the mixture is thoroughly coated place it back in the dish, spread it evenly, place in the fridge to cool. Melt the chocolate bars (I do it in the microwave) then spread evenly over the cooled biscuit mixture, decorate with chocolate buttons and mini marshmallows. Put back in fridge to set, then cut into squares. Experiment with flavours, use different sweets or chocolate bars, enjoy!

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fayre at the Community Centre  
2pm**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** 6pm-8pm Year 5 Cantata in church. All are welcome to attend

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January – All Age Worship for Epiphany**

**BAPTISMS:** Oct Macey Bowler **Nov:** Evelyn Dawson, Hattie Foster **Dec:** Phoebe Bostock, Lexie Trollope and Eden Grant

**WEDDINGS:** **October:** James Jones to Sarah Parkin, Ben Blakah to Paige Colonna, **December:** Peter Sutton to Laura White

**FUNERALS:** **Sept:** Lesley Weldon, **Oct:** Moira Cooper, **Nov:** Tracy Smith

**Beautiful story.... Makes you understand that things happen for a reason**

The new pastor and his wife were assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arriving in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus, 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," She asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials 'EBG' were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria when the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week, but he was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her him or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job. What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the Spirit were great. At the end of the service, the Pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine. True story - by Pastor Rob Reid

Thank you to Dulcie for sharing this poignant story

**Reverse Advent Calendar** You are invited to put together a Christmas box for the Sleaford Larder to give out. The idea is that you make a box, cover it with Christmas paper and then each day in advent you buy a festive food item for a family in need and place it in the box. Then near to Christmas we will collect the boxes and deliver them to the foodbank. See Rev Mark or Carole for more info.