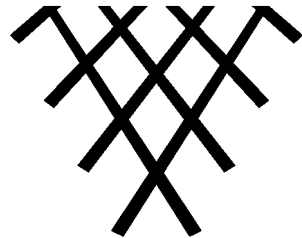




ST PETER'S
CHURCH STANLEY



Dec '16 / Jan '17
Parish News



Free - please take a copy

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The Minister writes:

Hope is Born

I was in London last week and was rather overwhelmed by the number of people. I went to catch a morning tube and the platform was completely full of commuters so the whole station was packed from the edge of the platform to the tube walls. As each tube train came in a number of the crowd got on, we all moved forward and waited till the next train came. I had to wait for about 4 trains before I was able to get on. Then I saw an article about the world's biggest traffic in USA, when so many people were traveling for their Thanksgiving that the roads were gridlocked.

I was struck by the outrageous fact that Jesus came for everyone of these people, and for me too, too many for us to imagine. Each person with their own hopes, dreams, fears and disappointments. This Christmas season is when we can once again reflect on the amazing story of God coming to dwell amongst us to bring Hope. Coming into a world he had created to be a good place but we human beings have messed up. God did not abandon us to our fate but in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus has given us a way for a fulfilled future. This is God's gift of hope to a world in desperate need of love, forgiveness and a better way of living.

We have a number of good traditions that make this a time of hope and celebration; such as giving and receiving presents to show that we care. On the 4th December we have our St Nicholas day service when we bring presents for children who do not otherwise receive much, which are distributed by Barnardo's to give them hope. Another tradition is singing carols, old and new that tell the story and encourage us. There are a number of occasions to join in with that advertised in this magazine. There are events for all different ages and at different times so that at least one should be convenient. Coming together at this time will help us think about not only receiving the gift of Christ afresh for ourselves but also being willing to share the good news and spirit of goodwill. Please take the opportunity to come and join us. Our prayer is that you meet Jesus himself and find real hope for the future.

Rev Bill Henderson



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Blades Hairdressers

58 Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Tel: 822133

*Lindsey & Amy would like to introduce our junior stylist, Beth.
Appointments now available. Welcome to all customers, old and new.*

New to Blades: Wednesday
is now Pensioner day:

- Perms £25
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- Colour, cut & dry £30

Fed up of curls? Looking for a smooth straight
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We specialise in Prom & Wedding Hair
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St Peter's Church Services

*All services are held at St Peter's Church,
Lake Lock Road, Stanley, WF3 4HW*

Sunday	10am	Family Communion
	7.30pm	Holy Space <i>(3rd Sun of month)</i>
Tuesday	2pm	Prayers
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Taize <i>(1st Weds of month)</i>
Thursday	9:15 am	Children's Ark

Other Christian Worship

METHODIST CHURCH: Lee Mount Chapel

Sunday: 10:30am service

Minister: Revd Barry Owen

email: barry.owen@Methodist.org.uk, tel: 07753 127681

Steward: Mrs Doreen Abson, telephone: 01924 824577

ZION CHRISTIAN CENTRE

466a Aberford Road, Stanley,

www.zionchurch.co.uk, telephone: 01924 872262

Sunday:	10:30am Service
	11:00am Sunday School & crèche
Tuesdays:	7:30pm Prayer meeting
Wednesdays:	7:30pm Bible Study, discussions

Minister: David Dixon, telephone: 01924 872262

Linda Skelton

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DATES FOR DECEMBER and JANUARY

Sun 27th Nov- Sat 3rd Dec	<u>Pantomime—'Aladdin'</u> : See page 11 for dates, times and ticket information.
Sun 4th Dec 10am	<u>St Nicholas parade service</u> : bring a gift for a child in need this Christmas, see page 11.
Sun 4th Dec 3pm	<u>Stanley Community Singers Christmas Concert</u> with lots of great songs, and refreshments, p9.
Tues 6th Dec 10am—2pm	<u>Senior Citizens' Lunch club</u> with activities and a hot meal, every Tuesday. See p13 for details.
Weds 7th Dec 2pm-4pm	<u>Coffee Afternoon</u> at Mount Road Chapel with cakes, refreshments etc. See p10 for details.
Weds 7th Dec 5pm-8pm	<u>Santa visit to Stanley</u> at the Community Centre. See page 12 for information.
Weds 7th Dec 7.30pm	<u>Taize service</u> with contemplation, prayer and meditative music.
Fri 9th Dec 3.30pm-5pm	<u>Christmas Fair</u> at St Peter's School with lots of trade and other stalls, activities and games, p12.
Fri 9th Dec 7.30pm	<u>Film Club—'Battle of the Bulbs'</u> : festive family fun; see page 16 for a review.
Sat 10th Dec 10am-12pm	<u>Coffee morning</u> at the Community Centre with tombola, cake stall, and much more, see p17.
Sat 10th Dec 6pm	<u>Torchlight Procession & Carol singing</u> : from Mount Road Methodist church, see p12 for info.
Wed 14th Dec	<u>PCC Meeting</u> at the church, 7.30pm.
Sun 18th Dec 6pm	<u>Traditional Carol Service by candlelight</u> : at St Peter's Church, with Bible readings and carols.
Xmas Eve & Xmas Day	See centre pages, p14-15, for details of all our Christmas services.
Sun 8th Jan 6:30pm	<u>Christingle services</u> : celebrating Jesus as Light of the World. See page 17 for details.

STANLEY LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Stanley Library offers a wide selection of books, talking books, selected language tapes, DVDs for hire, as well as a photocopier/A4 colour photocopier, fax machine, newspapers and selected magazines. There are also public access computers, offering free internet access, and basic computer programs (i.e. word processing). There are also free UK Online computer courses available offering internet training and Introduction to Computers —please ask in the library.

NEW OPENING HOURS FROM OCTOBER 2016:

Monday	9.30am—5pm
Tuesday	9.30am—5pm
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	9.30am—7pm
Friday	9.30am—5pm
Saturday	10am—1pm

Reading Groups: There are two Reading groups: one meets in the morning of the first Monday of every month, and the second meets in the evening of the first Thursday of every month. Check with the library for times and book details.

Activities for Children: There is a Tiny Tots Storytime for under 5's, 11:30-12pm on certain Mondays: check with the Library for dates. Other activities for children are organised in most school holidays—please ask for details.

Family History Group: Family history sessions take place in the library on Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm.

Coffee Morning: There is a coffee morning every Thursday morning, 10am-12 noon. Come and relax with friends over a cuppa.

The Community Centre: The hall, two rooms and well equipped kitchen are available for hire. Contact the Librarian on 01924 303130 to book in advance.

Stanley Community Singers

Christmas Concert

Sunday 4th December, 3pm
 St Peter's Church, Lake Lock Road, Stanley

With a varied programme of festive songs and
 carols, and featuring special guest performers

Also with a raffle and refreshments
 A donation will be made to the
 Broadhead family

Buy tickets on the door: £3 adults & 50p children
Wear something Christmassy if you want to!

Autumn Fair — a review

Many thanks to everyone who organised and supported the Autumn Fair at the Community Centre on Saturday 19th November. The event raised approximately £1,060 which was a great result and quite a bit more than last year.

There were lots of stalls, including toys, bottle stall, bric-a-brac, children's tombola, cakes, books, jewellery, tombola, handmade craft items, greetings cards, and a raffle. There were also very popular bacon sandwiches, and tea and coffee.

Many thanks to the organisers, the stallholders and everyone who helped beforehand and on the day to make it such an enjoyable, happy and successful event. Particular thanks of course to everyone who came along on the day to support the event. *(Please note all winners of raffle prizes and 'Name the Doll' has been notified).*



Mount Road Methodist Chapel: *Christmas Events*



- The next Coffee Afternoons will be on Wednesday 7th December and then on Wednesday 4th January, from 2pm—4pm with cakes, refreshments and other stalls. Everyone welcome.



- Thank you to everyone who supported the Winter Fayre last month which raised £430, including the 20th Wakefield Beaver and Cub pack who helped to organise the event.



- The Christmas Eve Service on Thursday 24th December is at 7:30pm. Join us as we welcome the start of Christmas Day with a communion service by candlelight.



- The local Methodist Christmas Day Service will be at Parkside Methodist Church, Leeds Road at 10am.



- There will be a Sing in the New Year Service at 10am on Sunday 1st January; select and sing your favourite hymns!

Knit and Natter, Sew and Chatter!

At St Peter's Church Centre, every Thursday, 2pm-4pm

Enjoy a cuppa, company and a 'crafty' afternoon!

Please come and join this established group of ladies as they knit, sew, compare ideas and patterns, learn new crafty skills, and share conversation, refreshments and friendship.

Just turn up: you will be very warmly welcomed

Prayer Meeting—every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm



The weekly prayer meeting at St Peter's Church continues to meet every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm, led by Calli McKenna. Call in to pray for those in trouble, sorrow, sickness or need; for family, friends, the community and the world. Everyone is very welcome; please come along.



St Peter's Church proudly presents:

ALADDIN

The well-known pantomime story is given the typical St Peter's church makeover! Aladdin hopes to win the hand of Princess Jasmine and thwart the wicked Abenezzer. Featuring an array of curious characters, 'Aladdin' also includes the usual terrible jokes, silly songs, great costumes and props that you've come to expect.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard back-stage and on-stage to prepare the pantomime for our audiences. Yet again we will be performing the pantomime to over 600 people over 7 sell-out shows. We hope you enjoy the show, and look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Contact the Church Office for tickets: tel: 835746 or email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

St Nicholas Parade service, Sunday 4th December, 10am



The St Nicholas family and parade service is an opportunity to donate a wrapped gift for a child who might otherwise not receive much this Christmas. The gifts will be handed over to the Barnados charity to be distributed. Please bring a wrapped gift, labelled with a suggested age and gender.

From the Stanley Parish Register

Funerals

Jim Lancaster

1 November 2016

Baptisms

Clarke Ashton Jacques

13 November 2016

Rowan Jonathan Robinson

19 November 2016

Santa to visit Stanley Community Centre!

Wednesday 7th December, 5pm—7.30pm

Santa will be calling in to Stanley Community Centre on Wednesday 7th December 2016 as part of his journey around the district. The community event will start at 5pm with Santa arriving by sleigh at around 6pm, bringing a small gift for children who come along to meet him. There will be free children's roundabout rides and free candy floss along with a variety of stalls run by local community groups. The library will be offering craft sessions for children and the usual bacon sandwiches, tea, coffee and mince pies will be on sale. Please come along and support your local groups and enjoy a special community event.



St Peter's School Christmas Fair

Friday 9th December, 3.30pm—5pm

With cake stall, craft and gift stalls, tombola, refreshments, Santa's grotto, fun activities, trade stalls, and a raffle with some incredible prizes.

Please come along and support this event!!

Torchlight Procession & Carol singing, Sat 10th Dec

On Saturday 10th December, everyone is invited to meet at Mount Road Methodist Church at 6pm. We then plan to walk to Stanley Lane



Ends for carol singing before finishing at St Peter's Church Centre for mulled wine and mince pies. In previous years this evening has been great fun; so please wrap up warm and join us!



St Peter's Church Senior Citizens'

Lunch Club



The St Peter's church Senior Citizens' lunch group continues to meet every Tuesday at St Peter's church with a varied programme of talks, activities, and films. Arrive from 10am-10.30 and enjoy tea or coffee and a chat, followed by the activity of the day. Lunch is served from about 12.15pm: a freshly cooked hot meal followed by dessert. See below for the activities booked for the next few weeks:

Tues 6th Dec	Christmas crafts
Tues 13th Dec	Christmas lunch
Tues 20th & 27th Dec—closed for Christmas	
Tues 3rd Jan 2017	Lunch club reopens

The lunch club is ideal for anyone wanting a bit of companionship and something to do, and costs just £5 per person.






Some observations on Christmas:

- “If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost.” *Corrie ten Boom*
- “The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable.” *R Sockman*
- “Christ has outlasted the empire that crucified Him 19 centuries ago. He will outlast the nations who deny him now.” *Anon*
- “We know how God would act if he were in our place – He has been in our place.” *A W Tozer*
- “There were only a few shepherds at the first Bethlehem. The ox and the ass understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem. And it is the same today.” *Thomas Merton*
- “God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man.” *C S Lewis*.
- “The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that he sunk himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.” *Martin Luther*



Christmas Events 2016

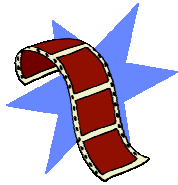
*At St Peter's Church, Lake Lock Road
and at Mount Road Methodist Church*

Sunday 27th November, 10am	<u>Advent Sunday Service</u> at St Peter's to celebrate the start of advent.
Sun 27th November - Sat 3rd December 	<u>'Aladdin'</u> pantomime. The well-known pantomime story is given the typical St Peter's church makeover! Several of the performances have sold out; email churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk or telephone 01924 835746 to find out about ticket availability and prices.
Sunday 4th December 10am 	<u>St Nicholas Parade Service</u> at St Peter's Church. Bring a wrapped gift for a boy or a girl and label with the suggested age. Barnardos will distribute the gifts to children who might not receive much this Christmas.
Sun 4th December 3pm 	<u>Stanley Community Singers Christmas Concert</u> at St Peter's Church. Join our local choir for an enjoyable afternoon concert of festive songs and carols, followed by refreshments. <i>A donation will be made to the Broadhead family appeal. Please buy your tickets on the door: £3 adults, 50p children.</i>
Wednesday 7th December 2pm-4pm	<u>Coffee Afternoon</u> at Mount Road Chapel with various stalls and refreshments. Please call in for a coffee, cake and a friendly chat. 
Wednesday 7th December 5pm-8pm	<u>Visit by Santa</u> to Stanley Community Centre. With crafts in the library, displays by community groups, candy floss and refreshments. Santa will arrive by sleigh at 6pm; free admission and free Santa visit. 

Friday 9th December 7:30pm 	Free Film Club— 'Battle of the Bulbs': a Christmas feel-good film for all the family at St Peter's Church; Doors open 7pm, free tea & coffee, bring your own popcorn!
Saturday 10th December 10am-12pm	Coffee morning at Stanley Community Centre with refreshments, cake stall, raffle, tombola, greetings cards, etc. Everyone welcome! 
Sat 10th December 6pm 	Torchlight Procession and Carol singing: Meet at Mount Road Methodist Church then walk to Stanley Lane Ends for carols, and finish at St Peter's Church for refreshments. Everyone welcome.
Sunday 18th December 6pm	Carol Service: a service by candlelight at St Peter's Church featuring traditional Bible readings and carols. Please join us. 
Saturday 24th December 2pm	Christmas Eve Crib service: at St Peter's Church for all ages, with popular carols, the telling of the Christmas story, crafts and refreshments. 
Sat 24th December 7:30pm (Mount Road) or 11pm (St Peter's)	Christmas Eve Communion Services: join us at 7:30pm at Mount Road Methodist Church or at 11pm at St Peter's Church for traditional communion services to welcome Christmas Day.
Sunday 25th December 10am	Christmas Day family service to celebrate the birth of Jesus. 
Sunday 8th January 2017 6:30pm 	Christingle Service: special all-age service at St Peter's Church in conjunction with the Children's Society to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World.

See our website for further details of these events, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

 facebook.com/stpeters.stanley	 www.stpeters-stanley.org.uk	 @stpeters
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St Peter's Church
Film Club



Friday evening, 9th December 7:30pm

‘Battle of the Bulbs’ (2014)



Every Christmas, Bob Wallace, his wife Mindy and children have the best decorated home in their neighbourhood. However, a new family, Stu and Mary Jones and their son Chip, move into the house across the street and on their first day, manage to out-do the Wallace's decorations. Bob recognises Stu as his old high school rival for whom he had an intense dislike and soon their rivalry is resumed, but this time over who will win the city's annual Christmas decoration contest. In the end, of course, Christmas spirit wins through, and they manage to put their differences aside for the sake of neighbourhood harmony. This is a great Christmas film with lots of laughs and plenty to keep everyone entertained.

Friday evening, 13th January 2017 7:30pm

‘Golden Years: Grand Theft OAP’ (2016)



When Arthur (Bernard Hill) and Martha (Virginia McKenna) Goode find that their pension pot is virtually worthless they decide to take drastic action - by robbing a bank! After their first robbery is successful they start to like the criminal lifestyle and so decide to rob even more, but as the banks get bigger and the robberies get riskier will they be able to outwit the police as they close in? Also starring Simon Callow and Una Stubbs, this is a funny, feel-good, very British film in the vein of "Lady In the Van" and "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel". Golden Years is a hilarious British heist thriller that shows just because you're getting old doesn't mean you have to stop having fun.

Doors open 7pm, film start 7.30pm

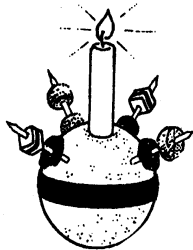
Free admission, tea & coffee; bring your own popcorn!

What is Christingle all about?

The word Christingle means the Christ-light, and the tradition of Christingle goes back to 1747, when the pastor of a church in Germany, John de Watteville, wanted to help his congregation understand about God's love for the world. He came up with the Christingle, which became popular within Germany before spreading to other countries. Nowadays, the Christingle is an orange with a red ribbon around it. Mounted in the orange are four cocktail sticks, each carrying some sweets. The orange represents the world, and the sweets remind us of all the wonderful gifts that God has given us in our beautiful World: He gave us these gifts because He loves us.

On top of the Christingle there is a candle which stands for Jesus: God sent Jesus into the world to light our way back to God. Finally, the red ribbon stands for the blood of Christ. He came into the world for a purpose: to die in order to take the pain and the sin of the world upon himself. This means that when we do something wrong and feel bad about it, we can go to God and know that we are forgiven.

Today, collections taken at Christingle services are given to the Children's Society to help its mission to change the lives of vulnerable children across the country who have no one to turn to. Whether they are a young carer, a refugee or at risk of sexual exploitation, there are thousands of children in the UK who need someone who is willing to listen to and support them.



By taking part in a Christingle service this season, you can help to change the lives of disadvantaged children and families in our local communities.

*St Peter's Christingle service is at 6.30pm on
Sunday 8th January 2017*

Coffee morning thank-you

Thank you to everyone who supported the November church coffee morning last month; it raised £227.60. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 10th December from 10am—12pm at Stanley Community Centre with lots of great stalls: cakes, tombola raffle, books, jigsaws, toys, greetings cards, and refreshments including bacon butties.



The Challenges of Christmas by Rev Paul Hardingham

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! One household had 250,000 Christmas lights, but could not boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

The challenge of over-indulging: We all remember the episode of the Vicar of Dibley, where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, the average person gaining 6 pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. 'Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

The challenge of overspending: In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later she read the message: 'This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.' Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night: 'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.' (Matthew 1:21).

The challenge of over too quickly: Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, now and for eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas? -
'Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart'.



Christmas all wrapped up!

"And this will be a sign to you, you will find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:2

Do you dread wrapping all those Christmas presents? The roll of flimsy paper that slides around the table; the lumpy gifts that defy wrapping, the tape that sticks to your fingers...what's so important about wrapping presents, anyway? Why not just hand them over? Well did you ever consider that the very first Christmas present EVER was

wrapped up – in swaddling cloths? In biblical times, after a birth, the umbilical cord would be cut, the baby would be washed, rubbed with salt and oil, and then carefully wrapped in swaddling cloths. The swaddling is described as a cloth or blanket tied together like bandages. This process was carried out with great love and care, and was thought to have health-giving benefits.

On the other hand, to ignore the swaddling process was seen as abandonment and rejection. "And as for thy nativity, on the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to soothe thee. Thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. (Ezekiel 16:4 KJ21)



So why wrap your presents? Because just as the baby Jesus was swaddled as a sign of great love and care, wrapping our gifts is a sign of our own effort, love and care towards those whom we love. So be patient with the wrapping paper, and Happy Christmas!

Adapted from an article by Norma Murrain of www.silverfishjewellery.co.uk

Report from Stanley Grove School

Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4NT, Tel: 01924 303805

Website: www.stanleygroveprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Frost

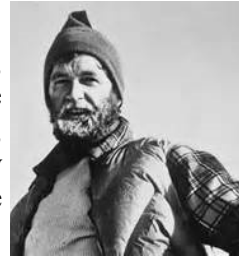
The school children have already had great fun decorating the Christmas tree in the hall and putting up decorations they have made. Parents were invited to come in and help with this. The children have also been busy making a wonderful array of craft items which will be on sale at our Christmas Fair which will be on Wednesday 7th December from 3.30pm-5pm. Everyone is invited to come and support this event. The children are also working hard towards their Christmas performances which we are very much looking forward to.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the Halloween event in school last month; £449.80 was raised. The money will be used to support our outdoor activities; it is planned to purchase a poly-tunnel, shed, tools and some planters. The children are able to take part in a fantastic range of outdoor activities at our school including den building, camp fire making, willow dome, outdoor sensory area, and other ‘forest school’ initiatives.

Sir George—*the man who gave his name to Mount Everest*

The man who had the highest mountain in the world named after him died 150 years ago, on 1 December 1866. Sir George Everest, who was born in 1790 in Wales but baptised in Greenwich, spent much of his life exploring and surveying India.

Eventually he became Surveyor-General there, and his diligence, accuracy and innovative skill were much admired. His successor, Andrew Waugh, honoured the “master of geographical research” by naming the world’s highest peak after him when he could find no local name.



In fact the mountain is called Chomolungma (Mother Goddess of the Earth) in Tibet, and the Nepalese call it Sagarmatha (Goddess of the sky). Before Waugh, the British called it Peak XV.

There is some doubt as to whether Sir George ever actually saw the mountain that bears his name, but his triangulation network was extended by Waugh and used to locate the summit.

Sir George retired in 1843 and returned to live in England, where he became a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was knighted in 1861, and in 1862 he was elected Vice-President of the Royal Geographical Society. At the age of 56, he married 23-year-old Emma Wing, who bore him six children.

He died in Paddington but was buried in Hove. Two of his brothers were ministers. Curiously, although the mountain is universally pronounced Ever-rest, Sir George pronounced his own name Eve-rest, with Eve as in Adam.

Christmas smile-lines:

- This Christmas, when the family gets together, remember: a certain friction between the generations is inevitable. After all, the young and the old have all the answers and those in between are stuck with all the questions.
- Burglar: “What are you laughing at?” Homeowner: “That you come at night around Christmas without a light, to look for money when I can’t find any in broad daylight.”
- Christmas is weird - what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

That coin in your Christmas pudding

There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny. After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but you were probably more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding! Other coins ‘appear’ at this time of year; chocolate coins are traditionally given to children at Christmas time, and in Jewish tradition during Hanukkah. It is said that one night St Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw!



Trafalgar Square’s very special Christmas Tree

This year, as every year for the past 69, a magnificent Norwegian spruce will stand in Trafalgar Square. It is seen as a symbol of freedom and a token of friendship.

This huge—it is generally more than 20 metres tall—annual gift from the people of Norway has been sent every year since 1947. It is Norway’s way of thanking Britain for standing by them during the dark days of the Second World War. For when the Nazis invaded Norway in 1940, King Haakon VII fled to the UK. The British then enabled him to set up a Norwegian government in exile in London, where he could send radio messages back to his occupied homeland.

The tree is known to Norwegian foresters as ‘the queen of the forest’, and each year only the very best is chosen to grace Trafalgar Square. The trees can be hand-picked years in advance. Many of them are very old, which means they were quietly growing deep in a Norwegian forest during the dark days of Nazi occupation and death.



Many years ago, another tree in another occupied land played a crucial role when a Gift to the whole world was put on display. He was not lit up for a holiday season, but instead became the Light of the world. This month we remember His birthday, and look ahead to His amazing gift to us of forgiveness and friendship with God – through His death on a tree. Jesus is the reason for Christmas, and He is for life, not just for Christmas.

1936 – the year the King stepped down

Eighty years ago – on 11th December 1936 – King Edward VIII became the only sovereign to ever abdicate voluntarily in this country. He did so in order to marry an American socialite divorcee, Wallis Simpson, one of a number of women with whom he had had affairs.

Edward – known to everyone in his family as David – had been King for 11 months. On his abdication he took the title of Duke of Windsor and went to live a high society life, mainly in France.

Edward was born on 23rd June 1894 in Surrey. He joined the Grenadier Guards in World War One, but was not allowed to see active service. In the 1920s he represented his father, George V, on many foreign tours and this, together with his visits to deprived areas of the UK, plus his charm and good looks, brought him considerable popularity.



But there was a rift between him and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang, because of his apparent lack of interest in the Church, of which he was head. There have been suggestions that it was this rift that made the abdication unavoidable.

The Archbishop and many of the King's advisers were in any case against marriage to a divorcee, and all attempts to find a solution failed. Edward's brother became George VI and led Britain through the Second World War, while the Duke became Governor of the Bahamas. He died of throat cancer in Paris in 1972.

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Prayers for this month



Christmas Prayer

Father, thank you for creating us and for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only you can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect your light and love in this dark world to bring glory to you.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Christmas

All heaven waited with bated breath
As the Lord sent Gabriel on ahead
To break the news to the young Jewish girl,
'You will be with child' was all he said

'How can this be?' Poor Mary cried,
'I am a maid and know no man.'
'With God all is possible' came the reply;
This child would fulfil redemption's plan

News spread fast when the baby was born,
Shepherds were alerted by a heavenly host,
Glory to God and peace on earth,
God was coming to redeem the lost.

This Christmas day we celebrate,
Like the shepherds and wise men we play our part,
As they bring their gifts we worship Him too,
But the one gift He longs for is our heart.

By Megan Carter

Daily Strength

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3: 16-17

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1: 29



Please contact the editor, Eleanor Plant, with items for the next magazine on 01924 835746, or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

Cartoon Corner



.....relax Miss Pugh..... he's not introducing incense—he's just got a new phone with a faulty battery!



"Of all the cheek! Rides up on his sleigh in his flashy red suit, pushes to the front of the queue to the stable shouting 'Ho! Ho! Ho!'... who DOES he think he is?!"

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Cllr Matthew Morley
Tel: 07719 904085
Email: mmorley@wakefield.gov.uk

1st & 3 rd Tuesday of each month	6pm—7pm	Stanley Community Centre
2 nd & 4 th Saturday of each month	9:30—10:45am	Stanley Community Centre
2 nd & 4 th Saturday of each month	11am—12 noon	Bevin Close Community Centre, Outwood

Excludes bank holidays, no appointment necessary, home visits can be arranged

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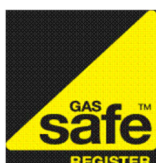
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Vicar	Rev W Henderson	822143
	379 Aberford Road, Stanley	
Assistant Minister	Rev David Teece	
Readers	Vicky Wilson	
	Calli McKenna	
Lay Pastoral Minister	Margaret Woffendin	
Church Wardens	Jason Plant	
	David Sunderland	
Church Office	Eleanor Plant	835746
	churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk	
Treasurer	Contact Rev Henderson	
Church Flowers	Angie Daniel	376343
Musical Director	Julie West	829098
Electoral Roll	Eleanor Plant	835746
Prayer Chain	Glenda Oakes	820222
House Groups	Rev W Henderson	822143
Ladies Society	Contact Church Office	835746
Magazine Editor	Eleanor Plant	835746
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Calli McKenna	07557 735610

YOUTH GROUPS

Children's Ark	Viv Henderson	822143
Creche	Rev W Henderson	822143
Sunday Gang & Explorers	Viv Henderson	822143

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Cubs/Scouts (boys & girls)	Mark Pringle	07450 953744
	firstyorkshire@gmail.com	
Brownies	Via Church Office	835746
Rainbows	Via Church Office	835746

For information regarding weddings and baptisms please contact the Vicar after any church service or by telephone on 01924 822143.

Contact the Church Office on 835746 (answer phone out of office hours) or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

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