

## December Newsletter 2021

### The United Benefice of St. Giles, Killamarsh and St. Matthew's, Renishaw

#### December Sunday Services

Date	Time	Church	Service
05/12/21 Advent 2	10.00 am	St. Giles	Service of the Word
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
12/12/21 Advent 3	10.00 am. 3.00 pm	St. Giles St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Service of the Word
19/12/21 Advent 4	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
26/12/21 Boxing Day	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion

#### Midweek Services

**St. Giles:** Holy Communion every Wednesday morning at 9.30 am.

**St. Matthew's:** Holy Communion on the second Tuesday at 9.00 am.

## **Christmas Services**

### **St Matthew's Church:**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December** Carols by Candlelight @ 4pm

**Christmas Eve**, at 4pm Family Carol Service with dressing of the Crib

**Christmas Eve**, at 8pm Holy Communion

### **St Giles Church:**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December** Festival of Trees Service @ 4pm

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December** at 6pm Carols around the Christmas tree

**Christmas Eve** at 6pm Holy Communion

**Christmas Day** 10am Benefice Christmas Day Communion

### **Christmas Fayre**

**St Giles Church Hall-** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ 10am-1pm Christmas Fayre

### **Christmas Concert**

**St Giles Church Hall-** Christmas Concert @ 3pm. with the Dronfield Genquip Band.

### **St. Matthew's Christmas Coffee Morning**

A big thank you to all those who supported this lovely seasonal event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The Coffee Morning was a huge success with visitors enjoying time together along with a cup of tea or coffee and a variety of cakes and buns. The event raised £430 which will go to the cost of running the church. Thank you especially to the team who worked so hard planning and then implementing the coffee morning.

## **Advent**

Waiting is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: *'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back'* (Mark 13:34-35).

We live between Jesus' first and second comings and this parable reminds us of the need to watch and wait, as disciples living faithfully for Him. It reminds us of two kinds of waiting: *passive* and *active*. Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep, as he thinks there is plenty of time before the train arrives. He is *passively waiting*. There is also a small boy on the platform who is excited about the train coming. He can't sit still and constantly looks down the track to see if the train is coming. He is *actively waiting*, for he expects the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent gives us a choice: *how will we wait for Jesus' coming?* Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return or simply look to Him coming to us today. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. There is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master! *Parish Pump*

### **Shoebox Appeal**

51 Shoeboxes, from the congregations of St. Giles and St. Matthew were collected from St. Giles Church on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November and are on their way to brighten some children's Christmas who otherwise would have no Christmas cheer. Thank you to all those who have filled a box or boxes, and those who have given a monetary donation. Thank you once more to Ben and Rachel Wheelhouse for organising the appeal and collection.

## **Have a Laugh**

Two snowmen were standing next to each other. One said to the other:  
"Can you smell carrots?"

## **Poetry Corner**

### **Christmas Rush**

That time again, my trolley's full  
Buying all the Christmas fare,  
A turkey crown, a rib of beef,  
Crisps and nibbles, lots to spare.

Christmas crackers and serviettes,  
Paper for wrapping and cards to send,  
Nuts and oranges, figs and dates  
The list goes on, there seems no end.

In all this rush it's good to pause  
And think about that special Day,  
When shepherds watched and angels sang  
As a Baby lay in a bed of hay.

*By Megan Carter*

### **Good Advice**

When life becomes quite troublesome  
Take one day at a time  
Do not try to rush along  
Ease yourself into the climb  
Set yourself some targets  
Each one harder than the last  
Until you reach the summit  
And the troublesome storm is past

*By Ann Ward*

## **Be Kind**

Try to be kind to each other this Christmas: many of us could do with some gentle encouragement. Depression and anxiety have risen by more than a quarter since the pandemic, according to the first global estimate of Covid's impact on mental health last year. The reduced interaction of people, the increase in isolation, coupled by high infection rates, were the cause of more than 125 million extra cases of depression and anxiety disorders in 2020.

The findings, published in the *Lancet*, reported that globally, depressive disorders have increased by 28 per cent, and anxiety by 26 per cent.

*Parish Pump*

## **Those unwanted gifts**

What will you do with the Christmas gifts you don't want? Depends on your sex. It seems that women are 60% more likely than men to return or give away Christmas presents they don't want.

What are considered unwanted presents? One list includes potato peelers, a carpet cleaner, a sleeve ironing board, a mop and bucket, and out-of-date Bailey Irish Cream liqueur.

Some of us will sell our unwanted gifts on Ebay, while others of us will give them away, or to the nearest charity shop. The survey was done by *Which?* *Parish Pump*

## **Father Georges 2021 Harvest Appeal**

As you are all aware I invite Father annually to let us know what the next farming project is so that we can help and support him financially. This year's project was to build a cow shed. Whilst the target was set at £1,200-00 thanks to donations raised at St Giles Church, St Matthew's Church, Killamarsh Methodist Church, St Giles C of E Primary School and Killamarsh Junior School the sum total of £1030-50 has been raised and sent directly to Father Georges via Nat West international transfer. Father Georges has acknowledged receipt of this money.

On behalf of Father Georges I would like to offer my very personal thanks to all who have supported and who continue to support Father Georges and his ongoing vision for people within his community to be self sufficient.

You may have seen the recent news reports of regions in Madagascar who are suffering the effects of drought and famine. There are so many people suffering such hardship.

Please continue to pray for Father Georges, for Eveline , for their farming initiatives and also for those suffering in Madagascar. We pray that international aid will also help to alleviate their current plight. Revd Helen

### **The Festival of Trees at St Giles Church**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December various trees were brought into St Giles Church and decorated according to the group's specific identity. What creativity! What imagination! What flair!

The Festival of Trees Service this year on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm will see many local people from the Killamarsh Community and beyond offering their specific talents to celebrate Christmas trees. I can't wait!!

### **A word of thanks by Sheila Whitehead**

For the last 10 years I have been a facilitator mainly for Aqua box, also for the past few years for the Syrian Refugees, Osteoporosis in Sheffield and in the last couple of months Aid 4 Gambia.

Aqua box has benefitted greatly over the years with blankets, teddies, baby clothes and shoes. I have always been overwhelmed by the generosity of the knitting ladies at and around St Matthew's. Also to Liz Longden. She has sewn thousands of squares into blankets, the squares sent by Val Roach and her knitters who have also sent beautiful cardigans and hats etc

Dorothy Bower and friends who regularly send lots of blankets, jumpers, cardigans and baby sets. Denise has crocheted one and a half thousand blankets over the past ten years and Mavis who has knitted many tee shirts.

Betty Cordy has knitted teddies, maybe five or six each week for ten years now only stopping as she has gone virtually blind but of late has sent clothes and ornaments for Osteoporosis. She now misses knitting very much.

When I come to coffee mornings I always have many beautiful items to take to the charities I now support. The items have gone all over the world with Aqua box and more local with the other charities. The blankets now are going to Aid 4 Gambia.

The wire box in church is always full of gifts of love, with love and care in every stitch. This year has been at times very tough for me having a very poorly grandson with RCDH in Sheffield Children's Hospital.

I have felt supported by Ann Joule also Liz Longden. Ann sent poems and Liz sent a little knitted doctor with a hat embroidered with N.H.S. Layla, my daughter, placed the doctor teddy in Rio's crib as soon as he was born. The Embrace team put him on full life support to travel to the Sheffield Children's Hospital and Dr Ted travelled with him. After his life saving surgery while on ventilation the little bear was by his side , much admired. When Liz found out how the doctors and nurses loved Dr Ted she knitted three hundred doctors and nurses for the I.N.C.U. so that every baby has a knitted ted in their crib placed with love from Liz.

Aqua box put out a call for knitted teddies. Liz filled the gap and has knitted two hundred and fifty in the last four months.

How do I say thank you to these ladies as it seems so inadequate so in God's name I say

THANK YOU

Yours with love Sheila Whitehead

## **What's in a name**

What do your family call him, that cheerful old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he's Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he's Saint Nicholas. That's his real name, abbreviated to 'Santa Claus' by Brits and Americans who don't like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into a more homely, cuddly kind of name for the children. Whatever he's called, his function is the same – delivering presents to children at Christmas.

The first St Nicholas was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears may be a vague representation of a bishop's garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and the lucky children in Belgium and the Netherlands get their presents then. *Parish Pump*

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**To be Christ in Church and Community**

