



***ST PETER'S CHURCH  
BRACKLEY***

***"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"***





## The Cost of Christmas



A recent survey found that 4 in 10 Brits think they won't be able to afford what they consider to be a 'proper Christmas' in 2022. It won't surprise you to hear the cost of Christmas is expected to be inordinately high this year, caused by high inflation and a cost of living crisis. 'Tis the season to be thrifty, perhaps!

But praise God that he was anything but thrifty that wondrous night in Bethlehem. Consider **the true cost of Christmas**: the eternal Son exchanging the bosom of his Father (John 1:18, KJV) for the womb of Mary and, in time, the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Now that is expense of a different order! God unsparingly emptied the coffers to give us the 'proper Christmas' we really didn't deserve.

Poetry has a way of making familiar truth fresh, which can be particularly helpful at Christmas. I like the way this excerpt of Luci Shaw's poem 'Mary's Song' expresses the mind-boggling cost of Christmas:

Quiet he lies whose vigour hurled a universe.  
He sleeps whose eyelids have not closed before.  
His breath (so slight it seems no breath at all)  
once ruffled the dark deeps to sprout a world.  
Breath, mouth, ears, eyes, he is curtailed  
who overflowed all skies, all years.  
Older than eternity, now he is new, now native to earth as I am.  
Nailed to my poor planet, caught that I might be free,  
blind in my womb to know my darkness ended,  
brought to this birth for me to be new-born,  
and for him to see me mended I must see him torn.

I hope you gape at this love-inducing, life-transforming truth over the coming month: the Darling of Heaven choosing birth in ignominy and death in agony. For you. Because the only way to fix our brokenness was to be broken himself. "For him to see me mended I must see him torn."

Come along to one of our services to keep basking in the light of this jaw-dropping extravagance. On Sundays, we'll be continuing our **Advent series in Exodus**. Traditionally, Advent is used by the Church to focus more on Christ's second coming than his first. But it's possible to have your cake and eat it in the Old Testament, which has both horizons in view. In Exodus, we glimpse 3 glorious paradoxes about the coming of the LORD: the unapproachable God draws near (ch.19), the unseeable God is seen (ch.34) and the uncontainable God dwells in one place (ch.40) – all of which occurred most profoundly in Christ at his first coming, and all of which will be the highest reasons for euphoria when he comes back.

After the service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> (at 11am), there will be an information session to get us excited about the upcoming **800 Celebration** taking place throughout 2023, marking eight centuries since the arrival of the first vicar at St Peter's. Then, **Carols by Candlelight** will provide an opportunity to sing some of the classics and enjoy a mince pie with mulled wine (7.30pm on Sun 11<sup>th</sup>). Those with young children might want to book in for one of our **Bake the Christmas Story** workshops (11am or 2pm on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> – for whole families with primary aged kids). Alternatively, come to the **Nativity Service** (9:30am on Sun 18<sup>th</sup>) with children dressed as their favourite nativity characters, or book in for one of the ever-popular **Christingle Services** (3.00, 4.15, 5.30pm on Sat 24<sup>th</sup>), where Christingles will be handed out freely during the service. Finally, to see in the day itself, there's either our **Midnight Communion** (11:30pm on Sat 24<sup>th</sup>) or the **All-age Christmas Day Communion** service (at 9:30am on Sun 25<sup>th</sup>).

But whatever you do this December, realise that you don't need to break the bank to enjoy a proper Christmas. After all, the costliest expense has already been paid: "Though Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). Merry Christmas!

# CAROLS *by* CANDELIGHT

7.30pm on Sunday  
11<sup>th</sup> December

St Peter's Church  
Brackley

mulled wine  
& mince pies

**24<sup>th</sup> Sat**      **Christmas Eve**

**3pm**

**4.15pm**

**5.30pm**

**\* Book via website**

**Christingle Service\***

**Christingle Service\***

**Christingle Service\***

**25<sup>th</sup> Sun**      **Christmas Day**

**8am**

**9.30am**

**11.30pm**      **Midnight Communion**

**BCP Holy Communion**

**All Age Communion Service**

## NEED A WARM SPACE?

St Peter's Church hall

open to all

**Mondays 2-4pm**

this winter

from Nov 21<sup>st</sup>



hot drinks

good company

**warm welcome**

all free

just drop by





# Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-21.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born? Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

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G	B	A	B	Y	N	G	O	O	D	A	B	L	F			
V	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	A	V	I	O	U	R
D	A	Y	T	M	A	R	Y	N	E	N	F	R	R	O		
S	C	H	R	I	S	T	E	P	G	L	T	D				
A	L	A	I	D	R	W	H	E	O	H						
E	P	R	A	I	S	E	L	C								
H	E	I	V	A	L	L	S	K								
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What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?



ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER  
INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

## **St Peter's Church Graveyard**

St Peter's church has the largest graveyard in Northamptonshire. This wonderful asset comes with obligations. The family who has the "Deed of Grant" for the grave is responsible for its maintenance. However, the PCC is responsible to keep the churchyard in decent repair and for its safety.

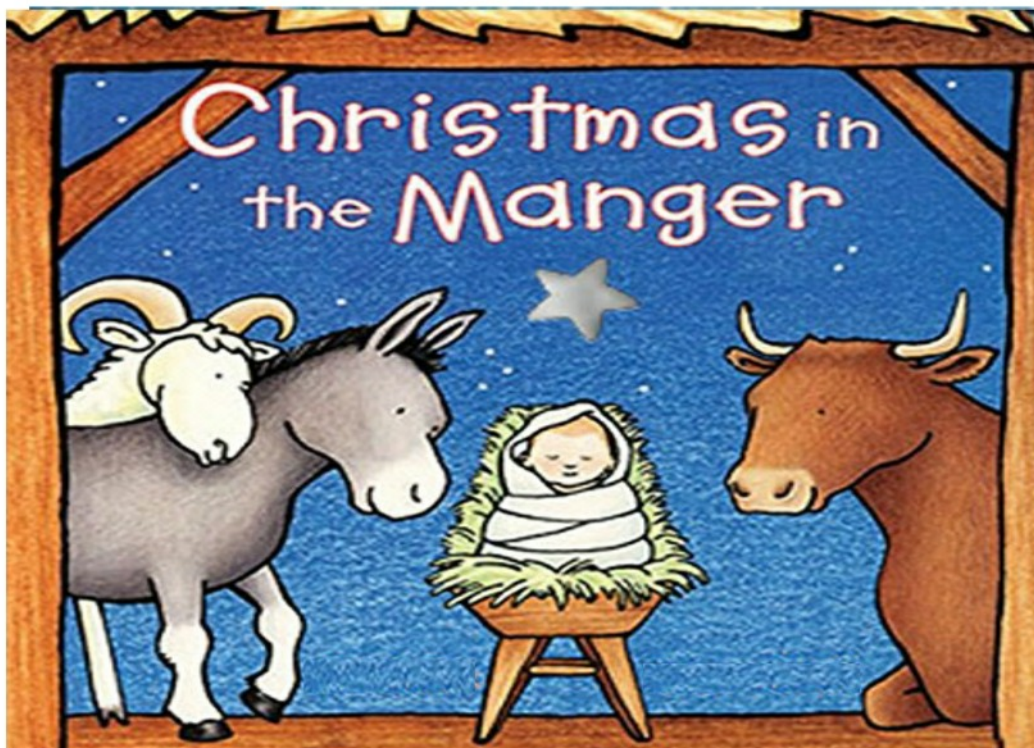
A recent inspection was conducted of the safety of the grave-stones in the churchyard. Sadly, some of the memorials were assessed as in an unsafe condition and were laid flat on the graves. The following memorials were laid flat, If you wish to find out further information, or re instate the memorials, please contact our Parish Administrator.

### **Insecure Gravestones Laid Flat 29/10/2022**

John & Lydia JUDD, Jane Elizabeth BOOTH,  
Edward & Mar SOLESBURY, Jessie & Mark, GASKINS,  
Eleanor & William LEADER, Laura & William HOLLAND,  
Elizabeth & William McCONNELL, Susanna & Edwin KENDALL,  
Peggy & Leslie FAULKNER, John & Elizabeth Lathbury,  
Charles Boorn BARNES, Emily daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth CROPPER  
Gladys Amy (Daisy) WHITEHEAD, Selina Elizabeth BLACKWELL,  
William Henry SUMMERS, William HEARN, Harriett HAWKINS,  
Maria HOBBS, Annie (wife of) William EAST, Robert HODGKINS,  
Milward BUTTERFIELD, Elizabeth Harding BUTTERFIELD  
Thomas HORWOOD of Steane (1893), George William HOLLAND,  
Richard TAYLOR, John Durham (1896).

We are extremely grateful to the team of volunteers who maintain the churchyard assisted by the Community Payback team.

JM



May you know the joy of 'God with us'  
at this time through his Son and by his Spirit.

Happy Christmas from St Peter's Church!



## Would you like to hear more from St Peter's?

If you are online and would like to receive the weekly Vicar's Update, just send an email to [brackleyvicar@gmail.com](mailto:brackleyvicar@gmail.com) and ask to receive the church's email bulletin



at St Peter's Church

# "Christmas Concert"

Monday

19<sup>th</sup> December

7.30pm

FREE entry  
Retiring Collection

RAFFLE

Refreshments available  
to buy or donate towards

If you would ever like to make a donation to  
St Peter's Church,  
your gift would be hugely appreciated.  
Our bank details are as follows:  
sort code 30-11-08,  
account number 00060124.  
Thank you.