

## NEWSLETTER 04

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## This week Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December

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## Diary:

### The Week ahead:

### Today Baptism @ 12.30pm

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December** Fr J Day off  
1.30am School Infant Nativity Rehearsal

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
9.00am Service at Locko Park Chapel  
6.30pm Choir  
8.00pm LLF Session 6

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.30am Mass.  
1.30am School Infant Nativity Rehearsal

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
7.00pm Mass

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
9.15pm School Assembly

**Next Sunday ADVENT 3 PARISH MASS at 10.00am**

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## Prayer Intentions

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### Prayers:

By name we are asked to pray for: Tina and Michael, Jean, Andrew, Jean, John Morris, Stewart Wharton, Ann Green, Evonne Williams, James, Adrian Mace, Jason Clarke, Richard Andrews.

RIP: Michael Walton, Brian Norton Wallace

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## Readings

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*Malachi 3.1-4*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Matthew 3:1-12*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

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## Fr. J's reflection on our Advent readings this week

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We want Christmas now if you please... why isn't the tree up? Apparently we didn't get Christmas last year...so there's no time for waiting... and there may be shortages of sprouts, because there's nobody to pick them and I am glad you are all sat down but the Wine Society is concerned there will be a gin drought!

Almost all of us are hypocrites myself most of all when it comes to Christmas... we want it just right and it's materialistic and it's self-orientated and I think we mitigate some sort of internalised if not shame then awkwardness by making a donation to Children in Need... when perhaps as followers of Jesus Christ we should question why our nation, the fifth largest economy in the world, with 171

billionaires and 2.5 million millionaires, has Children in Need at all.

May I suggest that our approach to Christmas has nothing to do with Spiritual growth. Spiritual growth moves more slowly, organically, and at its own speed. Like the healing of grief, it can't be fast forwarded and God knows too many of us here know that.

In these strange times of new variants... post lockdown... booster jabs... restrictions... mask wearing... our own personal growth and the communal re-growth of this place will take time.

Yes indeed the long-standing and permanent transformation that is being asked of us all takes time. We may ignore Advent with even more vigour than normal... we may anaesthetise ourselves with the disgusting excess of the so called Festive Season... but at some point or other we will each need to confront how God is calling us.

That's the message of Malachi. Get rid of everything inessential. Now sometimes we have no choice about that, job loss, a diagnosis, relationship breakdown, bereavement, pandemic force that upon us.... God is there.

From a time long past and far, far away Malachi reminds us that in such times God is being forced upon us. That is the meaning of Christmas, which invariably means focusing on how God and where God happens in our lives and in my experience that is usually where we least want to look, where we feel perplexed, where we feel shame, where we feel let down, where we feel detached, where we feel afraid, where we feel knackered... I don't feel like it, I don't want it, that's not me.... No?

Well it's not the whole of me to be sure.... But if I am going to truly encounter the reality of God, then I have to be prepared to face up to my fragility and vulnerability, my limitedness... because that's what God did at Bethlehem.

John the Baptist's message challenges us to turn around, to stop looking in the other direction, our addiction to thinking if we simply blank it out then all that crap stuff happens to other people, happens over there, but if the most beautiful, foolishly beautiful thing God could do was to be born into that destitute family, then God is showing us that, to be limited, to be human, to be dependent is to be like God.

Yes stuff happens, it happens to us all, our job is to let those folk know they are still loved, that is what it means to bring light to darkness and help the lost find their way .... and sometimes it is us who get a bit lost.

John the Baptist's message is harsh, but it is ultimately liberating. It takes courage for us who have such luxury, we who think turkey and trimmings, refusal to wear a mask, booster jabs or not to get vaccinated are a human right... it takes courage for us to change our ways, to transform, to say "Here I am Lord and I'm a bit lost."

As Malachi recognises such transformation may be painful, there is also the promise, the deep, deep promise that you are loved. This is the message of

Advent: prepare for the coming of Christ by letting Christ be forced into our lives and giving birth to Christ in our lives... that is why we are the church.. A voice cries in the wilderness ... prepare a way for the Lord. A voice cries in my wilderness ... prepare a way for the Lord.

Being careful, caring for all @ St Werburgh's

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## A message from Fr. J

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### PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR J.

COVID has had a devastating effect on all of our lives and the way we live has been changed forever. COMING TOGETHER for prayer and worship and GOING INTO THE WORLD with the love of Jesus have never been more vital. For some of us church no longer has a place in our lives, for some of us we have simply got out of the habit and for others church is something we just attend.. I am here repeating more or less what I put in last week's newsheet because as your vicar I am asking you to think about how you can BE CHURCH. There are so many things we can be part of and I have listed some of them on the next page. If church is to flourish we each need to stop relating to 'me' and God and think about how to be 'we' and God.....

**One of the immediate changes we simply have to institute for 2022 is that we will no longer bury ashes in the church garden until we have someone who is willing to take on the job of digging ashes plots. It isn't because we won't but we just can't at present.**

We all have different gifts not everyone is comfortable with visiting for instance but they may be really good at reading in church. If you can sing... then why not sing for the Lord in church in the choir? If our ritual speaks to you then why not join the serving team. If you like hearing the bells ring out God's glory, then why not join the bell ringers and ring out God's glory. If you feel a bit fragile and needs our prayers, then become a prayer at home and be part of a prayer chain.... Here's just a few of the things that we can choose to engage with to make our church a more sustainable, welcoming and outward facing community ...

- Welcoming on a Sunday
- Baptism welcomers



- Pastoral visiting
- Post funeral visiting
- Offering transport
- Prayer chain - *great if you can't get out much*
- Helping to clean
- Helping clean linens
- Maintenance and odd jobs
- Baptism paperwork and cards
- Welcome refreshments
- Coffee time after church
- Taking part in worship:
- Serving
- Choir - *is open to anyone you don't have to be a 'singer'*
- Reading
- Intercessions
- Bell ringing
- Burial Ground Custodian (*prepares for burial of ashes*)
- Re-starting our link with India alongside school
- Looking after our online presence (*skilled job*)
- Kid's Church on Sunday
- Restarting children's provision in the week
- Older kids
- ALPHA or similar *how do we offer meaningful instruction and welcome?*
- Learning / home groups



Church isn't entertainment, nor is it the building, nor is it tradition, nor is it what we 'used to do'... WE ARE THE CHURCH and without all of us thinking about what that means - and doing something - there is no church.





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## Father Julian to be made a canon...bang bang!

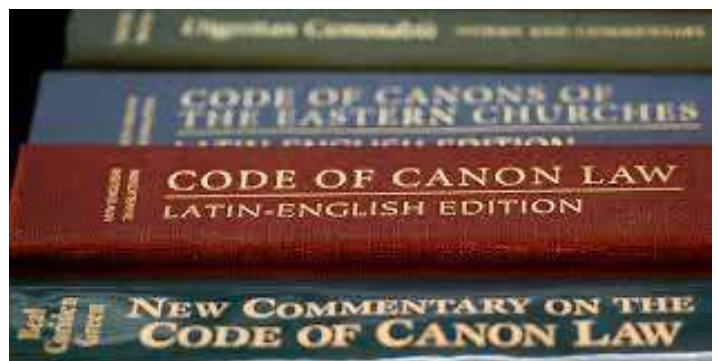
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Fr J to be made a  
canon ... bang  
bang!!

A couple of weeks ago the Bishop announced Fr J was to be made an honorary canon of Derby Cathedral. He'll be installed on Sunday January 16th January at 5.15pm at evensong.

The word "Canon" is an honorary title. It is granted by a diocesan bishop to clergy and lay persons who have served the church faithfully and widely for a number of years. .... an article on canons says: *'Since the Latin word canonicus means "law" or "rule" it may be assumed that the life of the person who holds the title is a standard or rule that others would do well to copy.'* ....Fr J doesn't recommend this in his case!



In the early history of the church Canons were priests who shared a home and followed a "rule" or pattern of daily life. Later the word referred to clergy who were part of the life of a great cathedral. They helped to administer the cathedral and would elect certain church officials. Nowadays, in the Anglican church, there is still a connection with the local cathedral, where the Cathedral Chapter has some oversight.

Fr J isn't bothered what he's called as it all feels a bit strange!



Canons are traditionally entitled to wear a distinctive style of cassock... but Fr J hasn't been able to find that written down anywhere! The basic black is trimmed with red; there are red buttons, a red cincture (wide belt), but looking at the picture they used to wear really weird stuff!

The difference between church Canons and large weapons of war is all in the spelling: a "cannon" is a weapon; a "Canon" is a church official with an honorary title; and a "canon" is a church bylaw.

Everyone is invited to Derby Cathedral  
*for*  
the installation and collation  
of Fr Julian as a Canon of the Cathedral  
*at*

Evensong

5.15pm on Sunday 16th January 2022

*And hopefully afterwards at the Silk Mill (COVID dependent)*

*It would be really helpful if you can let Fr J or Sue Clewes know  
if you are able to come*

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## Reverse Advent Calendar

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Food banks are facing a “perfect storm” this winter as the cost of living soars.

How is your Reverse Advent Calendar going?

Many more families could be forced to make the devastating choice between feeding themselves and heating their homes in the run-up to Christmas. Soaring gas prices have put already tight budgets under additional strain leaving many with no option but to turn to charities for help. Now is the time of year when the charities are always traditionally busy with increasing numbers due to the financial pressures that always come with the winter months. But the end of both the Government’s furlough scheme and the Universal Credit (UC) uplift has also taken its toll on people already struggling to make ends meet.

**This is why we are collecting as much food as we can this Christmas.**

Our food bank at ST MARK’S is seeing the impact of rising bills and the removal of Government assistance, which has been heavily relied upon, first-hand.

“We are in the middle of a perfect storm, the reduction of the UC uplift, the end of furlough, increased energy prices, increase in food costs and financial pressures that come along in the winter months mean that many will need to turn to food banks, people are needing to turn off their gas and electricity as prices rise because they are fearful of the extra cost.”

Rev Sarah, the enabling minister at St Philip’s says, “The cutting of the £20 Universal Credit uplift has had a massive affect. It pulled a rug from under people’s feet.

“A lot of people are having to choose between buying food or heating their homes because that £20 paid their food bill or it paid their energy bill. £20 isn’t a lot but when you have next to nothing it makes a huge difference.”

Fr J added “Debt is also a massive reason because people borrowed during the pandemic.” Many people have also turned to food banks for the first time since the start of the Covid outbreak.

A lot of people have been tipped into the ‘poverty bracket ’because they’ve lost their jobs. Rev Sarah also said “There is still a lot of fear around because of Covid. Some people are fearful of leaving their house and that means they are missing out getting the help they need.”



The Food Bank run by Aspire in conjunction with St Marks has seen a year like no other but that doesn't mean the need for food banks has decreased unfortunately. They are still very busy and have people queuing for food. In 12 months they have supported more people with food and toiletries than in any previous year, a 10 per cent increase, across all ages, family sizes, communities and cultures.

Without the support of people donating and the City Council which has continued to coordinate essential support we wouldn't be able to help as many people. Christmas is supposed to be a time for joy and celebration – but for too many people it's becoming increasingly difficult.

That's why we are appealing to you to donate food and toiletries this ADVENT. YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR DONATIONS AT CHURCH. This will ensure the donations reach their dedicated teams quickly and safely so they can be passed on to those who need them.

And it's not too late... even if you haven't started your reverse Advent Calendar yet just start today...

**What to donate:** The food must not contain any alcohol (bear in mind for mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas puddings and chocolates including selection boxes).

<b>Cupboard essentials:</b>	<b>Toiletries:</b>
Breakfast cereal (preferably non-sugared)	Deodorants
Milk (UHT or powder, preferably semi-skimmed)	Shampoo
Jam, marmalade	Shower Gel
Fruit juice (long-life)	Soap
coffee / tea	Toothbrushes
Hot chocolate	Toothpaste
Tinned meat (ham, corned beef, Spam)	Sanitary towels
Tinned ready meals (chilli, meatballs, stew)	Shaving kits
Tinned vegetarian ready meals (curry, ratatouille, macaroni cheese)	
Packets of mashed potato/tinned potatoes	
Tinned vegetables	
Tinned fish (tuna, mackerel, salmon & sardines)	
Pasta	
Rice	
Pasta sauce/cooking sauces	
Tinned fruit (in juice preferably)	
Tinned rice pudding/custard	
Healthy snacks (small boxes of raisins/apricots)	
Biscuits, crackers, crispbreads	

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## Advent around the world

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Advent is the beginning of the spiritual year and it's observed the four Sundays before Christmas Day. Spiritually, it's meant as a celebration of the Earthly birth of Jesus, but also a preparation and a time of renewal spiritually.

Advent started Sunday, November 28. Each Sunday has a different spiritual theme and often involves the ceremonial lighting of an Advent candle in anticipation of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. As with many aspects of any religion, Advent customs and practices vary from place to place.

Here are some Advent and general Christmas traditions in various countries around the world.

### Austria

Austria is the birthplace of one of the most beloved Christmas hymns, "Silent Night." The hymn is called "Stille Nacht" in German (the native language of Austrians), and it was penned during the Christmas of 1818,

### China

China might not immediately come to mind when you think of Advent, but roughly 5.2% of the population of 1.4 billion is Christian. Chinese Christians light up their homes with colourful paper lanterns during Advent, and you might find red paper pagodas cut out and placed in windows. They follow many of the traditions that were brought by Western missionaries. An emerging Christmas tradition is the giving of apples, sometimes sold in stores wrapped in coloured paper.

### Croatia

About 86% of the people in this Balkan Peninsula country are Roman Catholic, and Advent is a big part of the religious life here. For some Croatians, preparations for Christmas actually begin before Advent on November 25, which is Sveta Kata (St. Catherine's Day).



Prva adventska nedjelja (or Advent Sunday) is the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and the first of four candles in the Advent wreath is lit. The residents of the capital, Zagreb, traditionally enjoy going to outdoor wooden stalls selling handcrafted souvenirs, roasted chestnuts and mulled wine. On Christmas Eve, Croatians eat "bakalar" (a type of dried cod).

## Germany

Families across Germany will set up an Advent wreath with four candles, one for each week of Advent. They may gather around the wreath each Sunday to sing carols and light another candle. Stollen, which is similar to fruitcake, is one of the oldest Christmas treat traditions in Germany. And Advent hosts may serve cookies that are spread around their wreaths.

## Hungary



Beiglis are a traditional Hungarian treat.

Along with the wreath and Advent calendars packed with little chocolates, another Hungarian tradition during Advent are the matins. These are a daily Mass held every dawn from the first Sunday of Advent to the first day of Christmas. You may hear it

called the Angelic Mass or Golden Mass. A classic Advent treat in Hungary is the beigli. It's a rolled crust traditionally filled with poppy seeds or walnuts. Hungarians are a music-loving people, and various Christmas concerts are traditionally held around the capital of Budapest and other cities and towns.

## Mexico

Advent in Mexico brings the religious ceremonies known as Las Posadas (Spanish for "The Inns.") This nine-day celebration that marks the journey of Mary and Joseph is held from December 16 to 24. Each evening in cities and villages across Mexico, a child dressed as an angel leads a processional, usually made up of children. They go to selected homes, where they are denied entry but often given refreshments.

## Poland

For deeply Catholic Poland, Advent brings prayer, fasting and spiritual preparation for Christmas, according to the Polish Women's Alliance of America. People stay inside during the long, dark evenings making decorations for the Christmas tree and handmade gifts, baking Christmas cookies, and preparing other delicacies for the upcoming holidays. Poles traditionally attend early-morning Masses called roraty. It's still dark out when they start. Attendees light candles during Mass, symbolizing the coming light of day and salvation. People also set up outdoor booths in village and city squares, decorated in themes of Christmas, where they will pass out candy, little gifts and cards.

Krakow marks the first Sunday of Advent by decorating beautiful Rynek Square square with lights, boughs and garlands.

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## Christmas in Australia by Joan Foster

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“I can’t imagine a hot Christmas”.... “What must it be like to celebrate Christmas in the heat of summer?” These are just two of the comments I received when I first of all visited Australia at Christmas and then went to live there. Understandable and genuine though these remarks were, I have to say I had never previously given the subject any thought. Christmas is Christmas to me, wherever I happen to be. It’s the celebration of the Birth of Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. So for me, I can truthfully say that I have no problem with a hot Christmas.

I understand where the questions were coming from, but many of the traditions of Christmas are connected with which hemisphere we inhabit. For us here in the Northern Hemisphere, many of our associations are with the winter weather, not with Christmas itself. It’s all a case of what we are used to. We think of cold weather, even fun in the snow, short days, long dark nights, fires and hot drinks, of robins and holly. This is the picture of Christmas depicted on many Christmas cards and actually has nothing to do with Christmas itself. They are images of the season in which Christmas falls for us here and so they are evocative of the atmosphere of the celebration. So in the Southern Hemisphere, the connections are of hot, sunny days, fun in pools or ocean, ice cold drinks and longer days. Consequently many Christmas cards portray sunshine and blue skies, golden beaches where sandmen are built and palm trees. Cards depict meerkats and koalas on surf boards and kangaroos relaxing in the sunshine. I have to say that I was initially taken by surprise by these differences in the secular cards. It’s a small but obvious difference that hadn’t actually crossed my mind until I saw them. It’s the same with tree decorations, which include kangaroos, the bright blue fairy wrens and koalas rather than robins and deer!





So what is Christmas like in Australia? Of course, I can only paint the picture for myself and the people I know who live in Western Australia. I saw two diverging approaches, with slight overlaps.... people like myself who had grown up in the Northern Hemisphere and those who had been born in Australia. For those of us living next to the Indian Ocean, a tradition that I loved and readily accepted was a late Christmas morning trip to the beach. We took a cool box containing wine, soft drinks and tasty nibbles. The



atmosphere was festive with people clad in Christmas attire playing games on the beach. Santa hats abounded as young and old frolicked in the Ocean. It's wonderful standing on the edge of the water, (plastic) glass of wine in hand, enjoying watching all the fun. I have the tale to tell of one of my many scrapes as I paddled one Christmas morning. The waves of the Ocean can be big and strong, even near the edge and the seabed drops down fairly steeply in places. As I waded into slightly deeper water my feet were suddenly taken from under me. Before I knew it I was rolling

around under the water, unable to regain my footing, Santa hat floating away, wine glass firmly in hand. When I eventually found my feet and came to the surface I was greeted by a group of young men in full Christmas attire, beers in hand, grinning broadly as they watched this elderly person emerge from the waves. They assured me that they were standing close by, watchful should I need rescuing! After our time on the beach we would return home, hot and sandy, ready for a cold shower and our meal later when the temperature had dropped...just a little!

A good example of different traditions is the food, especially for the main Christmas meal. Many expats stick rigidly to the full Christmas turkey and all the trimmings, intent on producing and enjoying our traditional meal in spite of temperatures ranging between 35-44 degrees. One immediate problem here is the fact that many properties have a large family area inclusive of kitchen, so the prolonged heat from the cooking increases the room temperature rather uncomfortably in spite of the air conditioning on full blast. My cousin's wife always told the tale of their first Christmas in Australia forty years ago. Having emigrated only three months before Christmas and living in a house in the Bush





with no air conditioning, she all but passed out in her determination to follow the traditions of 'home'. Feeling homesick, missing family and red in the face, she stoically produced a full roast turkey meal and then could eat very little of it.

So, traditions vary. Many people serve up an 'Australian version' of the Christmas meal making potato salad instead of roast potatoes, cold meats, salads, seafood and roasted tomatoes with Mediterranean vegetables. We experimented with both, but did prefer our familiar roast. Some people have no oven and cook everything on a barbecue. An Australian friend cooked a huge family turkey in this way, which fascinated me. It was so succulent after cooking all day and this method gave off no additional heat.

Many buildings are extensively decorated with Christmas lights and decorations, just as here. In some areas the majority of properties are single-storey and I remember walking with Ruby dog and holding my breath as people clambered across roof tops trailing long strips of lights, blow up Santas and the like, adorning their houses with colour and exciting the children as they anticipated Christmas. Some entire streets festoon their properties with all manner of lights and coach loads of people journey in to enjoy them. Many streets officially adopt charities, taking donations and providing light refreshments in a carnival-like atmosphere as people stroll round on the warm pre-Christmas evenings. As a life-long supporter of Guide Dogs for the Blind, I attached myself to a nearby street which had supported that charity for many years. The person who coordinated it had emigrated from the Midlands nearly thirty years previously and had raised many thousands of dollars, sponsoring the training of dozens of Guide dogs.



There is a drawback about outside lights in the eyes of people from the Northern Hemisphere. We are used to it getting dark in the late afternoon but where I lived in Western Australia it doesn't get dark in December until around 8.00 pm and even later further north. As lights don't really show at their best until it's completely dark, they're not enjoyed so much by very young children. Toddlers either don't see the lights at all or desperately try to keep awake past their bedtime as they're pushed round in their pushchairs. My cousin always bewailed this fact, as she felt that their house, shining out in the Bush like a lighthouse, was most enjoyed by the kangaroos and emus!

It was the small but obvious differences that caught me unawares when I first



experienced a hot Christmas, like seeing Santa in a decorated fire engine visiting people in the Bush on Christmas morning and huge inflatable Santas bobbing about on roof tops against the deepest blue summer sky. I had the enormous pleasure of singing with a Community Choir and we went to shopping precincts and Care Homes, singing Carols. I realised that my Christmas sweater from England was totally unsuitable for such high temperatures, so I proudly sported a T-shirt with Jingle Bells emblazoned on the front. Strangely it was little things like that which helped me to absorb the fact that I was an Australian resident rather than a visitor.

One unexpected aspect that I did find different and perhaps the most difficult was the lack of awareness of the approach of Christmas, although I began to realise that that was the influence of my Northern Hemisphere heritage. I had never previously registered how much the lowering of the temperature, the change of the weather generally and the feel in the air gives a subconscious anticipation of the imminence of Christmas. The feel of the air is different as we go into Advent and nature takes on such a different appearance with the stark beauty of bare trees against a winter sky. Nature generally doesn't seem to provide such an awareness somehow in Australia and Christmas seems simply to arrive.

This has all been a very secular account of Christmas in Australia as that is where the comparisons and contrasts lie. Adjustments are made according to where we live, not according to what Christmas means to us. That celebration does not change, no matter where we are or what the weather. The wonderful celebration of Christmas is worldwide as Christian people anticipate and celebrate the birth of Christ, Emmanuel. For me, as the shortening days form a visual pathway to Christmas, so Advent spiritually guides me to and prepares me for that time. I was part of the Fellowship of Grace Anglican Church in Joondalup and, just as here at St Werburghs and in churches throughout the world, we gathered in worship, lit the Advent candles, listened to the readings and teaching and sang hymns signalling the coming of Christ. We went to Perth Cathedral to the service of Nine Lessons and Carols and were filled with the sense of Christian communion throughout the world. The manner of worship may vary but the message is the same. The joy, awe and wonder stretches around the world whether we gather in churches or on

beaches, in winter coats and scarves or in shorts and T-shirts. We gather with one accord, to worship God at this most Holy of times. That is for me why Christmas is Christmas wherever I happen to be.

There are words of a hymn that always touch my heart.

“As o’er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.”

Having friends and family around the world, I picture the Church worldwide maintaining a continuous round of prayer and worship, day by day, minute by minute, our praises rolling across the continents. For me that is the Fellowship of God, bringing close my friends and family as on Christmas Day we share the message of Christ’s coming across the different time zones, different traditions, different weather yet one people, one Faith, God’s Kingdom here on Earth. Just as we are, however we come, we praise the God who gave us the greatest gift of all, the Gift of Love.

“Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine.  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.”

I do understand the curiosity about Christmas in a hot country and the natural doubts. It’s been fun to share about it but at the end of the day it doesn’t really matter about the temperature. We share in the celebration of a great and mighty wonder and may we share the love, peace and joy of Christmas together again this year.

By Joan Foster





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## The Boiler House

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If you've walked passed the church during the week you will have seen once again we have had builders working!

We discovered a few weeks ago the wall of the boiler house was in a perilous state and as a matter of urgency we had to have it surveyed. It was bad news indeed and we had to undertake a total rebuild of the boiler house and the in the new year of the chimney too!

As you can see from the pictures Oasis Construction have done a magnificent job, for security the wall is higher than it used to be and we have a totally new boiler house as well. Huge. Thanks to Charlotte and Richard who live at Church Cottage for being so helpful and flexible and the Jon Clewes who sorted it all out with such magnificent efficiency



The bad news is this has meant yet another unforeseen cost, approximately £24,000 of work has been done. This is on top of the devastating effect on our church finances as a result of the pandemic without taking into account this emergency building work we are currently losing £2000 a month. *The only way we can do something about this is by increasing our income.*

- If you join us online and live in the UK please consider contacting us to join the parish giving scheme.
- If you live abroad you can still use the giving button on the Facebook page and website to make your gift. Or just hover your phone camera over this QR code and tap the link that appears, this will take you directly to a page to donate to St Werburghs.



- PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME

To join the parish giving scheme call 0333 002 1271 and quote the Parish of St Werburgh Code 120 612 282. You can choose a monthly direct debit amount; every little bit helps.

- Please consider when did you last review your giving?
- Remember Church with a legacy in your will.



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## Notices

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A massive thank you to Church for your kind response to the Toy Appeal. We received 180 items of Toys, Toiletries and Chocolates plus £310.00 in Gift Tokens.

Made the delivery to Revive on Tuesday and they were overwhelmed with our efforts.



And a huge thank you to Pauline & Elaine who organised such a fantastic appeal this year. YOU ARE AMAZING and Pauline massive love from everyone at Church as you recuperate. Thank you again with great love. Fr J xxx

**CHURCH**  
*Christmas*  
**DECORATING**  
**FRIDAY 17TH & SATURDAY/18TH DECEMBER**

Anyone who wants to come and help decorate is welcome, let Shirley know if you can help.

**Any seasonal greenery will be welcome!**

Kid's - why not pop in and help Fr J make Christmas decorations for the pillars on Saturday 18th from 10am... Christmas refreshments will be provided.

**DONATIONS** for flowers in memory of a loved one: *if possible please giftaid.* - put your donation in an envelope with the name of those to be remembered on the outside. Give to Shirley. Donovan in church or post to 7 Glendale Dr, Spondon. DE21 7DX



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## Christmas is coming

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Charlotte knitted Dora a gorgeous Christmas jumper!



Maia and Noah at Chatsworth

Alexis, Bianca and James at a wintry Glencoe



Oliver and Jessica's advent calendar full of chocs!







## **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Sunday 19th Dec 6.30pm

**Admission by ticket only**

## **CHILDREN'S NATIVITY**

Christmas Eve 4.30pm

**Admission by ticket only**

Tickets from  
Eventbrite go to  
[www.stwerburgh.com](http://www.stwerburgh.com)  
or via parish  
Facebook page

## **MIDNIGHT MASS**

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

## **PARISH MASS**

Christmas Day 10am

These events  
are not ticketed

**All adults are asked to wear a mask**

