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# *The Spire*

*The Parish Magazine of*  
**CHRIST CHURCH**  
*— Southgate —*

*December 2020 & January 2021*



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## **Welcome!**

### **From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate**

As I write this letter, we have just reopened after the second lockdown and are planning what we can do to celebrate the coming of the Saviour of the world among us – for come he will!

The media and the streets seem to have decided that Christmas has started already, as a way of wishing the difficulties of 2020 away – I’ve never seen so many Christmas trees in windows so early. There is no doubt that in the Vicarage family it will be a year to forget, with the death of my father and Judith’s second cousin and other family issues, but it has been a year that has taught us to be flexible and resilient. If we can’t do what we normally do – we’ll do something else instead! Life is tough and just throws things at us (usually at very short notice) but, with faith, we press on.

Life at church has also had to be flexible and

resilient, so I would like to take this opportunity to really thank all those individuals who have stepped up this year to keep us worshipping together as a community. People have found themselves doing things that they never thought they could, or have extended their skills, or learnt new ones, or, despite the difficulties, have just kept on doing the things they do so well.

I think we have all learnt a lot about ourselves this year. Lockdowns have tested us in so many ways as individuals and communities. The vaccine is on the horizon, which promises to help, but “normal” life is still a long way off. There will be thousands of Christmas dinner tables round the country where there is an unexpected empty space, which will cause great sadness and reflection. We don’t know why 2020 has been so bad but with God’s grace all will be well. We will still celebrate Jesus coming among us and we can

be sure in the hope that God really and truly knows what we are going through – he tried being one of us 2000 years ago.

Even before the birth in Bethlehem that we will celebrate, Mary and Joseph had to show huge flexibility and resilience. The visit of the Angel Gabriel was totally disruptive and dangerous, yet Mary obeyed the call of God and the man who loved her most in this world risked everything to support her call. They travelled and wandered under difficult conditions, with stumbling blocks along the way, and ended up in the poorest of places to welcome the Holy Child. We are re-enacting that journey by our knitted Mary, Joseph and the donkey travelling round the parish to draw us, with them, to celebrate the birth in church on Christmas Eve. We should draw from the Holy Family's flexibility and resilience – the life

they had planned came to an end with a single angel's visit. Our lives have all changed – but we must follow our calling and keep going. God knows what he is doing.

Our church celebrations are different this year, but the fundamental truths remain. Christmas is not cancelled, whatever the restrictions might tell us. Come to one of our Nine Lessons and Carols, and Midnight mass (pre-booked!) or drop in on Christmas Eve and follow the Angels to the Manger to pay your own homage to the most flexible and resilient one of all, lying in a manger.

Have a lovely Christmas in your bubbles and may 2021 bring you joy and peace. Every blessing.

*Fr Chrichton*

## Virtual Church

Please visit <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/virtual-church> where you will find a range of resources, including activities for children, that you may find helpful at this time.

The Virtual Church YouTube Playlist is at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchN14/>

Our weekly pre-recorded service and other new resources are publicised via the weekly email newsletter. If you do not already receive this you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/do5wlv>

## Support

If you need, or know anyone who needs, support at this time please get in touch by emailing [churchwardens@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:churchwardens@christchurch-southgate.org) or via the contact details for the Churchwardens in the Parish Directory.



**DAILY HOPE** a free phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as services from the Church of England. Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044.**

## Christmas Services at Christ Church Southgate

### Nine Lessons and Carols

**Friday 18th December, 7.30pm &  
Sunday 20th December, 5pm**

Have the traditional Christmas experience while listening to the carols and readings you know so well.

Booking required. Tickets available from [office@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:office@christchurch-southgate.org) or 020 8886 0384

### Follow the Angels to the Manger

**Thursday 24th December, open 3pm—6pm**

Drop in and walk through an avenue of light, led by angelic voices, to visit the baby Jesus lying in a manger. Everyone in your Christmas bubble is welcome!

### Midnight Mass

**Thursday 24th December, 11.30pm**

Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with our Choral Eucharist of the Nativity

Booking required. Tickets available from [office@christchurch-southgate.org](mailto:office@christchurch-southgate.org) or 020 8886 0384

### Friday 25th December, 8am and 10am Christmas Morning Eucharist Services

Join us for a quiet start to Christmas Day at 8am, or come at 10am for Christmas Family Communion with carols from the choir



## The Generosity of Giving and Receiving

Lockdown has been a very difficult time for so many, but it has also brought out the best in people. Some of us even successfully learned to do things we have never done before.

Remembrance this year, for example, was very different from usual. We could not come together in God's name to remember those who had given their lives so that we could live in peace. And the children in the Beavers and Cubs Scouts couldn't come in to Church, as they usually do on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday, or on the day itself. So, as the Cubs couldn't go to Church, a Church member went to them via Zoom instead.

Our own John Clarke was a wartime Officer in the Merchant Navy, so he knew what it was all about. John generously agreed to attend the Cubs' Zoom meeting to talk to them and answer their questions. John hadn't used Zoom before but he was prepared to learn. His daughter kindly gave up some of her time to teach John how to use Zoom, and she also made herself available on the other end of the phone during the meeting, just in case he needed more help on the day. Our Group Scout Leader Steve, also gave John a ring to offer advice, but in the event, it was clear that John already knew exactly what to do.

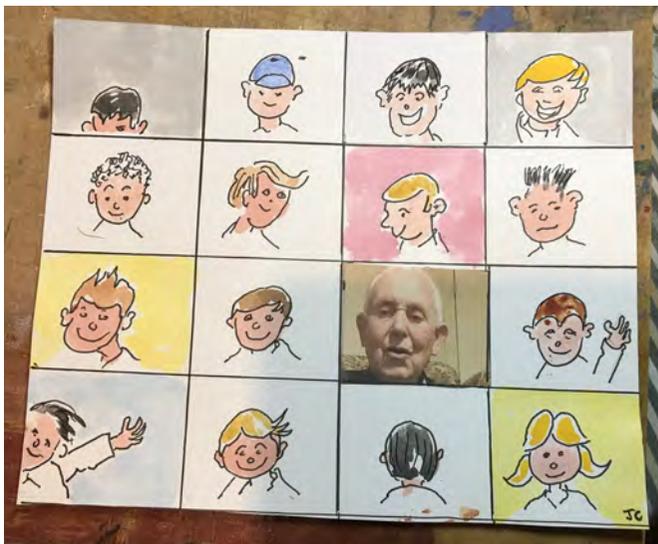
So, in order for the Cubs to learn more about the war and Remembrance, these three people – the Scout Leader, John and his daughter – gave freely of their time so that the youngsters might benefit, while at the same time meeting their friends at Cubs on Zoom.

And John's generosity didn't end there. When I asked him for a cartoon picture of the Cubs and him on zoom, he readily agreed. I'm sure his picture will remain one of my all time favourites.

I have heard of so many other deeds of generosity – not least the lady who cooked for a parishioner when she was poorly, and all those who have rallied round to help in this time of need.

It's been a time of discovery for those at the receiving end of the help. Many of us are reluctant to ask for help, and even find it difficult to accept when it's offered.

Learning to accept help can be a very difficult lesson. But if a nonagenarian can accept help to use Zoom, then with God's help us younger ones should also be able to learn to accept help gratefully when it's offered as well.



*Hazel Miall*

## Saint of the Month: Saint Nicholas, Feast Day December 6<sup>th</sup>

St. Nicholas (popularly known as Santa Claus or Father Christmas) was probably a native of Patara in Lycia, Asia Minor. However, there are far more legends about his miraculous good deeds than there are clear details about his life.

Nicholas was first a monk in the monastery of Holy Zion near Myra. Eventually he was made Abbot by the Archbishop, its founder. When the See of Myra, the capital of Lycia, fell vacant, St. Nicholas was appointed its Bishop. The legend is that when visiting the Turkish town of Myra, he entered the local church to give thanks for a safe voyage. He did not know that the elders of the church had lost their leader and could not agree on a successor. According to the legend they had been counselled in a dream to choose the next person named Nicholas (which means "victory" in Greek) who visited the church. So it was that Nicholas became known as Bishop of Myra, worker of miracles and benefactor of the poor. His death occurred at Myra, in the year 342.

History and legend are intertwined in the story of Nicholas's life, but we do know that he really lived in the fourth century, that he was the bishop of Myra (now in Turkey) and has been widely honoured as a saint since the sixth century.

A most popular legend concerns the three unmarried daughters of an impoverished nobleman who lived in a small town on the coast of Turkey. The girls could not attract husbands because their father could not afford to provide dowries for them. So late one night, Nicholas dropped a small bag of gold in the window so that the eldest girl could be married. Some time later he dropped in a second bag of gold, then a third. On one of the nights, the gold landed in a stocking hung up to dry, and the tradition of leaving gifts in stockings was born. This particular story led to Nicholas becoming the patron saint of unmarried girls. The story was told for so many generations that the theme of the three bags of gold, or gold balls was adopted as a symbol by bankers and moneylenders.

Through the centuries he has been one of the most popular saints. More than 1,200 churches were dedicated in his honour – nearly four hundred of them in England alone.

*Cathy Dallman.*



*St Nicholas*  
Jaroslav Čermák (1830-1878)

Information derived mainly from Anglicans Online at <http://anglicansonline.org/> and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* at <https://www.britannica.com/>

Image of St Nicholas by Jaroslav Čermák at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d9/Jaroslav\\_%C4%8Cerm%C3%A1k\\_%281831\\_-\\_1878%29\\_-\\_Sv.\\_Mikul%C3%A1%C5%A1.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d9/Jaroslav_%C4%8Cerm%C3%A1k_%281831_-_1878%29_-_Sv._Mikul%C3%A1%C5%A1.jpg)

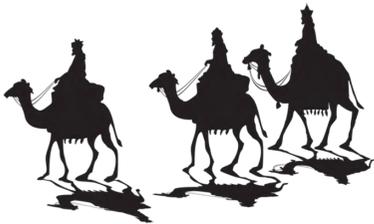
## Journey of the Magi by TS Eliot

"A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter."

And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and  
women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.

...  
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
... and so we continued  
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place;

(Excerpt from [poetryarchive.org](http://poetryarchive.org))



This poem is loved by many and often read in churches as we approach Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. It is written as if the words were spoken by a Magus, one of the Magi (traditionally the three wise men or kings who visit the infant Christ bearing valuable gifts) as he reflects on their long and difficult journey in the depths of winter; a journey they wouldn't have chosen at that time – definitely worth grumbling about.

During Advent, we might take the opportunity to reflect on our own spiritual journeys, or at least the journey so far, to find Christ. This will probably have some, if not all, of the features described by the Magus. At times, we might

undertake a physical pilgrimage as a special chapter of our own spiritual journey; this year the Christ Church Parish pilgrimage was a little different, but the essential features are the same: the weather, the paths, bad food, problematic transport, inhospitable strangers, and generally rather unpleasant conditions we have every right to grumble about.

But this year it seems there is another analogy that resonates with our own lives – the journey to find our way through a global pandemic. We are now in the cold dark winter months; this is a harsh season and we would not have chosen such a time to be isolated, fearful, and perhaps unwell. I expect we can all recall the late spring and early summer when we were in a similar position, but it felt very different with the sun shining as we sat in our gardens or met our friends in leafy parks. On the one hand, perhaps the going is a little easier now we know how to avoid the dangers, how to stay connected with friends, and how to care for those who are struggling alone. On the other hand, the going is harder now in the depths of winter as the daylight shrinks and there are fewer safe opportunities to see real people. A hard time we're having of it.

If we persevere, we shall, eventually, come to our own temperate valley. Recently, we have heard of the prospect of the end of this most difficult journey: there will be safe and effective vaccines and better treatments. Not a moment too soon we hear the news that we shall be released from the dangers of this pandemic; we shall soon arrive at the place. At the same time, we are trying to find ways of keeping the season of Advent in our preparations for Christmas and the arrival of God in our midst. It is unlikely we shall be able to meet together in the usual way to celebrate this journey of anticipation, and personally I shall miss singing the amazing Advent music. But, despite the difficulties, we can find innovative ways to make progress on our Advent journey and to share it with others at Christ Church. We all accompany the Magi on their long difficult journey to Epiphany: we shall arrive at the time and the place to give thanks and to offer our gifts.

*Cath Harvey*



## Follow the Angels to the Manger at Christ Church

Drop in anytime between 3pm and 6pm on Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December

Walk through an avenue of light, led by angelic voices, to visit the baby Jesus lying in a manger

Everyone in your Christmas bubble is welcome!



## Weekly Services

Sunday 8.00 am Said Eucharist  
10.00 am Choral Eucharist  
Thursday 12.30 pm Said Eucharist  
All welcome

All services are held in the Nave, please enter at the main door at the back of church

For your safety and that of those around you please wear a face covering and sanitise your hands as you enter and exit the building

## St Albans Pilgrimage

During October, two groups of pilgrims walked for 35 miles over five days from St Paul's Cathedral to St Albans Cathedral along the St Alban's Way. One group walked every Saturday, while the other walked for the last five days of the month, which meant that we all arrived together. Here are the thoughts of some of the pilgrims.

My first Pilgrimage walk and happened to be one I very much wanted to do, as I've loved St Albans for most of my life and consider the Abbey a very special place, my son George attending the Boys School adjacent.

I loved every part of the walk, embracing the changeable weather, colours of the season, and the company. I treasure the fellowship, conversations, the 'getting to know' of new acquaintances... the connections I always look for in others, that are always found.

What a delight to be met at the end of the final walk by Judith and Bea at The Abbey Cafe with tables reserved and hot tea awaiting us, laughter at our wet clothes, and me wringing out my socks!

Thank you!



*Bev Rutledge*

I enjoyed being out on the walk as it made things seem more normal. Walking with others and talking to friends was very much a highlight. Unfortunately, because of the weather it wasn't possible to enjoy the scenery, especially the last day which I spent mostly looking at the ground to try and avoid the mud and stay upright.

Things I will remember include: not falling over, managing to catch my hand on barbed wire (just a very tiny injury), and jumping down into a large muddy puddle. Mainly though, the companionship and the normality were the most important things.

*Pat Hawkins*



It was a really lovely walk, despite the weather, through parts of London and suburbia that one seldom gets to. The route goes near parts of the Roman roads of ancient times. One can only imagine what it would have been like to be escaping from London and heading out to St. Albans with Roman soldiers at your heels. It took the Romans only a few days to catch up with the holy man but long enough for St. Alban to be converted, and then martyred. Very effective preaching of the Gospel! If only we can spread the good news as effectively and as efficiently, and

be like St. Alban in committing so completely!

*Ronald Lo*

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, we finished walking the final section of the parish pilgrimage to St. Alban's Cathedral. We walked for about 3 hours in the rain and sometimes along slippery muddy paths. Quite challenging! Fortunately, we the 21st century pilgrims were equipped with Gortex raincoats, breathable over trousers and waterproof walking boots to keep us dry; thermal base layers and fleece shirts to keep us warm; telescopic light-weight walking poles to keep us from falling. Does it sound similar to what St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians about 'the full armour of God'?



At the end of the journey, we were greeted by Judith (Mrs. Vicarage) and Beatrice (Limbert) at the cathedral café. Like angels, they had prepared tables for us to have our 'picnic' lunch and bought us hot tea and coffee and Lucille presented Fr Chrichton with a delicious fruit cake. Thanks to Judith, Beatrice and Lucille. Last and, most importantly, thanks to Fr. Chrichton for organising the pilgrimage, leading us all the way to our destination. His patience and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. I look forward to another pilgrimage in the not too distant future!

*Judith Lo*



When Fr Chrichton first suggested walking the St Alban's Way the thought of walking it over five consecutive days really appealed to me, not least because it would be a proper break from work and screens.

I was not disappointed — yes there was a break from screens but so much more; walking paths and greenways that showed that the beauty of nature really is just on our doorsteps, the wonderful

variety of our weather (something I actually really love) and of course spending time with friends. I am looking forward to the next Pilgrimage Walk .

*Clare Boulton*



Starting from the iconic St Paul's we progressed through parts of London I did not know existed. The way to St Alban's was inspiring. The friendship and support of each other was amazing.

Although the last day was rain, rain and more rain, it reminded me of how great God is. He made such wonderful wet and muddy pastures for us all to enjoy. On the whole I was receptive to all around me and I enjoyed the walk without any difficulties.

*Lucille Kumar*

The English poet William Cowper (1731-1800) provided us with the proverbial saying 'Variety is the Spice of Life' which came to mind when reflecting on our group walk from St Paul's to St Albans.

We had some variety in the weather, with, well... a bit of sunshine, cloud, showers, rain, and torrential rain!

We had variety in the scenery. We saw places ranging from the wealthiest of homes to the very poorest areas. We saw some beautiful gardens with arrays of plants (some which needed a bit of TLC). Wonderful walking through London's parks and Hampstead Heath with its amazing view across London. The walk made us feel that we were in the middle of the countryside and exceptionally rural even though in reality we were often not far from a major road or motorway. The trees and their autumn colours were in some parts, dazzlingly beautiful in their golden, rustic and red colours.

The ground also varied – walking on pathways, grassy fields, meadows and in forest. Sometimes losing our step, slipping and sliding in the mud – all part of the fun!

We had variety too in our conversations – politics, race, relationships, the Church, driving offences, health, Covid-19, flowers, plants, Captain Tom...

A wonderful warm welcome, after an extremely wet day, when we finally got to St Albans. God surely walked with us.

*Jackie Anderson*

It feels as though my lockdown has been spent in Zoom meetings and answering emails and so it was with a little trepidation that I met with Fr Chrichton, Clare and Pat on the steps of St. Pauls. I needn't have worried; it was the perfect antidote to too much time in front of a computer screen. Despite at times the wet conditions, it was fun. I enjoyed the sense of fellowship, of exploring parts of London previously hidden to me and the feeling of achievement at the end of each day as we came closer to our final destination. I'm now really looking forward to our next pilgrimage.



*Kate Carroll*



I enjoyed the pilgrimage very much, for a number of reasons.

The enjoyment was due, firstly, to being able to spend a relaxing time with like-minded companions, a luxury during this time of Covid-19.

Secondly, it was due to re-discovering known areas of London, and discovering previously unknown places.

Thirdly, enjoyment came from experiencing the wonder of God's Creation in hearing bird song and seeing vast stretches of countryside quite

unexpectedly close to main roads and housing. I particularly remember walking alongside a river UNDERNEATH the North Circular Road, and later underneath a section of the A414 known as the North Orbital Road and previously classified as the M10 motorway. How many times I have driven along those roads with no idea of the scenery below!

Of course, fourthly, I will not forget crossing fields under water and ploughing through mud, almost as bad as in the rainy season in Kenya when motorbikes, cars and lorries on dirt roads have to stop until it is drier and safe to travel... And experiencing for the first time what it means to actually get soaked through, on our last day!

It was overall a great experience, and I encourage others to join the next such venture.

*Ellen Carter*





# Parish Life in Pictures

## November 2020



Lockdown meant that our usual observance of Remembrance Sunday could not take place, but a pre-recorded service with the two-minute silence was watched by many. A Remembrance angel card, drawn by Judith Limbert, was sent to those of our "regulars" who were alive at the end of WW2.





## Prayers for Christmas from Common Worship

### Intercessions for Christmas

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.  
Christ, born in a stable,  
give courage to all who are homeless.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Christ, for whom the angels sang,  
give the song of the kingdom to all who  
weep.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,  
give peace on earth to all who are  
oppressed.  
Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,  
give humility and wisdom to all who  
govern.

Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly  
manger,  
give the glory of your resurrection to all  
who rest in you.

Jesus, Saviour,  
**hear our prayer.**

**Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,  
you know us and love us,  
you share our lives  
and hear our prayer.  
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**



## Christmas Collects

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure  
virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and  
grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## A Litany for the World

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is  
given.

Let us bring before God the needs of the  
world.

Wonderful counsellor,  
give your wisdom to the rulers of the  
nations.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God,  
make the whole world know  
that the government is on your shoulders.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father,  
establish your reign of justice and  
righteousness for ever.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace,  
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty Lord,  
**hear our prayer  
and fulfil your purposes in us,  
as you accomplished your will  
in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven  
touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
**Amen.**

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**





### A Christmas Blessing

May the Father,  
 who has loved the eternal Son  
 from before the foundation of the world,  
 shed that love upon us his children.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
 who by his incarnation gathered into one  
 things earthly and heavenly,  
 fill us with joy and peace.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
 by whose overshadowing Mary became the  
 God-bearer,  
 give us grace to carry the good news of  
 Christ.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be among us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**



### Prayers at a Crib

To you, O Christ, Word of the Father,  
 we offer our lowly prayers and humble  
 thanks;  
 for love of our human race  
 you most wonderfully chose to be born of  
 Mary,  
 and to take our nature as nevermore to lay  
 it by;  
 so that we might be born again by your  
 Spirit  
 and restored in the image of God;  
 to whom, one blessed Trinity,  
 be given all honour, might, majesty and  
 power,  
 now and for ever.

**Amen.**



O God the Son, highest and holiest,  
 who humbled yourself to share our birth  
 and our death:  
 bring us with the shepherds and the wise  
 men  
 to kneel before your holy cradle,  
 that we may come to sing with your angels  
 your glorious praises in heaven;  
 where with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
 you live and reign,  
 God, world without end.

**Amen.**

We pray you, Lord, to purify our hearts,  
that they may be worthy to become your  
dwelling place.

Let us never fail to find room for you,  
but come and abide in us,  
that we also may abide in you,  
for as at this time you were born into the  
world for us,  
and live and reign, King of kings and Lord of  
lords,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Lord, by the song of the angels  
you disclosed your birth to your own people,  
and by the leading of a star  
you revealed your glory to strangers.

Teach us to know you now,  
and to make you known to all.

**Amen.**

The kings, Lord,  
brought myrrh, frankincense and gold.  
Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring;  
we bring you what you have given:  
our lives for your life.

**Amen**



## **A Prayer for the New Year**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
whose years never fail  
and whose mercies are new each returning  
day:

let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,  
warming our hearts and giving light to our  
minds;

that we may pass the coming year  
in joyful obedience and firm faith;  
through him who is the beginning and the  
end,

your Son, Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**



The church was still closed for Advent Sunday but the purple advent tree was put up on time, so filming for the Advent service, as well as all Nine Lessons and Carols, took place with a suitably festive background.



## Music at Christ Church this December



November and December are usually the busiest months of the year for the choir, and would include the wonderful Advent Procession and Christmas services. The exciting challenge this year is to bring the

parish community together for these festivals via the internet. We are very fortunate at Christ Church to be able to draw on a wide selection of new and archive recordings to provide a fabulous selection of home-grown Christmas music for you to listen and, crucially, sing along to, all via our YouTube channel @ChristchurchN14. And I encourage you to sing with all your heart and soul!

The music throughout the season of Advent is mainly drawn from a recording of the 2019 Advent Procession. Over the four Sundays of Advent, you will have the opportunity to sing along with all of the classic Advent hymns, from

*On Jordan's Bank to Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending.* There will be some lovely recordings of the choir including solos by Liz Hill and choristers Alex Rogers and Amelia Marriott.

For Christmas, we will be offering service music for an online Nine Lessons and Carols, Crib Service and Christmas Day. Across the three services you will hear an array of music including beloved classics *Once in Royal David's City, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night, The Angel Gabriel, and I Saw Three Ships.* There will be solos by Sam Board and Chloe Marriott, Clive Woodhouse, Stephen Mason, Charlie Pearch and our new Choral Scholar Emily Chapman. And you will be able to sing along to much as you want!

My thanks go to Kate Macpherson (as organist) and Alex Hill (as recording engineer and sound editor) for all their help to me creating new music for these virtual services. I am also grateful to David Hinit for all the past recordings he has made of the choir which I have been able to use. My final thanks go to the choir for their enthusiasm and dedication in creating this year's new carol recordings.

All that is left for me to say to you all is – Enjoy!

*Richard Brain*

## A Homemade Winter Remedy

I recently found, when looking through some old family papers, a recipe for a cough mixture. My great grandmother used to make this for herself each year. We believe it was her own choice of ingredients. It's clearly not one to recommend!

### **Recipe for cough mixture**

Paregoric (contains opium)  
Laudanum (contains opium)  
Oil of Aniseed  
Oil of peppermint  
White vinegar  
Liquorice powder

Two drams of each of these above, all available at your local chemist.  
Mix with 1 and a ½ pints of boiling water. Stir in 2 tablespoons full of golden syrup.  
Take a full glass of wine every day.



*John Clarke*

## Prayer of the month

Finally, we have in our sights the magic of Christmas and the very real promise of a New Year. If any time is appropriate, December 2020 and January 2021 are months of hope! Hope for a new beginning! It is probably no coincidence that the arrival of the Christ Child in our lives should come at the same time as the promise of a vaccine – two ways to secure our future, spiritual and physical, and foundations on which to rebuild our lives in 2021. And in this new year, health must take centre stage. Not just our own personal health, but the health of the whole world – air, sea, land, forest, plants and animals. We need to view this, our most precious gift, through new eyes. We really do need to commit as custodians of the planet.

An American nurse, theologian, singer and songwriter (probably better known in the UK in more evangelical parishes), the Roman Catholic Miriam Therese Winter, wrote words in 1991 which seem to have particular significance at this point in our lives – a very appropriate prayer for the turn of the year, thirty years later...

*Creator of Earth  
and of all earth's children,  
creator of soil and sea and sky  
and the tapestries of stars,  
we turn to you for guidance  
as we look on our mutilated planet,  
and pray it is not too late for us  
to rescue our wounded world.  
We have been so careless.  
We have failed to nurture the fragile life  
You entrusted to our keeping.  
We beg you for forgiveness  
And we ask you to begin again.  
Be with us in our commitment to earth.  
Let all the earth say: Amen.*

(Prayer from *Woman Wisdom: A Feminist Lectionary and Psalter: Women of the Hebrew Scriptures: Part One*. © 1991 by the Medical Mission Sisters)

***The Revd. Jane Kraft  
sends you all good wishes for a  
peaceful Christmas and God's richest  
blessing for the New Year***

## Social Responsibility Committee

Although we have been in lockdown through November some things have carried on in the usual way:

- Forty shoeboxes and the money for their shipping have started their journey to **Operation Christmas Child**. We are sure they will bring much pleasure to the recipients at the end of this strange and difficult year.
- Through the collection of the Jars of Hope and the sales from the stall outside church in September we have sent £400 to **Christian Aid**.
- From our funds and generous contributions from members of the congregation we sent £800 to **Noah's Ark**. This was price matched by a sponsor so made a really worthwhile donation to their November Appeal.
- Demands on the **food banks** have been greater than ever this year and at present they are really in need of: Christmas condiments, cranberry sauce/stuffing/gravy; cake/ chocolate/puddings all non alcoholic; savoury snacks, crisps, crackers; loo rolls, tooth paste, shampoo/conditioner; tinned meat and fish, potatoes, puddings, fruit and vegetables. Most supermarkets still have a box or trolley near the door where you can continue to contribute items and Morrison's have ready packed Foodbank Donation boxes at £10 each that you can pay for and donate. Thank you.
- We have also sent £100 to **Cooking Champions**. This local charity is cooking and distributing hot meals from St. Peters Church hall in Grange Park. They are also gifting Christmas Hampers to Enfield's most vulnerable residents & anyone can contribute the £20 cost on line at [gf.me/u/y9sauw#Enfield](https://gf.me/u/y9sauw#Enfield). (You can read about Cooking Champions elsewhere in this magazine.)



However, the Covid pandemic has meant that we have had to rethink our regular sales. All the following goods are now available for local delivery or collection from me (Hilary Meur) or from Church at service times. I will consider posting items if you contact me.

- **Blessed Advent candles** cost £5.
- The list of **Christmas cards** that we have available can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y33yopu2>
- **Christmas bottle bags** with a 'potluck' selection of orange or lemon marmalade, mincemeat, quince jelly or Harvest Chutney or Piccalilli. £5 for 3 jars.



Other projects affected by Covid and the lockdown are:

- **Christmas Gift Tree**

This year, when the need for Christmas giving is greater than usual, we are again supporting **Kids Out**. This charity aims to give a present to all abused children who are living in a refuge. You will find their advert on the inside back cover with details of how to give your present online.

However, if you prefer we are still going to collect actual presents. As previously, please choose and buy something from the list, put it unwrapped in a gift bag and bring it to us by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Gift vouchers are also very welcome.

- **Prayer Tree**

This year we have included a **Prayer Star** decoration with your copy of Spire. Please write on it someone or something you know that needs our collective prayers. Either hang it up at home on your tree or return it to us and we will hang it on our Prayer Tree in church. You can send back together with your *Spire* renewal slip.

Looking forward, 2021 is going to be another unusual year and we are searching for new ways of charity fund raising. If you have a good or brilliant idea, we are keen to hear it. Most charities have struggled this year and will continue to do so next year so please 'put your thinking caps on'!

Thank you very much for your continuing support. Please keep up all your good work. A happy and Peaceful Christmas to you all.

Hilary Meur 02083602362  
[ccsoces@gmail.com](mailto:ccsoces@gmail.com)

## Travelling Crib

Mary, Joseph and the donkey arrived at Southgate Station on Advent Sunday to travel round the parish out of doors, before ending their journey at church on Christmas Eve.

We have been following their progress with a daily picture on social media and our website showing where they have got to. So far they seem to be roughly following the edge of the parish boundary, so they need to try and find their way nearer to church!



You can see the journey so far at <https://tinyurl.com/travellingcrib>

## Big Bakes for The Little Things

Many readers of *The Spire* will have seen messages from **The Little Things** and **Cooking Champions** on the Christ Church twitter feed – and you may have supported their fund-raising takeaways, or taken food donations to St. Peter's Grange Park or the collection points on Selborne Road. The two enterprises are connected not just through joint funding-raising but also because Cooking Champions produce many hot meals for The Little Things.

### The Little Things

The Little things provides hot, nutritious food and drinks and other essentials for homeless men and women in London.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLittleThingsTLTUK/>

### Cooking Champions

Cooking Champions works with **Love Your Doorstep** to provide food for vulnerable families in Enfield. They distribute both food parcels and cooked hot meals to support families who are struggling with poverty or illness or other difficulties.

<https://www.facebook.com/cookingchampions/>



Producing cakes and other goodies for The Little Things has been a joy for our group of local friends in lockdown. We've tried out recipes, sampled each other's output and shared photos and updates as we stir up large bowls of mixture or peer through oven

windows, bake-off style, to see if our handiwork is rising properly. Apples from the Vicarage apple tree have made their way into multiple crumbles – thank you to Judith and

Chrichton for the apples and to Lia for knocking up a huge batch of homemade custard to go with them.

Here are a couple of the recipes we've enjoyed making and sampling. We hope you might enjoy them too!

### Chickpea and spinach curry (vegan): these quantities serve four (recipe from Gabriel)

1 tbsp veg oil  
2 tbsp mild curry paste  
1 onion, chopped  
1 x 400g can tomatoes  
2 x 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
250g bag baby leaf spinach, washed  
Squeeze of lemon juice  
Basmati rice to go with

Heat oil, add curry paste in large non-stick pan and cook for two minutes. Add onion\* and cook for three minutes until soft. Add the tomatoes and cook until bubbling, then simmer for 5 mins.

Add chickpeas and salt and pepper. Cook for five minutes. Lower heat and add spinach. Simmer 3 mins until spinach is wilted. Remove from heat, add lemon juice, serve with basmati rice.

\* pressed garlic cloves and a couple of teaspoons of grated ginger can be added with the onions if desired

### One-pot Chicken and Rice Tray-bake : serves four (recipe from Lia)

4–5 chicken thighs  
2 chicken breasts with skin on  
1.5 cups of any long grain rice – I like brown as it holds its shape well; don't use quick cook as it will go mushy!  
2.5–3 cups stock or water  
1 medium onion  
2 carrots  
2 cloves of garlic



1 red pepper or any other veg you have in the fridge  
 1 tablespoon smoked paprika  
 1 teaspoon turmeric  
 Salt and pepper to taste.

Wash rice and put it in the bottom of the tray. Use a blender to finely chop all the veg and fold in to rice. You can also finely chop if you prefer or don't have a blender. Pour over the stock or water.

Lay the chicken pieces on top and sprinkle over paprika and a generous coating of olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Cover well with foil and bake for about an hour and 20 minutes: at 170 C or 180 C fan. (It can take more or less time depending on the oven.)

*Anna Hughes, Lia Elia,  
 Gabriel Firth and Jane Tumilty*

## Tribute to John Taylor, Former Organist and Choirmaster

It is with sadness that we announce the death earlier this year of John Taylor, Director of Music at Christ Church from 1979 to 1984. John was a much-respected leader of both the Choir of Men and Boys' which sang for Matins and Evensong, and the Ladies' Choir which at that time sang for the Sunday Eucharist. A highly accomplished organist (FRCO), he maintained consistently high musical standards throughout his time at Christ Church.

John directed the choirs for several major services including the live televised Easter Day broadcast in 1982, and during his time the annual performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday evolved to feature other significant choral works, with one highlight being a memorable rendition of Mozart's Requiem in 1981. He led the choir on three long cathedral residences at St. Mary's Edinburgh, Exeter and Norwich as well as a number of one-day visits to more local cathedrals.

John provided musical tuition for junior members of the choirs and was a very popular figure in the parish, serving for some time as Warden of the Baird Cottages. A jovial man, John was as adept at launching himself into social activities as he was at directing the music. Upon leaving Southgate he served for many years as Musical Director at Tettenhall (near Wolverhampton) where he was held in similarly high regard.

John was also a personal friend of mine and he will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace.

*Clive Woodhouse*



John Taylor (bottom right), with Stephen Lloyd (bottom left), Peter Branker (top left), and Chris Dell (top right).

## Stewardship News

Since my November report our cash collections have once again dried up due to the renewed closure of church this month. However, there have been several one-off donations that have helped reduce the shortfall. Thank you to all those that have responded with a donation.



I thought it might be helpful to include some further detail of how donations are currently received. The different methods of giving are listed in order of preference:

- **Parish Giving Scheme** – by Direct Debit – which can include an inflationary increase. Currently 75 parishioners donate £57,000
- **Standing Orders** – 32 parishioners donate £11,000
- **Automated bank payments** – annual donations by a few parishioners, totalling £1,700
- **Contactless payments** – £250
- **Virgin Money Giving** – £1,150, mainly a generous donation by a bereaved family of £1,000
- **Cheques** – during this year we have received extra donations from about a dozen parishioners of nearly £1,200. However, our bank now charges £1.50 to collect each one.
- **Cash** – not to be encouraged as we have to pay £1.50 for every £100 deposited in our bank. During this year the cash received has been just under £3,000, meaning that with charges we only bank just under £2,955. In 2019 during the same period cash collections were £12,000

You can clearly see the effect of the loss of cash income this year. This has been partly covered by generous one-off donations. But it would help a lot if donors who currently rely on making cash donations could take this on board. A couple of people have recently joined the Parish Giving Scheme and I thank them for moving away from cash donations. By following in their footsteps, you will support Christ Church regularly even when you are not able to attend services.

I really urge all our regular cash donors to make the change to their donation method and to start making payment through their bank. This really does make a difference in all sorts of ways: it reduces bank charges, makes administration easier, and provides us with certainty of income for budgetary purposes.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP!

For those willing to **join the Parish Giving Scheme now**, this can be set -up easily over the telephone. All you needed to do is **make one call to their dedicated helpline number 0333 002 1271**. In the future there will be a dedicated website to enable so that payments can be set-up on-line.

*Mick Meur*, Stewardship Recorder  
[mikestatistics@gmail.com](mailto:mikestatistics@gmail.com)

## News from the Committees

November's meeting of the **PCC** heard reports of much of the other committee activity. As usual, at the moment, the pandemic has restricted committee meetings to Zoom and has therefore prevented **Pastoral** from meeting (as well as curtailing any home visits members might have made) and continues to impact on the PCC's plans for future activities requiring social interaction in the community, the garden and the cemetery (where we will care for the war graves).

**Social Responsibility** is now selling Advent candles and Christmas cards and their wider activities are reported in full elsewhere in this magazine, as usual. **Outreach** owes a massive debt to the energy, ingenuity and commitment of Fr Chrichton with the continued online services and many imaginative plans for the Christmas season (with safety restrictions to combat Covid).

**Plant & Fabric** has continued its care of our buildings and properties, including repairing, redecorating and generally refurbishing Oakfield Road (to the delight of our new tenants) and it continues to oversee maintenance and repair of the flats and indeed, the church itself. The PCC decided that the considerable (often specialized) amount of work involved in managing our rental properties justified placing them in the hands of a professional property management company, and this will happen in the near future. The halls continue to tick over thanks to the hard work of the **Parish Centre Management**.

As 2020 draws to a close, we are also delighted to report that in spite of all the hardships the year has brought our way, the parish finances are more or less on target and that we will be able to meet our Common Fund commitments in full (although we have reserved the right to keep this under review). A final piece of excellent news is the appointment of Caroline Robertson to the position of Secretary to the PCC; these additional duties will now form part of Caroline's work in the Parish Office.

*Patricia Ashby*

## Note from the Editors

And here we have it! The last magazine for 2020. Will it be our last socially distanced production? There is no way of knowing, but while we've managed quite well to produce magazines from our respective desks at home since last March, we both hope that 2021 will eventually give us the opportunity to come back together in the Parish Office where we can chat and take decisions as we go, rather than slowly emailing backwards and forwards as we put the pages together.

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support and contributions over the past year. We hope the finished product has brought you some pleasure. As this is the usual double issue, the next deadline for contributions will be Australia Day – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The February magazine will be available on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

With every good wish from us both for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

*Clare & Patricia*

## USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Please remember to keep all the stamps from your Christmas post. I will collect them as usual in the New Year for the RNIB. When you cut them off, leave at least 1 cm of paper around the edge of each stamp. Thank you!

*Patricia Ashby*

**PARISH DIRECTORY****Parish Office**

*Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2.30—5 p.m.  
Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.  
N.B. Notices for the Sunday pew sheets should reach the Office no later than  
10 a.m. on a Friday. If possible, please e-mail them.*

*Mail* 1 The Green, London N14 7EG  
*Phone* 8886 0384  
*Email* office@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Website* www.christchurch-southgate.org

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*Phone* 8882 0917  
*Email* frch138@btinternet.com

*Assistant Priest* The Reverend Hazel Miall  
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*Phone* 07980 740587  
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Jackie Anderson 8245 0305  
Sandra Anderson 07947 027265

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Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com 07974 437966

**PCC**

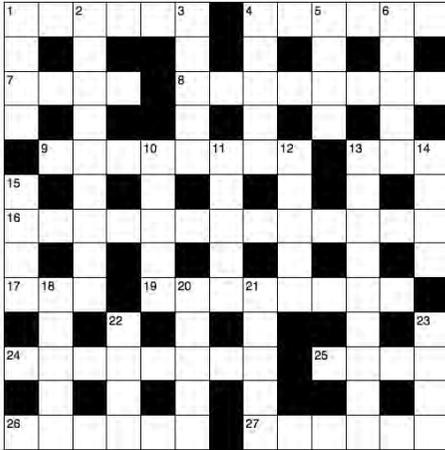
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office@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Treasurer* Clare Boulton (as above)  
*Stewardship* Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

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music@christchurch-southgate.org  
*Assistant Director of Music* David Hinitz, 19 Mercia Rd, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6RZ 07734 209662  
*Treasurer* Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

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<b>Sidesmen</b>	Judith Lo	8882 3335
<b>Sub-committee Chairs/contacts</b>		
<i>Outreach</i>	Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)	
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Kate Carroll (as above)	
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Jackie Anderson (as above)	
<i>Resources</i>	Ronald Lo	8882 3335
<i>Pastoral</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
<b>Parish Magazine “The Spire”</b>		
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<b>Flower Arrangers</b>	Contact the Parish Office (see above)	
<b>Parish Centre/Church Halls</b>		
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<i>Secretary</i>	Clare Boulton (see above)	
<i>Lettings</i>	christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Meur (as above)	
<b>Christ Church Association Bar</b>		
<i>Contact</i>	Clive Woodhouse, 41b Osborne Road, N13 5BT	8882 0014
<b>Friday Coffee Morning</b>	<i>Every Friday morning 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Hilary Meur (as above)	
<b>Lunch Fellowship</b>	<i>Usually on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month at noon in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
<b>Waterfall Group</b>	<i>1st Tuesday 8.30 p.m. – informal women’s meeting</i>	
	Frances Wyatt	8361 5379
	Glenys Rodway, 14 Dawlish Avenue, N13 4HP	8882 5970
<b>Scout Group</b>	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i>	07980 740 587
	Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	8882 0991
<b>Bellringers</b>	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974
<b>Bridge Club</b>	<i>Thursdays 7.30 p.m. – 10 p.m.</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	Jean Jobson, 26 New River Crescent, N13 5RF	8882 5619
<b>Young Fogeys</b>	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH	8882 8133

# DECEMBER CROSSWORD



**Across**

- 1. Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4. 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7. What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8. Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9. Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13. 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16. Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17. National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19. Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24. Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25. The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26. Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27. Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

**Down**

- 1. Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2. Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3. 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4. A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5. One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6. 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10. Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11. 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12. Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13. Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14. Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15. One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18. Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20. One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21. Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22. Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23. Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)





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[www.kidsout.org.uk/givingtree](http://www.kidsout.org.uk/givingtree)



Donate a toy for children in refuge from the comfort of your own home!

Registered charity number: 1075789 [www.kidsout.org.uk](http://www.kidsout.org.uk)

## Donate a Toy through the Online Shop

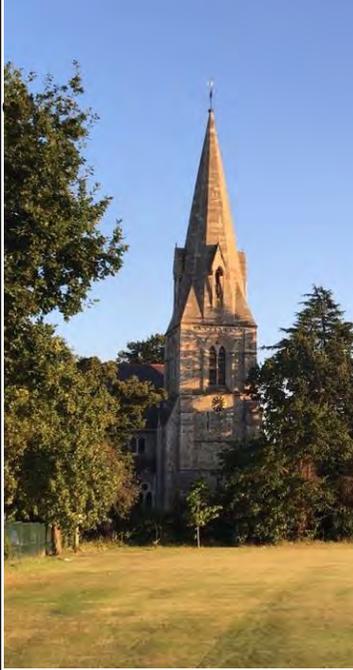
Using the KidsOut online shop

<https://www.kidsout.org.uk/shop/>

you can choose and donate a present for a child in refuge.

**KidsOut guarantees to provide that gift and deliver it to a child in refuge.**

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**Christ Church Southgate is an Eco-Church, we have recently achieved the Silver Award.**

**We are committed to caring for God's earth in the different areas of our life and work and are actively working to reduce our environmental impact**

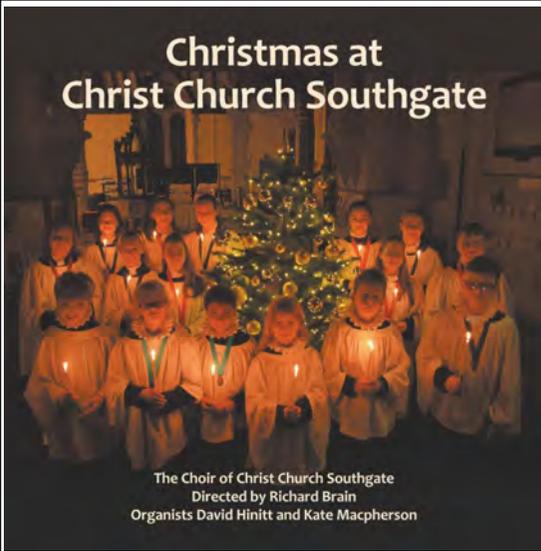


**“We believe in inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”**

**Christmas at Christ Church Southgate**

**Christmas at Christ Church Southgate**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Once in Royal David's City    | H J Gauntlett, A H Mann, arr. David Willcocks    |
| 2. The Angel Gabriel             | Basque traditional, arr. Edgar Pettman           |
| 3. Kings of Orient               | John Henry Hopkins Jr                            |
| 4. God rest you Merry Gentlemen  | English traditional, arr. David Willcocks        |
| 5. Gaudete                       | Anon   |
| 6. Away in a Manger              | W J Kirkpatrick, arr. David Willcocks            |
| 7. O Little Town of Bethlehem    | Forest Green, arr. Ralph Vaughan-Williams        |
| 8. Jesus Child                   | John Rutter, arr. Kenneth Pont                   |
| 9. I Saw Three Ships             | English traditional, arr. Richard Lloyd          |
| 10. Shepherd's Pipe Carol        | John Rutter                                      |
| 11. The Little Road to Bethlehem | Michael Head                                     |
| 12. Ding Dong! Merrily on High   | Charles Wood                                     |
| 13. O Holy Night                 | Adolphe Adam, arr. John Rutter                   |
| 14. Sans Day Carol               | Cornish traditional, arr. John Rutter            |
| 15. O Come all ye Faithful       | J F Wade, arr. David Willcocks                   |
| 16. In the Bleak Midwinter       | Harold Darke                                     |
| 17. O Magnum Mysterium           | Morten Lauridsen                                 |
| 18. Sussex Carol                 | English traditional, arr. David Willcocks        |
| 19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, arr. David Willcock |



The Choir of Christ Church Southgate  
 Directed by Richard Brain  
 Organists David Hinitt and Kate Macpherson

**CD just £10**

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