

*Donations  
Welcome*

December/January 2020/21

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARTIN'S WEST DRAYTON

# Challenge



May all who enter the Church find the peace of Christ and feel welcome.



*May the peace and hope of  
Christ's birth be with you now  
and in the days ahead.*

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2011

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## *From the Vicarage*

Dear Friends,

Will Christmas be cancelled this year? That's a question many of us have been wondering about. Christmas was cancelled once: from 1644-1660, during the Civil War and subsequent Commonwealth, Christmas was officially banned by Act of Parliament. The strict Puritans disapproved of Christmas, believing it had just become an excuse for drunkenness, gluttony and gambling. In 1647 the people of Canterbury were warned by their mayor that they were not allowed to hang on their doors "any rosemary, holly or bayes", nor could they make "plum potage or nativity pies". Church was out too: on 25<sup>th</sup> December no prayers nor sermons (you might think no sermon was a good idea!). So what about us, what's happening to our Christmas? We know it cannot be the same as usual. Our government has given us rules, not as kill joys, but because we have to be mindful of others in a dangerous time of pandemic. Each of us must make sensible choices, even sacrifices, as we decide who we will see and what we'll do over the festive season. Our church services will be affected, although I hope it will still be possible to be open and to welcome everyone. Christmas may well be quieter this year, but that doesn't mean its disappeared. We can decorate our houses, with holly or fairy lights, we can eat Christmas treats, we can connect with each other through old fashioned letters and cards or all the benefits of our computer age. Most of all, we can draw strength and hope by remembering Christmas is incapable of being cancelled, because Christ did come at Christmas. The true heart of Christmas beats still and steady, for Jesus, born in a stable, separated from his wider family, in the dark and cold of winter, is still with us, bringing us his light and warmth. A quiet Christmas lies ahead, but perhaps it can also be spiritually deep, and rich in meaning, contentment and trust.

With my blessing,

**Revd Rosy Barrie**

## *Christmas Quiet Time*

To help us focus on the Christmas story, and all that God wishes to give us through it, pictures can be very helpful. Try using your Christmas cards, or on our website, St Martin's stained glass windows. Whatever or whoever floats into your mind offer to God as prayer, and if you sense God is prompting you to do something, jot that down, and do your best to see it through.

## *Comfort and Joy*

You're invited to join the Archbishops and guests to reflect on Nine Lessons and Carols daily between Christmas Day and 2 Jan.

Find out more on-line at [churchofengland.org/Comfort And Joy](http://churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy). There are also some booklets available in church for those who would like one.



## *St Martin's is open on*

*Sundays 10.15 am Holy Eucharist, with music, followed by private prayer until 11.30 am*

*Wednesdays 10-11 am, Peace and Quiet Hour. Do pop in and out any time, to light a candle, sit, read, think or pray.*

# *St Martin's Parish Church*



***Christmas by Candlelight*** Sun 13 Dec 6pm  
***Noisy Nativity*** Christmas Eve (24 Dec) 3pm  
***Midnight Mass*** Christmas Eve 11.15pm  
***Christmas Day*** (25 Dec) 10.15am  
***Sunday*** 27 Dec 10.15am  
***The Feast of Epiphany*** Sun 3 Jan 10.15am  
***Candlemas Sunday with Christingles***  
31 Jan 10.15am



## **Love-in-a-Box 2020**

Once again people from St.Martin's and Heathrow Primary school were very generous in their giving towards the 2020 Love-in-a-Box appeal.

At this time of writing, boxes of lovely gifts will be travelling overland on their way to Moldova, a small country nestled between the Ukraine and Romania and officially recognised as one of the poorest countries in Europe.

In total £140.00 was donated from our church and this was in addition to individual boxes and gifts being given.

Heathrow school were very generous in providing many gifts and further donations of money towards transportation.

Many thanks to all those who contributed in helping to show human kindness and make Christmas brighter for children in schools, orphanages and hospitals far away.

Truly, love sent in a box.

## **No Problems - Just Solutions**

### **Indoor Problems**

Lightbulb need changing? Curtains need hanging?

TV need tuning? Computer issues?



### **Outdoor Problems**

Grass need cutting? Hedge need trimming?

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## *Prayer Page*

**Lord, may you bless the world,**  
give health to our bodies, and comfort our hearts.  
You ask us not to be afraid.  
Yet our faith is weak, and we are fearful.  
But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm.  
Tell us again: "Do not be afraid".  
(Pope Francis)

**Something you can do today...***three suggestions from  
trypraying.co.uk*

1. Carry a stone with you, and every time you put your hand on it pray, "God, I want you to be the solid thing in my life."
2. Every time you use a key today pray, "God, unlock my life to your influence."
3. As soon as you start walking from your home pray, "God, please walk through the day with me."

### **Two Christmas prayers**

Dear God,  
May our Christmas be your Christmas.  
Let us give and receive gifts with love.  
Let us feast on friendship and forgiveness.  
Let us decorate not just with tinsel  
But with the light that shines from heaven. (Lois Rock)  
God of comfort and joy,  
may we know your presence with us today,  
and bring your gentle, joyful love to others,  
this Christmas, and always, amen.

([churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy](http://churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy))

### ***What's on the Web?***

The **Church of England** website will provide you with up to date information as well as worship and prayer resources. In May **Faith at Home** was launched, with a weekly worship video centred on a value, eg Hope, Courage: although aimed at schools it's worth a look whatever age you are!

## MIXED UP CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Solving the anagrams will lead to popular Christmas movies.

- 1 MR SINGLE (8)
- 2 TEACHES A SULTAN (3,5,6)
- 3 SMITH WRIST ACHE (5,9)
- 4 THE CHALK SLED (4,3,5)
- 5 LANDSCAPE GRIT (7,6)
- 6 A DEFINITE WOLF SLUR (3,1,9,4)
- 7 A VALLEY CLOUT (4,8)
- 8 CHARCOAL ARM SITS (1,9,5)
- 9 ENEMIES OMIT LUST (4,2,2,2,5)
- 10 HIRE DAD (3,4)
- 11 MARCH SITARS HURT (6,9)
- 12 HOLY INDIAN (7,3)
- 13 ONE HAM OLE (4,5)
- 14 CHOIRMASTER FUSS (4,12)
- 15 RICH HOME MISLABEL FROST (3,2,4,3,9)
- 16 BARMAN RUN TEST (6,7)
- 17 HOT NEWSMAN (3,7)
- 18 CODERS GO (8)
- 19 PROPHETESS RELAX (3,5,7)
- 20 A ANT DABS (3,5)
- 21 A MISMATCHING SCORE (3,5,9)
- 22 A CHESSMAN TESTS RIVERS (6,5,9)
- 23 IVY TITAN (8)
- 24 THE SHARK HELLS (5,3,5)
- 25 GIANT JELLY WHALE (6,3,3,3)

**Diamond Thieves Answer:**

**They stole 301 diamonds in total.**

**Explanation:**

We need a number that is a multiple of 7 that will give a remainder of 1 when divided by 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The least common multiple of these numbers is 60. So, we need a multiple of 7 that is 1 greater than a multiple of 60.

$60 + 1 = 61$ , not a multiple of 7

$60 \times 2 + 1 = 121$ , not a multiple of 7

$60 \times 3 + 1 = 181$ , not a multiple of 7

$60 \times 4 + 1 = 241$ , not a multiple of 7

$60 \times 5 + 1 = 301$ , a multiple of 7



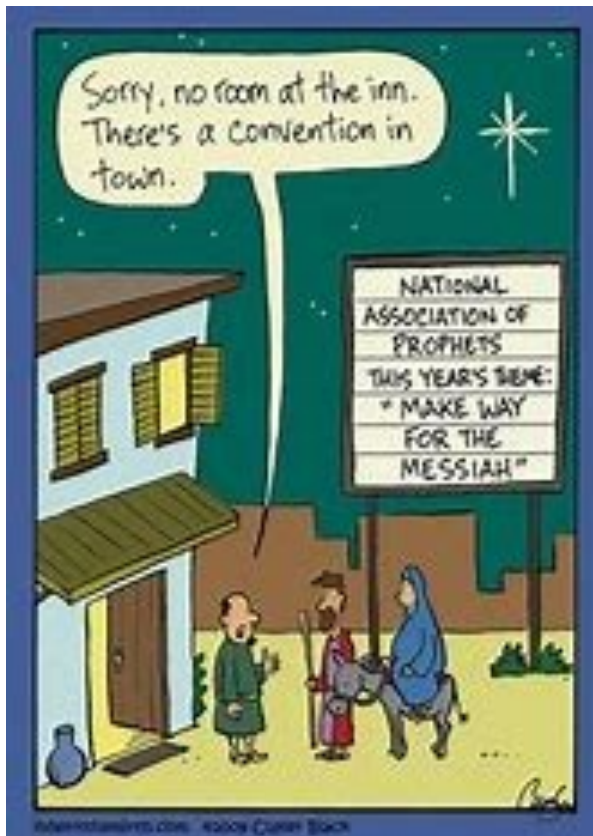
## Christmas Literature Quiz

1. "Hide the Christmas tree carefully Helen. Be sure the children do not see it until this evening when it is dressed" are the opening lines from which Ibsen play?
2. Which short story by Arthur Conan Doyle features Sherlock Holmes in a Christmas mystery?
3. "If you searched every old folks' home in the country, you couldn't find anyone who looked more like Santa Claus" is the opening line of which novella based on a 1947 movie?
4. Which fantasy author wrote the collection of letters published in 1976 as "The Father Christmas Letters"?
5. Which novel by John Grisham formed the basis of the 2004 movie "Christmas with the Kranks"?
6. In the novels by Terry Pratchett, who is the Discworld equivalent of Father Christmas?
7. The poem Christmas Trees which opens with the lines, "The city had withdrawn into itself, And left at last the country to the country", was written by which American poet?
8. Which of Dicken's novels features the character Alfred Jingle?
9. Which Shakespeare play features the lines "At Christmas I no more desire a rose, Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows"?
10. Which crime writer wrote the collection of short stories called "The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding"?
11. In which country was Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas" set?
12. Who wrote the fairy tale "The Snow Queen"?
13. Which creatures helped the Tailor of Gloucester finish the Mayor's waistcoat in time for Christmas in the Beatrix Potter book?
14. "It was the beginning of the greatest Christmas ever. Little food. No presents. But there was a snowman in their basement." is a quote from which best selling novel by Markus Zusak?
15. Who wrote the dramatic monologue outlining the conditions in the workhouse that starts with the line "It was Christmas Day in the workhouse, and the cold, bare walls are bright"?
16. Which famous writer wrote 'A Letter From Santa Claus', which he sent to his daughter, Susy Clemens?
17. Where was it, "Always winter but never Christmas."?
18. How many times is the word Christmas mentioned in all of Shakespeare's plays?
19. What was the title of the Christmas book written by "The Wizard of Oz" creator L Frank Baum in 1902
20. In Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", who says "Merry Christmas, One and All!"?

*Confirmation:*  
*Sunday 7 Feb 10.15am*

*We hope that Bishop Pete will be able to come on this date. If you are interested in being confirmed, please chat to Revd Rosy asap.*

Do check on the notice board on the church gate post, or on our website for any changes to our worship services, which might happen at short notice depending on Covid 19 restrictions.





# If you look for Me at Christmas

you won't need a special star —  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me  
amid the celebrations —


You'll have to look beyond the stores  
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,  
you're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find Me in the stillness  
as I'm whispering your name.

Love,

Jesus



## **'Carol-barking' by Laurie Lee**

One by one they came stumbling over the snow, swinging their lanterns around their heads, shouting and coughing horribly.

'Coming carol-barking then?'

We were the Church Choir, so no answer was necessary.

For a year we had praised the Lord out of key, and as a reward for this service – on top of the Outing – we now had the right to visit all the big houses, to sing our carols and collect our tribute.

To work them all in meant a five-mile foot journey over wild and generally snowed-up country. So the first thing we did was to plan our route; a formality, as the route never changed. All the same, we blew on our fingers and argued; and then we chose our Leader. This was not binding, for we all fancied ourselves as Leaders, and he who started the night in that position usually trailed home with a bloody nose.

Eight of us set out that night. There was Sixpence the Tanner, who had never sung in his life (he just worked his mouth in church); the brothers Horace and Boney, who were always fighting everybody and always getting the worst of it;

Clergy Green, the preaching maniac; Walt the bully, and my two brothers. As we went down the lane other boys, from other villages, were already about the hills, bawling 'Kingwenslush', and shouting through keyholes

'Knock on the knocker! Ring at the Bell! Give us a penny for singing so well!' They weren't an approved charity as we were, the Choir; but competition was in the air.



Our first call as usual was the house of the Squire, and we tramped nervously down his drive. For light we had candles in marmalade-jars suspended on loops of string, and they threw pale gleams on the towering snowdrifts that stood on each side of the drive. A blizzard was blowing, but we were well wrapped up, with Army puttees on our legs, woollen hats on our heads, and several scarves around our ears.

As we approached the Big House across its white silent lawns, we too grew respectfully silent. The lake near by was stiff and black, the waterfall frozen and still. We arranged ourselves shuffling around the big front door, then knocked and announced the Choir.

A maid bore the tidings of our arrival away into the echoing distances of the house, and while we waited we cleared our throats noisily. Then she came back, and the door was left ajar for us, and we were bidden to begin. We brought no music, the carols were in our heads. 'Let's give 'em "Wild Shepherds",' said Jack. We began in confusion, plunging into a wreckage of keys, of different words and tempo; but we gathered our strength; he who sang loudest took the rest of us with him, and the carol took shape if not sweetness.

This huge stone house, with its ivied walls, was always a mystery to us. What were those gables, those rooms and attics, those narrow windows veiled by the cedar trees. As we sang 'Wild Shepherds' we craned our necks, gaping into that lamplit hall which we had never entered; staring at the muskets and untenanted chairs, the great tapestries furred by dust – until suddenly, on the stairs, we saw the old Squire himself standing and listening with his head on one side.

He didn't move until we'd finished; then slowly he tottered towards us, dropped two coins in our box with a trembling hand, scratched his name in the book we carried, gave us each a long look with his moist blind eyes, then turned away in silence.

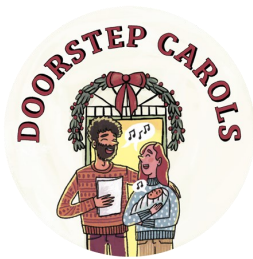
As though released from a spell, we took a few sedate steps, then broke into a run for the gate. We didn't stop till we were out of the grounds.

## MIXED UP CHRISTMAS MOVIES ANSWERS

- 1 GREMLINS
- 2 THE SANTA CLAUSE
- 3 WHITE CHRISTMAS
- 4 DECK THE HALLS
- 5 TRADING PLACES
- 6 IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
- 7 LOVE ACTUALLY
- 8 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
- 9 MEET ME IN ST LOUIS
- 10 DIE HARD
- 11 ARTHUR CHRISTMAS
- 12 HOLIDAY INN
- 13 ONHOME ALONE
- 14 FOUR CHRISTMASSES
- 15 I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
- 16 BATMAN RETURNS
- 17 THE SNOWMAN
- 18 SCROOGED
- 19 THE POLAR EXPRESS
- 20 BAD SANTA
- 21 ONE MAGIC CHRISTMAS
- 22 ERNEST SAVES CHRISTMAS
- 23 NATIVITY
- 24 THE HALLS
- 25 JINGLE ALL THE WAY

## Christmas Literature Quiz Answers

1. *A Dolls House.*
2. *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle.*
3. *Miracle on 34th Street.*
4. *J R R Tolkein.*
5. *Skippping Christmas.*
6. *The Hogfather.*
7. *Robert Frost.*
8. *The Pickwick Papers.*
9. *Love Labour's Lost.*
10. *Agatha Christie.*
11. *Wales.*
12. *Hans Christian Andersen.*
13. *The Mice.*
14. *The Book Thief.*
15. *George Robert Sims.*
16. *Mark Twain.*
17. *Narnia. (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe).*
18. *Three.*
19. *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus.*
20. *Tiny Tim.*



## CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP

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## **Hall Activities**

### **Monday**

Tae Kwondo 17:45 - 19:15

### **Tuesday**

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00  
Drama Group 16:00 - 18:30  
History Society 19:00 - 21:00  
(Last Tuesday of the Month)  
Craft Group 19:00 - 21:00

### **Wednesday**

Irish Dance 19:00 - 21:00

### **Thursday**

Little Soldiers 10:00 - 11:15  
0-3 year olds + carers  
(not in school holidays)

WI 14:15 - 16:15  
(3rd Thursday of the Month)

AA 7-10pm

### **Friday**

Tae Kwondo 17:30 - 20:30

### **Saturday**

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00

Items for inclusion in the August/September issue of Challenge must be with the Editor by Sunday 24th January 2021 Items not received by this date will, if appropriate, be included in the next issue.

Email: [stmartinschurch@live.co.uk](mailto:stmartinschurch@live.co.uk)



## *From the Church Registers*

*Funeral of Lilian Swadling, 16 Oct 2020*

*Burial service of Michael Lawes, 5 Nov 2020*

*Funeral of Iris Dixon, 7 Dec 2020*

*We give thanks for them and remember in our prayers those who continue to mourn their passing.*



## REGULAR SERVICES

EACH SUNDAY

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)  
10.00 am Sung Eucharist  
*Sunday School meets in the hall at 10am (except Family service)*  
*All Children Welcome.*

### 1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

10.00 am Family Service, a service for all, from 0 to 99

### MONDAY TO SATURDAY

9.30 am Morning Prayer

\*\*\*\*\*

## WHO'S WHO

<b>VICAR</b>	Rev Rosy Barrie	'	01895 442194
	rosybarrie1@btinternet.com		
Church Wardens	Uche Obi & Marie Tampin	.	01895 434949
Hall Bookings	Marie	'	07742 757377
PCC Secretary	William Fairchild	'	01895 434949
Stewardship	Julia Bennett	'	01895 851269
Pastoral Assistant	Doris Hughes	'	01895 434949
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mary Davie & Pat Dibben	'	01895 434949
Sunday School	Contact the Parish Office	'	01895 434949
Church Treasurer	Emeka Obi		01895 434949
Editor of Challenge	Kevin Stephens	'	01895 434949
Flowers	Contact Pat via the Office	'	01895 434949

\*\*\*\*\*

## PARISH OFFICE

St Martins Church, Church Road, West Drayton UB7 7PT

Tel: 01895 434949 (Answer Machine)

Email: stmartinschurch@live.co.uk

[www.stmartinwestdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmartinwestdrayton.org.uk)

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*This Christmas,  
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 your joy endless.*



Inspirational Christmas Messages © Allwordz.com

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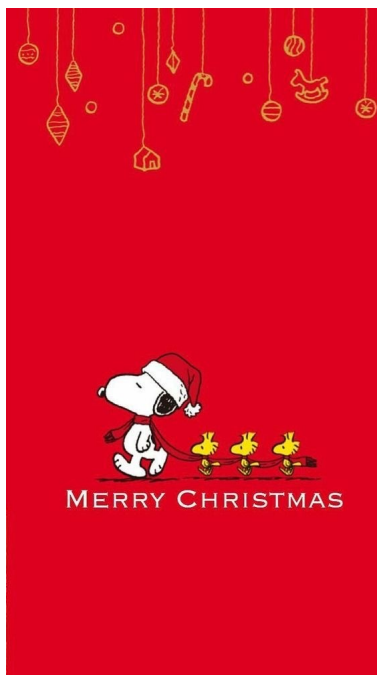
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