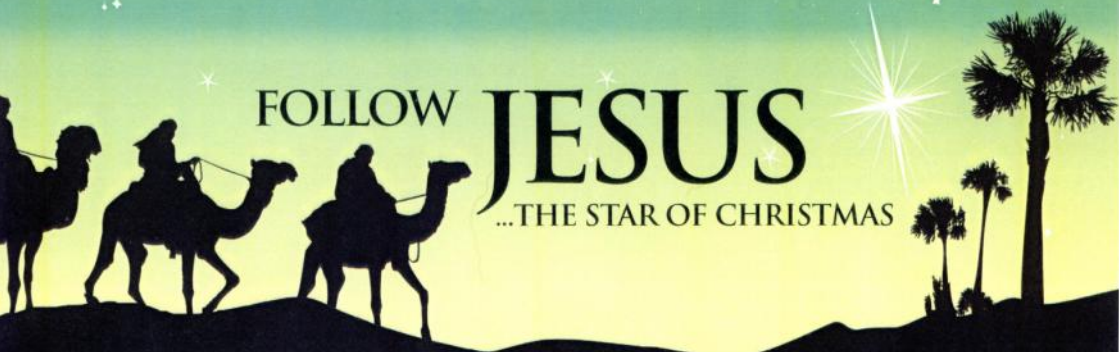


Christmas Magazine 2010

FOLLOW

JESUS

...THE STAR OF CHRISTMAS



# Christmas Services

## 19 December

- 9.00 am Holy Communion
- 10.30 am Sunday Club Nativity Service
- 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

## 24 December

- 4.00 pm Christmas Crib Service
- 11.30 pm Midnight Communion

## 25 December

- 10.00 am All-Age Communion—  
a Family Celebration of Christ's Birth

## 26 December

- 10.00 am All-Age Communion



**Sharing the love of Jesus in our community.**

## What are you hoping for this Christmas?

It is always at this time of year that people ask the question, ‘What can I get you for Christmas?’ or they say, ‘You are so difficult to buy for!’ For example, when you’re thinking of a gift for an elderly relative who really doesn’t need anything, what do you get them? Or for a younger person who has a list as long as your arm!

I wonder what you’re hoping for this Christmas?

The truth is that most of us have everything we need in life. Not everything we may want, but everything we need. What would be the best gift that we could receive?

Some of the things that we might want to receive or give cannot be bought by money or by a quick visit online to Amazon. There are very few people who wouldn’t like to give or receive peace in the world, or health instead of illness. Ask anyone who has recently lost someone they love what they would like for Christmas, and you know that they would give anything if they could have that person back.

There are many things in life that we would love to give or to have that are beyond what we can afford. Indeed they are beyond anyone’s pockets – the gift of life is priceless.

And yet the heart of the Christmas story is all about the gift of life, life in all its fullness – offered to each of us, a gift beyond price, a gift promised through the birth of Jesus, a gift that cost Jesus his own life.

The ideal for all Christmas gifts is that they are given with love from the giver. God’s gift to us of abundant life, life in all its fullness now and for ever, is offered to us freely and stems from God’s love for us. God loves each one of us so much that he gave his Son to us. Ultimately it cost Jesus his life so that we could have life through faith in him.

If I was to ask again what you’re hoping for this Christmas, what would you reply? My own hope and prayer is that for some this year they will realise that their deepest need can be met by receiving life through faith in Christ – and that they will gratefully receive God’s gift of abundant life.

May God be with you and bless you this Christmastide.

Tim Hatwell

Vicar



## London 'SKYRIDE' – 5 September 2010

Our son Tom is 12 years old and attends Marlborough School in Sidcup. Last term he completed his 'Bikeability' Levels 1 & 2 (the old cycling proficiency test). We were really proud because he was one of only two students at Marlborough who completed the level 2 test. Most children do the level 2 in year 6 at primary school, so as Tom was in year 7, it was a great achievement.

Late in the summer term he was one of a group of Marlborough students who attended a 'Raising Aspirations' workshop, along with pupils from other schools in the borough, run jointly by Bexley Education Business Partnership and the marketing company KPMG. We were then notified that he had to do a challenge over the summer holiday, as part of the workshop, to show progress in an area of his life. As Tom loves cycling we knew that he would enjoy taking part in 'SKYRIDE', a 15km cycle round central London, the route passes lots of familiar landmarks and the roads are closed off to motor vehicles. We decided it would be a good opportunity to raise some money for the Fragile X Society charity and also for a project to build a café at Marlborough School. We are very grateful to our Bishop Ridley Church family and our own family and friends who so generously sponsored Tom. He raised a fantastic £350 which we divided equally between our two chosen charities.

We then were told that all Tom's hard work had made him a finalist in the challenge. His prize was to have lunch in London and then go and see 'The Lion King' at The Lyceum Theatre with the 7 other finalists. His school were also very pleased with his progress in cycling, they nominated him for a 'Pupil Achievement



Tom (left) and big brother Matt at the London SKYRIDE

Award' which he collected from the Mayor in a ceremony at the Civic Offices in November.

## Word Search

See if you can find these words hidden below:

Angel  
Bethlehem  
Christmas  
Donkey  
Jesus  
Joseph  
Kings  
Manger  
Mary  
Shepherds  
Stable  
Star



Remember that words can read up, down, left, right or diagonally

A	B	G	U	N	T	A	S	E	S	E	J
D	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	V	O
M	A	E	L	R	T	Q	U	I	D	O	S
M	O	D	P	A	A	D	L	I	P	M	E
E	W	K	N	X	B	R	A	T	S	C	P
H	G	J	P	E	L	B	I	H	G	O	H
E	E	M	C	J	E	U	S	O	N	N	T
L	I	M	A	R	Y	G	H	X	I	F	U
H	U	Q	X	N	V	I	J	E	K	C	D
T	R	Z	A	S	G	N	G	O	P	E	N
E	E	W	T	E	Y	E	K	N	O	D	F
B	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	E	A

## 7<sup>th</sup> Welling Beaver Scouts

This term at Beavers, we took part in our District Activity Day on the farm in Shoreham in September. An adventure course, shelter building, cooking on a fire and soaking the leaders with wet sponges was very popular with all the children. We also took our Beavers to Bexleyheath Bowling Alley in November and the boys really enjoyed it. We will finish the autumn term by singing carols for the elderly before our Christmas party at the end of term.

This term, we have learned about safety, played lots of games and sports, been on a treasure hunt around Falconwood and have completed many other fun activities. Over the next few months we will be going to Firepower at Woolwich Arsenal, going on the District Sleepover and exploring outdoors.

The Beavers took the reading for the Church Parade Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Every term, we work on a number of badges, which are presented to Beaver Scouts each month during the parade services at Bishop Ridley Church.

We play games at every meeting and the Beavers learn about their world, go outdoors, work in teams, make things, play sports, cook and meet people in Scouting and the community throughout the year. The Beavers have a great deal of fun and make new friends as they enjoy games, help others and try new things together.

Currently there are 28 boys in Beavers aged 6, 7 and 8, with many moving to Cubs in 2011 and more boys waiting to start, which will be around their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you are interested in your children joining our Beaver Colony, please contact us at [phil.7thwellingscoutgroup@ntlworld.com](mailto:phil.7thwellingscoutgroup@ntlworld.com) and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



## Kids in Church

3-year-old Reese: 'Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.'

A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it, I'm having a real good time like I am.'

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, And I wanted to stay with you guys.'

One particular four-year-old prayed: 'And forgive us our trash baskets, As we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied: 'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait."' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

A father was at the beach with his children when his four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. 'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?'

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied..'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said: 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

## Christmas facts and fiction

Some of these statements are true, some are only partly true, others are 'not proven'.

Jesus was born on 25 December in the year 1 AD.

1. He was born in a stable in Bethlehem.
2. Some shepherds came to see him.
3. They gave him a lamb.
4. Three kings also visited the stable.
5. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We don't actually know when Jesus was born. The year was somewhere between 10 BC and 4 AD. The month was probably April. Luke's gospel tells us about the shepherds and about a census which was the reason why Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. The shepherds would not have been out in the fields at night in December but would have been there at lambing time. In addition, nobody would organise a census in December. These facts suggest somewhere around April. The day is anybody's guess. December 25<sup>th</sup> was chosen as the date on which to celebrate Christ's birth some three centuries later.

He was born in a stable in Bethlehem (Luke again).

Some shepherds did visit him but there is no mention of them bringing a lamb (Luke yet again)

There is no mention of three kings visiting the stable. There is a description in Matthew's gospel of some magi, or wise men, calling on Herod when they were looking for Jesus. The court astrologers told them to try Bethlehem on the basis of a few lines in the book of Micah. Because they didn't report back to him where they had found Jesus Herod ordered his soldiers to kill all the boys under two years old in Bethlehem. This suggests that their visit was some time after the birth, probably when Jesus was over a year old.

The magi did bring him these gifts.

The great thing about Christmas is that we remember that God gave us the greatest possible gift—eternal life through his son, Jesus.

*Les Brett*

## 3dub so far this term:



We began this term by having a social together. 3dub received a kind donation so we treated ourselves to a meal out at Pizza Hut. We had a fantastic time and it was great to get together again before the start of the new term.

This term we have been looking at the issue of Poverty, Faith and Injustice. We have been using a resource created by Tearfund and have been delving deeper into these very important issues and how we can make a difference in our world.

Youth Alpha has begun and we have a few of our members taking part and a few involved in leading discussion groups which is fantastic. I have been hearing great reports so far! They all had a great time on the weekend away that they have just returned from and many of them were really blessed by the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October we are had a light party as an alternative to Halloween. We had a fancy dress theme of super heroes and a good time was had by all. We have a busy few weeks between now and Christmas with lots of exciting things going on including some social action, a joint evening with Source (18-30's group at St Johns) and a social up to London to see the Christmas Lights and do some Ice Skating.

As always, we really would like to thank you for your prayers and support as these are very much appreciated.

### Prayer Points:

- That 3dub will become more involved with their wider churches.
- That we will see the return of some 3dub members that we have not seen in a long time.
- That we will continue to grow deeper with God and reach out to the community around us.

## A Thought while you Shop

Your father has just told you what your brother wants for Christmas. So you decide to go to Bexleyheath to get the present. You join the traffic at the end of your road and crawl into Bexleyheath.

You try M&S, then BHS but with no luck. In desperation you try Primark only to find they have got it but not in the right size, but a helpful assistant says they will get it posted to you.

You then sweat on delivery, it arrives and you wrap it up to give to your brother on Christmas day.

When he sees the present he is so happy and says it is the best present ever.

Does that sound familiar, if not I will give you a hint?

Mary and Joseph had a long and slow journey to Bethlehem, they tried several places to find a room to stay but with no luck, till a friendly inn keeper showed them his stable.

I should think her delivery caused a bit of sweat but oh what a gift she had for us!

Merry Christmas



"SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON, AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER."  
LUKE 2:7



TO COLOUR IN

## Times of Services

Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Family Worship (including Sunday Club)
	6.30 pm	Dubsters - a group for 11-14 year olds*
Monday	7.00 pm	3 Dub a group for 14-19 year olds*
	9.00 am	Morning Prayer

\* for details contact church office

## Weekday activities

Monday	6.15 pm	Brownies
Tuesday	6.00 pm	Rainbows
Wednesday	10-12	Babes & Toddlers
	2.00 pm	Wednesday Fellowship 2nd + 4th in term time
	7.00 pm	Music Group practice

## Leaders

Brownies	Sue Davies	020 8301 5531
Rainbows	Pat Waters	020 8304 6748
Babes & Toddlers	Sam Bird	via office
Wednesday Fellowship		via office
Vicar	The Rev. Tim Hatwell	020 8298 0065
Church Wardens	Adrian Haughton and Derek Sears via office	
Lay Reader	Fred Woodley	020 8303 7374
Verger	Jack Woodcock	020 8303 1255
Church Office	Liz Wood	020 8303 9998
	(Administrator)	

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this magazine whether by writing articles or in printing and distributing it to the parish.

Les Brett (editor)

The views expressed in this magazine are those of individual writers and may not represent those of the whole church.



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