



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Worksop

Issue 7

Christmas 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Poem 1

Angels 2

Faith at
Work 3

Mini-quiz 3

Church
events 4

Christmas
services 4

Contact
Point 4

IF JESUS CAME TO OUR TOWN

if Jesus came to our town,
should He visit us today
I wonder what would happen,
what would the critics say?
Would everyone be ready,
the heavenly King to meet?
I wonder could we face Him,
If we met Him on the street?

I doubt if to the Town Hall steps
He first would wend His way
Or to the mansions of the rich
His feet would quickly stray.
I rather think he'd visit first the
noisy humble streets
Where all the poor are living,
and the out-of-work He'd meet.
I guess He'd take the babies and
bless each little head
And not be over-proud to earn
His daily share of bread.

Then, as the sun was sinking
low, perhaps alone you'd find
The tender Master bending low
to one whose eyes were blind.
His gentle hand would heal the
sick,
His voice would ease their pain,
As of His 'Heavenly mansions'
He spoke yet once again.



But would He find His followers of
2024
As true and kind and loving as they
used to be before?
Or would He find some wanting in
Christ-like attitude?
Some willed with self-importance,
some harsh, some gruff, some rude.

Lord Jesus, when we meet Thee,
In heaven or on the street,
We would produce our trophies to
lay before Your feet.
So keep us, Lord, from selfishness,
from foolish pride, from blame.
Life is too brief for trifling,
let others be our aim.
Each soul won for Thy Kingdom will
richer make our crown,
So make us, Lord, more earnest, to
save our little town.

This poem was recited to me in full in Wetherspoons,
by Gloria from the Salvation Army !



Hark! The
herald angels
sing,
'Glory to the
newborn King'

So, it's Christmas and our school nativity plays will have hosts of angelic children with tinsel halos and wings. Perhaps most of us have heard of the Archangels Gabriel and Michael, but the Bible speaks of hosts of angelic beings—sometimes looking like the angels we imagine, but also angels in human form. Angels are considered to be God's 'special forces'. Psalm 91 v 11 says:

"God sends angels with special orders to protect you wherever you go, defending you from all harm".

Below is a true account of a recent example of angelic protection.

'My Angel' - by Karen

"Fear not, I bring you good tidings of great joy" the angel said to the shepherds according to Luke's gospel. My angel said the same thing -sort of - and in a Yorkshire accent.

"You're all right, I've called the emergency services (Fear not) and with my truck parked behind your car you will be safe!" (Good tidings of great joy.) Well, it wasn't as joyful as the birth of Jesus but I was mightily relieved that angels knew how to deal with emergencies on the busy M1.

No halo, no shining light, no sparkly wings or flowing robes. My angel was a down to earth, kind hearted truck driver called Karl, who just drove off once the emergency services took control - no heavenly choir came to give him a send-off - but that may have caused some real mayhem on the M1 that evening.

Bless you Karl, and thank you
God for sending him when we
needed help.



AMAZING!

AMAZING FACT! There are about 300 prophetic references in the Old Testament pointing to the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, hundreds of years before He came to earth.

From time to time it will be good to find out a bit more about people we meet Sunday by Sunday, but may not know too much about what they do during the week.

A Typical Term for a Teaching Assistant— by Janet

September heralds a new academic year, along with new challenges, new staff, new children, new behaviour problems and often new working routines. However, these differences are always embraced by a team of dedicated staff who, after only a couple of weeks, have shown resilience and adapted to the “newness” of it all.

Harvest Festival is always first on the agenda and the children work diligently to recall the words and signs to the different harvest hymns. Revd Mark Orr is a regular visitor in school, both for harvest and also to accompany each class (in school) on a “Mindfulness” walk where the children are encouraged to appreciate God’s work in the surrounding Dyscarr Woods. Days dedicated to such things as Mental Health Week, Children in Need and Remembrance Day are high on the agenda, as it is important that the pupils are made aware of the struggles of others.

This year, pupils from Year 6 were given the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. The day began at 6.45am and was very intense until their return at 8.30pm. The long journeys were inevitable, but well worth it as the children were treated to a fascinating day.

They were able to observe two live debates, and even commented that some of the MPs were extremely rude – tapping away on their mobile phones, talking, or even sleeping! The experience was greatly enhanced by the very knowledgeable coach driver who went out of his way to show the children some important and famous sights of the capital city.

Following the well-earned half-term break, school was instantly back into full swing as Christmas productions and performances were scheduled into the already busy curriculum. Singing practice became dedicated to Christmas carols and songs; Key Stage 1 are tasked with creating a cute nativity whilst Key Stage 2 class perform songs and poetry to proud parents. Alongside these activities another stream of special activities are squeezed in: Road Safety Week, Enterprise Week and Aspiration Week, not forgetting weeks dedicated to assessments.

I am always amazed how teaching staff manage to teach the entire National Curriculum still remains a mystery to me (and a miracle) whilst fitting in all the extra things – even after working at the school for 38 years!

Hoping everyone has a restful and peaceful Christmas

Janet Silk



CHRISTMAS MINI QUIZ

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Santa Claus is also known as which Saint? | 5 Chismukka merges which celebrations? |
| 2 Which country provides the Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square? | 6 What Christmas treat became popular due to a Brothers Grimm story? |
| 3 Which Royal sent the 1st Christmas card? | 7 What is Buche Noel |
| 4 Name all Santa’s reindeer. | 8 Stollen originates from which country? |

1 Nicholas; 2 Norway; 3 Queen Victoria; 4 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolf
5 Christmas and Hannukah; 6 Gingerbread house; 7 Yule Log; 8 Germany

'SHINE YOUR LIGHT'

"Shine Your Light" is a national annual event when churches come together to sing carols in their town or city centres. People from several Worksop churches joined together on November 30th to sing Carols and share a Message of Hope with the Christmas shoppers. We were accompanied by the Salvation Army Band.



Steve, pastor of Worksop Christian Centre, shares a message of Hope



Soloist Joanne, stopped people in their tracks as she sang Mary's song



People beginning to arrive, listening to the band

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE—8TH DECEMBER

What a joyous occasion this was, attended by about 150 people. A service of popular Carols and traditional Christmas Bible Readings, with our ever-popular Redlands schools choirs and Thurcroft Welfare Brass Band.

Monday 9th was the annual Scouts Carol Service attended by around 120 scouts with their families and friends.

During the week commencing 15th December there will be literally hundreds of Primary School children coming to church for the popular Christingle Services.

Christmas Services

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22nd
6.30pm**

**NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
Candlelit Service**

**Christmas Day
10.30am Family Service**

For more info about St John's Church contact Church Office 01909 472595

Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Website: stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk