



Happy Christmas

Carol singing:

At 5pm tonight, St Chad's Church, would like to welcome everyone to an outdoor carol service. Mince pies and drinks will be served afterwards outside The Stafford Arms.

Please come along to enjoy carols and company and to celebrate our Saviour's birth.



Christmas Eve Holy Communion

11pm start

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



Christmas Day

Come friend and relation, and stranger,
Come all, let us hail the glad morn;
When Christ, who as laid in a manger,
The way to salvation was born.

The Angels with glory, surrounded,
Burst forth in sweet heav'nly lays,
Glad tidings of Jesus resounded,
Till Bethlehem echo'd with praise.

Hark! Hark! how the bells are all ringing,
Sweet melody floats through the sky,
The whole Christian world joins in singing
Hosannas to Jesus on high.

All glory and honour and power,
To Jesus with gladness we'll sing,
And bless the glad day and the hour,
That brought forth a Saviour and King.

Noah Heath The Poet of Sneyd Green writing in the first quarter of the eighteen hundreds.

Denise

I went to a very different church on Wednesday, St Margaret's, Wolstanton. From it's website:

"St. Margaret's stands in the 'high church' tradition and our corporate worship is centred around the Mass (also known as Holy Communion or the Eucharist). The priest wears vestments and we make use of incense and candles."

My two granddaughters go to St Margaret's C of E primary school and it was their end of term Christmas service, and I joined my son-in-law in the visit.

It was amazing, Fr Tommy Merry was, putting it mildly, rather flamboyant! He was dressed in sparkly bright trousers, a top of many colours, had a pony tail and was on the go all the time. And, he had his congregation entranced!

We arrived before the children and enjoyed mince pies and coffee while we waited. The children arrived and we were spotted by both Emetine and Annabelle, and then the fun began. The headmaster of St Margaret's was roped in as the player of many parts, starting as the angel Gabriel with tinsel, as Mary in blue, as Joseph etc etc ending up with so many clothes on he was hard to see. There was loads of interaction with the children and loads of laughter as the headmaster kept switching costumes. Soft toys representing all the animals found in a stable, not to mention camels and sheep were thrown in his general direction which he was expected to catch. The children (not to mention the adults) loved it! We sang 3 well known carols, some of the children said the prayers and The Lord's Prayer was said with gusto by all the children word perfectly (not so much by the adults!).

The animals and figures were placed in the crib scene and Fr Merry proceeded to bless with holy water, all the characters who appeared in the sketch (meaning the headmaster, who got blessed as Mary through to Herod and was more than slightly damp by the end). Then the children received the same treatment, although not quite such a drenching!

We waited outside to see the twins as they left and were rewarded by huge hugs and smiles. A great way to spend a morning.



Leek Deanery Synod

Agenda for Meeting at St Paul's Church, Leek

7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Tea and coffee will be served before the meeting from 7.15pm

1. Opening Worship and Prayers
2. Notices from the Rural Dean
3. Notices from around the Deanery
(*these should be submitted to the Rural Dean by Friday 19th January*)
4. Update on the Shaping for Mission process
5. Update on the completion of Statistics for Mission
6. Presentation by Lindsay Stockton about the work of Leek Foodbank
7. Questions and answers.
8. Closing Prayers

- ★
- ★ **December Services:**
- ★ 24th—No Morning Service
- ★ 24th— Outdoor carol service at 5pm - Family service team
- ★ 24th—Midnight Communion at 11pm— Rev Barry
- ★ 25th—Christmas Day—no service (St Luke’s will be holding a 9.15am Holy Communion service)
- ★ 31st— Carols and coffee - KH/MF
- ★ **January Services:**
- ★ 7th—Family Service KH/JP/CHB
- ★ 14th - Praise and Prayer KH/MF
- ★ 21st - Holy Communion Rev Barry
- ★ 28th - Morning Prayer KH/MF
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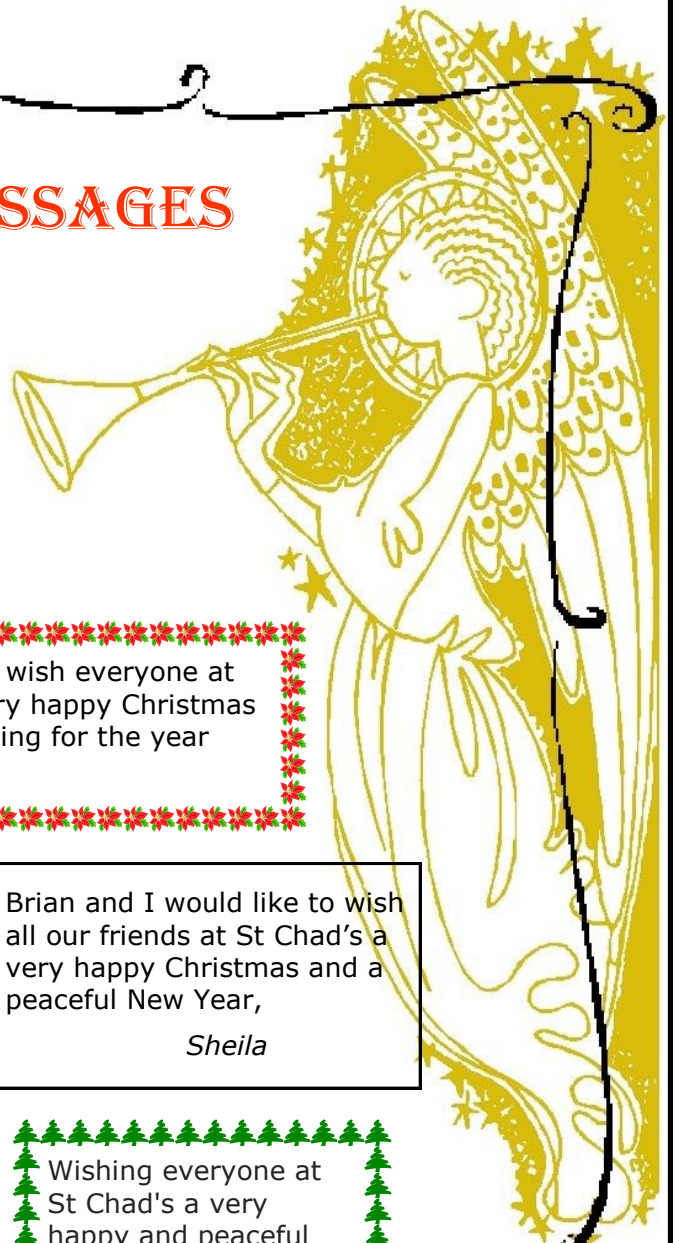
Prayer Corner
 Dear Heavenly Father,
 As the dawn of Christmas Eve breaks, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and expectation. We thank you for the precious gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. On this special morning, we ask for your presence to be with us throughout the day. Help us to keep our hearts open to your love and our minds centred on the true meaning of Christmas. Let the joy and hope of this season fill our souls as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Bless our families and loved ones with your peace and unity. May our gatherings be filled with laughter, warmth, and the sharing of your love. Amen.
Muriel

Carols, poems, stories and coffee to close the year :
 Sunday 31st December at 10.45
 Hoping people will want to join in suggesting a carol which they like and tell us about why. If they don't want to speak Mu and I will happily do it. Other people may have a favourite poem or an interesting story. Just let us know.
 So far we have:
 Away in a Manger. - Florence
 In the bleak Midwinter. - Judith
 While Shepherds Watch and a Gospel reading with a difference. - Pat S.
 Come on folks let us know what you can offer .
 ps coffee makers please????????
Kathryn

Smiles:
 What do sheep say to each other at Christmas time? Merry Christmas to ewe!
 Why does Santa always go down the chimney? Because it soots him!
 What's the favourite Christmas Carol of new parents? Silent Night!
 What kind of money do Santa's elves use? Jingle bills!
 What's red, white and blue at Christmas time? A sad candy cane!
 Why did Santa start sneezing in the chimney? He caught a nasty floo!
 Why was Santa's little helper depressed? Because he had low elf esteem
 What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus.
 What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa? A Christmas quacker.
 How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house!
 How do you help someone who's lost their Christmas spirit? Nurse them back to elf.
 What nationality is Santa Claus? North Polish.
 What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire? Frostbite.
 What's the absolute best Christmas present? A broken drum—you can't beat it!
 What do you call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate clauses.
 What do you call an elf that can sing and dance? Elfis.
 What do you call Santa when he takes a break? Santa Pause
 What do elves learn in school? The elfa-bet.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Pat Saul has donated to 'Sightsavers' charity, this year, instead of sending Christmas cards.
God bless you all,
Pat



May you all have a joyous Christmas
And a happy and peaceful New Year.
Muriel F

Anne and Brian wish everyone at St. Chad's a very happy Christmas and every blessing for the year ahead.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Denise



Brian and I would like to wish all our friends at St Chad's a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year,
Sheila

Wishing All my friends at St Chad's a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2024.
With love Lynda and Family

Wishing everyone at St Chad's a very happy and peaceful Christmas.
With warmest wishes from Esther xxx

As a repeat of last year, may I mention that I will not be sending individual Christmas cards but donating to my usual charities and sending a contribution to the Church.
Sending warmest Christmas wishes to all my church family and the best of health to everyone for the coming year.
With love from Muriel B xxx





CHRISTMAS MESSAGES



We hope that everyone
enjoys Christmas and send
best wishes for 2024!

From Peter and Joan

Best wishes for Christmas
and Happy New Year to all !

Freda and Patrick

Wishing all friends at St Chad's
a Happy Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.

God bless,

Margaret Heath

To all our Friends at Bagnall Church
we wish everyone a very Healthy
Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

With Best Wishes Kath and Peter.

Rowland Croke, Bill Hassall, Barbara Price and Dot and
Godfrey Stone, all send Christmas greetings and New
Year wishes to anyone at St Chad's who can remember
them,

Christmas greetings to all our friends at St Chad's,
from Sheila and Roger Simpson.

Carrie and Kathryn wish
everyone a very happy,
peaceful and joyful Christmas
and God's blessings for 2024.

