

Carol Singing at the Stafford Arms



We had a fantastic day at the pub yesterday with a visit from Santa, and would you believe all the lovely parishioners from church managed to get a photo with Santa before he left.

Please pass on my own thanks and on behalf of The Stafford Arms to Julia and everyone who came to sing for us yesterday. It was the icing on the cake!

(Our next years date is 7th December if everyone is willing and able to do it all again?)

Kind regards Claire

Bibles and Mobiles-What If? By Anne and Brian

We like to visit churches as each building always has a new experience offer. You don't have to travel far to find real gems. Our own St Chad's has copies of two of Raphael's wonderful cartoons, St Edwards at Cheddleton has a magnificent painted glass window which was designed by the Pre-Raphaelite Edward Burne-Jones. Colour can stimulate the mind but so can the written word.

On a holiday in the West Indies we visited Christ Church which is located in Bridgetown on the beautiful island of Barbados and much to our surprise painted on an inside wall there was a series of questions about two of our prized possessions. Reading them makes one think of how we value and treat them.

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we turned back if we forgot it?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it as we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make it go hmm.... where is my Bible?

And there is one more thing. Unlike our mobile phone we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus has already paid the bill.

A Weekend of Carols!



Well, there seemed to be carols everywhere you turned last weekend! On Saturday a group of us presented ourselves at the Stafford Arms (at their request I must add – we didn't just turn up and start singing!). We had been invited since Santa was making an appearance and carols ALWAYS create a lovely festive atmosphere!



Thankfully the weather wasn't too bad and remained dry whilst we stood outside and sung

our little socks off! We had a few spectators whilst we were there and even took a few requests from a couple of very enthusiastic young ladies who danced along as we sang!



We managed to add "We Wish You A Merry Christmas", "Jingle Bells" and "When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney" to our repertoire with ease, much to their delight!

After our "set", Claire from the Stafford Arms very kindly arranged refreshments for all – very welcome indeed! The first photo is the "sensible" shot – the second photo, rather less so!

On Sunday, the carol service at St Chad's went ahead at 4pm and it was really lovely to see such a full church! Kath and Muriel lead the service with their very up to date approach and managed to make us all think and question ourselves with regard to our attitude to Christmas nowadays – were we a Scrooge type of person, a Shopper, a Santa person or did we have a Stable attitude? (Please ask Kath or Muriel to



expand on this if you are wondering what on earth I am talking about!). Also, since the service had to be cancelled last week due to the weather, we all received a Christingle to take home with us and the church looked even more beautiful with the glow of all the extra candlelight!



The service of course was interspersed with a great variety of wonderful carols and the whole event finished with hot refreshments and mince pies! Big thanks go out to everyone who was involved – a great service!

Esther x

What children say.....

Last Saturday Emmeline and Annabelle spent the afternoon with us. The next week at school they were having a Christingle service at the local church (they go to a Church of England school) and making Christingles. They wanted to raid my cupboards for the appropriate bits. We found red ribbon, candles and I promised to get jelly tots and raisins, Mum had got the oranges and the cocktail sticks.

We were discussing in depth what each item represented and learning a bit about Jesus.

Jo told me later that Annabelle (see photo, having fun in last week's snow) went home and showed mum what she'd got and said, very seriously, "Nana is a proper Christian isn't she, not like us" Some things they say just stun me!!!!

For all the teachers, classroom assistants and helpers (those retired as well!)

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the school not a pupil was silent, no matter what rule. The children were busy with paper and paste; the mess that they made with it couldn't be faced.

The teacher half frantic and almost in tears, had just settled down to work with her dears, when out in the hall there arose such a clatter up sprang the kids to see what was the matter!

Away to the door they all flew like a flash; the one who was leading went down with a crash. Then what to their wondering eyes did appear but a green Christmas tree! (To decorate I fear!)

When the teacher saw this, she almost grew sick. She knew in a moment it must be (the janitor) Old Nick! She ran to the door (all her efforts were vain) but she shouted, and stamped, and she called them by name;

"Now Tommy! Now Sandy, Now Judy and Harry! Stop Billy! Stop Robert! Stop Donny and Sherry! Now get to your places get away from the hall Now get away! Get away! Get away all!

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly the pupils, pell mell, started scurrying by. They ran to the blackboard and skipped down the aisle; their faces were shining and each had a smile.

First came a basket of popcorn to string -Then came the Christmas tree (menacing thing). As the tree was brought in there arose a great shout; the pupils were merrily romping about.

The state they were in could lead to a riot; the teacher was sure, if allowed, they would try it. Her nerves how they jangled! Her temples were throbbing! The rush of her breath sounded almost like sobbing!

The lines of her face were as fixed as a mask; It was plain that she didn't feel up to her task. The look in her eye would have tamed a wild steer, but the children ignored it; they did every year.

A tear from her eye and a shake of her head soon led me to think that she wished she were dead. She spoke not a word but went straight to her work, strung all the popcorn which broke with a jerk.

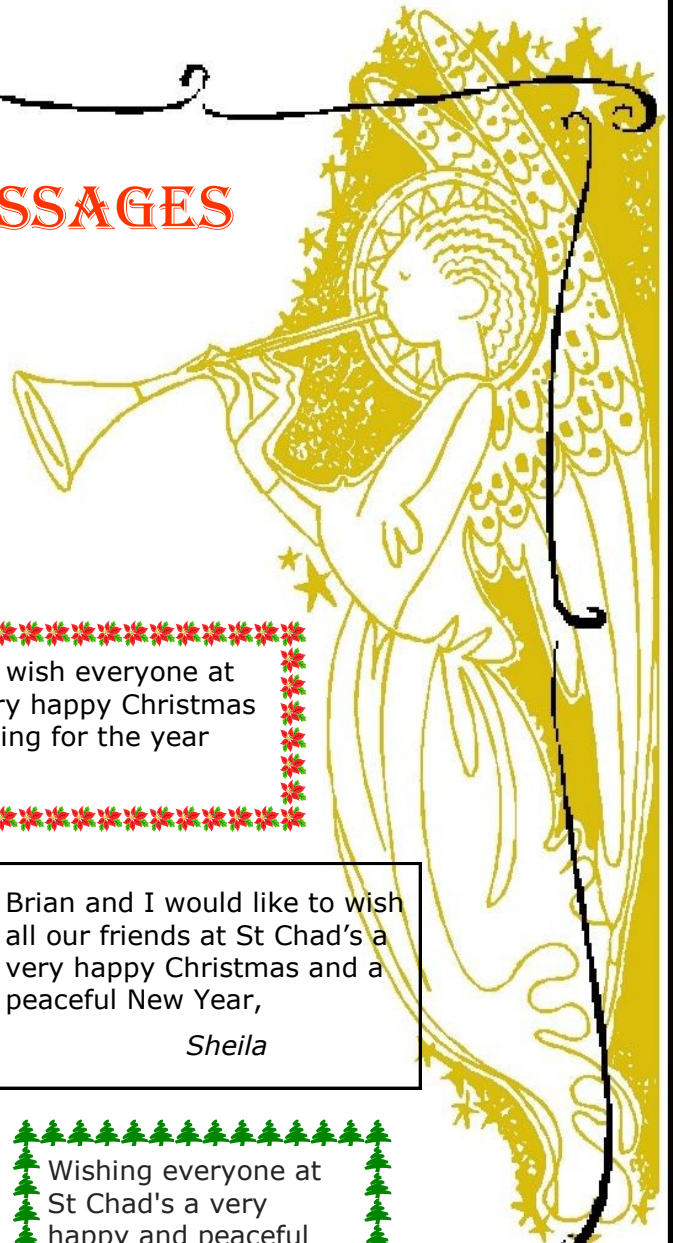
But at last it was finished and placed on the tree; Then came the bell and the children were free! Their shrill little voices soon Faded away and peace was restored at the end of the day.

As she looked at the Christmas tree glistening and tall, She smiled as she whispered, Merry Christmas to all!



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

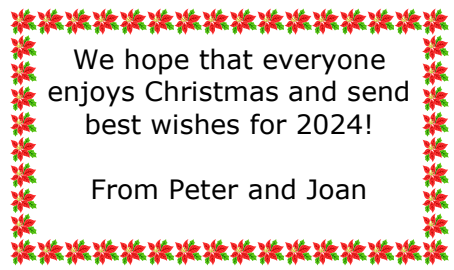
Wishing everyone at St Chad's a very happy and peaceful Christmas.
With warmest wishes from Esther xxx

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



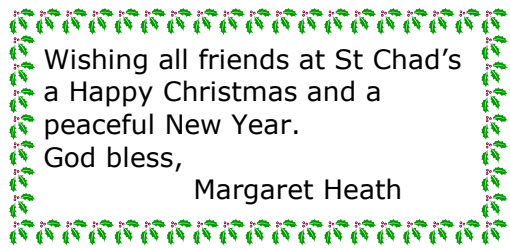


CHRISTMAS MESSAGES



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

From Peter and Joan



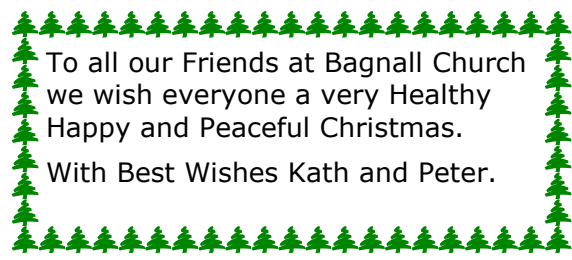
Wishing all friends at St Chad's
a Happy Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.
God bless,

Margaret Heath



Best wishes for Christmas
and Happy New Year to all !

Freda and Patrick



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

With Best Wishes Kath and Peter.

