



MORE THAN 26 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Good Shepherd Parish Appreciation Day



The Diamond Jubilee Year of the Good Shepherd Church, Woodthorpe, Nottingham draws to a close with preparation the Holy Father, Francis' call to Jubilee in 2025. With still a few celebrations to come, the weekend of the Feast of Christ the King witnessed an amazing concert of song on the Friday evening presented by the Mansfield Girls Choir "Cantamus", under the baton and leadership of Mrs. Ann Irons and featuring three young ladies from the Good Shepherd parish. The origin of "Cantamus" under its founder Pamela Cooke MBE who had the vision for girls "to

grow, express themselves and make a positive impact through music" was plainly evident now under the leadership of Ann Irons which brought delight to an audience of 200+ people gathered.

Although all pieces were expertly presented the highlight of the evening must surely have been Gounod's "Sanctus". It was sublime. The picture right shows the youngest member of the choir, Isler Sackey (with kind permission of her parents) and was taken by her grandmother.

Our weekend continued with the Staff and pupils taking the lead the parish celebration of Mass at 9:45 am on Sunday, when an excellent address on the work and ethos of Christ the King Senior Academy in the parish was given by the School Principal, Mrs. Jo Love and appreciated by all with a warm round of applause in encouragement of the School, it's staff, who were well represented and its pupils who were guided in their participation of the liturgy by Vicky Squire, the principle school chaplain.

Continued on page 4



Isler Sackey

**THE EDITOR AND STAFF OF THE
CATHOLIC NEWS WOULD LIKE TO WISH
OUR ADVERTISERS AND READERS A
VERY HAPPY, HOLY AND PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News

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Know Thyself

A Reflection for January, with thanks to Jon Cornwall, the SVP Director for Membership, who is the author of this piece.

With so many of the earliest churches being formed in and around Greece, it is not surprising that some of the local traditions and culture have soaked into our approaches. In the Acts of the Apostles, St Paul speaks to the people of Athens about what he saw in a local temple and uses it to explain the Christian faith:

"For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you" (Acts 17:23).

Another temple in Delphi, central Greece, was famous at the time for being a place of great wisdom, and you may have heard of the 'Delphic Maxims' before. On the front of this temple were three maxims/mottos/mantras, while within were 144 others. These were said to be the product of seven great sages but are far more likely to have been common sayings and words of advice accumulated over time. Many of these maxims are very familiar to the Christian ear—unsurprising, given St Paul's willingness to adopt culture in order to expand the Church.

Among these words of advice are: Do what you mean to do, lean on wisdom, speak well of all, avoid excess, be fond of fortune, live together meekly, deal kindly with everyone, and share the load of the unfortunate, along with over a hundred others. These sayings became a foundation for the early Church, and when St Vincent de Paul established his core virtues, these principles could all be found on the walls of the temple.



St Vincent de Paul

When approaching the temple, we are faced with three maxims. Alongside a warning against pledges and an encouragement for moderation in all things, the most vital is the call to "know thyself." The route to a happy and fulfilled life is to know yourself: to understand your calling, your value, your purpose, gifts, talents, and abilities.



Words of wisdom are not just to be etched into marble; they are to be spoken and lived. Vincentians do this when, in a

meeting, they remind others to "go to the poor, there you will find Christ," to "bring a tablecloth" when feeding the poor, and to pair charity with the pursuit of justice. When approaching membership of the SVP, we are faced with three tasks which rely on and deepen our self-knowledge. We are called to offer ourselves to spiritual and personal growth, to do so in a Conference of like-minded brothers and sisters, and to allow our love to spill into the world and the lives of the poor.

In January, we can look back on the Advent season and, acting like the month's namesake Janus, we naturally reflect on where we have come from and where we intend to go.



The SVP members are allowed to be proud of the Society, which knows itself well and recognises its role in the world. They have worked hard to make it what it is, and its mission will endure for as long as there are people who suffer.

2025 poses continuing challenges for the SVP, challenges it will continue to meet. Doing this will be easier with greater numbers. If you believe that 2025 is the year you would like to make a difference to others then contact Joe Gasan, Membership Support Officer for the Nottingham diocese – joeg@svp.org.uk

FRANKLY SPEAKING



At Christmas the role of Saint Joseph can be often forgotten. In the company of saints he has a really special place as the foster father of Jesus and the spouse of Our Lady. The crucial role he embraced can be an example to all from the rather limited knowledge we have of his personal commitment to the Holy Family.

In the 1950s I had rather special neighbours. A family of 3 daughters and one son had a loving relationship due to the commitment of the father. The

mother had a child before she met her future husband. The eldest daughter was embraced by the father of her 3 siblings.

The family unit all advanced in life despite their considerable poverty. The grandparents ensured that all those children were supported in practical guidance as well as loving support.

Saint Joseph knew that he could not be the father of the child Jesus. In those days a betrothal was considered binding. In a special dream Joseph became aware that

the child Mary was to bear was to be the Saviour of not just the Jewish people but all of us.

From the birth at Bethlehem Saint Joseph was a faithful companion of Our Lady. Perhaps he was the inspiration to my neighbour who was a wonderful father and a loyal husband.

A happy and Peaceful Christmas to all readers and their families.

Frank Goulding,
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

Big reveal at Sensory Mass

Every couple of months there is a so-called "Sensory Mass" at Holy Family Church, Allestree, Derby on a Sunday afternoon at 2.00pm. It is specially designed to accommodate young people with a special educational need and/or disability, SEND.

At the end of the Mass in November, Fr Jonathan Cotton, the regular priest celebrating this Mass, was approached by one of the young people who asked, "Can I tell you about my business?" It was Max Palfrey, a twelve year old, who has founded a Business called COMFA, helped by his dad Matt. Surprised and intrigued, Fr Jonathan said, "Yes, tell me more!" What a revelation! This is what Fr Jonathan learnt:

When Max realised how difficult it was to find suitable clothing that met his sensory needs, he decided to do something about it. He designed what he calls "sensory clothing" for kids, with built-in popits, the Fidget-T. You may have seen him on ITV's This Morning show, and other local news programmes. Max, who is home educated, is continuing to learn about how to run a business as part of his education. As his business grows and orders for his clothing increase so he develops his skills in running his business. Have a look at his website, spread the word about COMFA, and encourage the purchase of these unique clothes. www.comfa.co.uk

The Sensory Masses continue during 2025 at Holy Family Church at 2.00pm on



The Palfrey Family – The COMFA Family!

January 26th; March 23rd; May 25th; July 13th; September 28th; November 23rd. You can find out more about the Sensory Masses by contacting the catechetical co-ordinator who organises them with her Team – Fran Hazel:

fran.hazel@dioceseofnottingham.uk or just come along and join in!



Max modelling one of his designs.

Ecumenical Advent in Chellaston, Derby



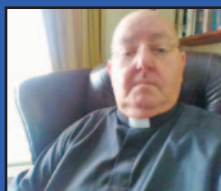
This beautiful Advent decoration has been crafted by a small group of Chellaston Catholics who have become the 'core group' of St. Ralph Sherwin Community in Chellaston. Barbara Rusk, Colleen and Peter Newton, Helen Nut

Continued from page 1

Events continued with an early afternoon luncheon in appreciation for the tremendous work of parishioners in their participatory mission of developing and promoting the parish in all aspects. 129 parishioners representing the many different ministries in the parish sat down to a splendid luncheon after being greeted with a glass of prosecco (or juice) and accompanied by red and white wines (or different juices for drivers) during which there was prolonged applause when presentation was made of the St. Hugh of Lincoln award; the gift of Bishop Patrick, to Mr. Michael Bussey, who has been organist and Precentor for just short of forty years; to Mr. Robert O'Farrell who has been organist and Kapellmeister for twelve years and finally to Mr. Philip Martin who, as one of the Directors of Parish Finance has exercised the Secretaryship of the Parish Fiscal Agency for the parish community for fifteen years. There was equally joyful applause when the Parish MC Mr. Adriano Staiano and his brother Mr. David Staiano both received the Guild of St. Stephen long service medal for continuous serving on the Sanctuary of the Good Shepherd Church for 25 years. Both of whom are already Silver Medalists in the Guild of St. Stephen for Altar Servers.



From: Elston Hermitage.....



Happy New Year to everyone !

2025 Jubilee Year focuses on the Incarnation of the Lord. Also known as the "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee Year is a global Catholic celebration that began in Advent (2024) and will end on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2026. So each and everyone of us are invited to be pilgrims of hope throughout this new year.

It is no coincidence that on January 1st the Church celebrates Mary, the Mother of God, on a day of new beginnings. It is also no coincidence that the readings at our celebration of Mass focus on how much God wants to bless us, even as he has blessed Mary. The three readings we hear on this Feast are full of blessing! Our first reading from the Book of Numbers (6:22-27) describes how Aaron prayed a blessing over the Israelites.

The Responsorial Psalm (67: 2-3 5-6 8) asks God to bless us in his mercy. The second reading (Galatians 4:4-7) tells us of the blessings of redemption that have come through Mary's "yes" to God. And in the proclamation of the Gospel (Luke 2:16-21) Mary stands out as "blessed

among women " Why ? Mary's blessedness was not a mythical shield guarding her from every temptation. Yes, she was born without original sin. But she did not walk around in a bubble. The blessing Mary enjoyed deepened every day as she cultivated it, she " kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart " (Luke 2:19)

When the shepherds told Mary about the angel's message she treasured it. At the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel addressed Mary as "favoured one " she pondered his greeting. (Luke 1:28)

She did something similar when the twelve year old Jesus stayed behind in the temple and likely did so many times during his adult ministry. It made Mary aware and grateful for all the ways God was at work in her life and in the world around her. By treasuring and pondering her blessings. Mary also learned to accept and understand what was to come.

So it is for us as we go forward as "pilgrims of hope" in this Jubilee Year. God wants to bless us this year. Therefore, this year let us make it our individual goal to imitate



Mary, let us ponder on what God has done in our life, let us Treasure the blessings that God has already given to us. Let us realise how great God is and how much he loves us. In this new Jubilee Year 2025 let us also be on the lookout for all that God has in store for us.

Let us pray that we may follow Mary's example in 2025. Let us be more missionary in our lives, taking every

opportunity to strengthen, celebrate and spread our Catholic faith.

Here at the 'hermitage' we continue to hold our diocese and people daily in our prayer, that God may continue to pour his blessings on us all as we strive to listen to his word and bring about his Divine will for us.

Fr David + h.d.n. Priest and Hermit

A Family in Need

The persecution of Christians worldwide is rising, with one in every seven now affected. Here in the UK, we enjoy much religious freedom and so it can be very easy to take it for granted, yet as St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, we are the Body of Christ and if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it (1 Cor 12:26).

Last Autumn a charity called OpenDoors visited Lincoln for the first time and gave a one day conference. The charity helps persecuted Christians around the world and for their conferences invite people who have experienced persecution to speak. The speaker at the Lincoln event came from Northern Nigeria. His family home had been raided by a mob of local radical Islamists, who killed his father and left him for dead (for their refusal to deny Jesus and convert to Islam). The attack led to him and other surviving family members being displaced, unable to return home, adding further hardship, whilst his visible scars frightened off prospective employers causing even more insecurity. His talk covered many things, including how more Christians are killed in Nigeria each year than all other countries put together! The testimony was both humbling and inspiring, he spoke of finding peace through forgiveness and the importance of praying for those who commit persecution; it was sad, too, as he described how there is persecution from within the Christian community as well as from the outside. It was clear that support from the charity has been invaluable to him being able to have a better future. It was not only the speaker who made an impression, though, some of



OpenDoors conference

the attendees had travelled good distances to get to the event, for example, an elderly couple lived in North Yorkshire!

Whilst OpenDoors is a non denominational charity, the Catholic Church has its own Pontifical Foundation for helping the persecuted faithful, called Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Every November, ACN holds 'Red Wednesday', an international initiative since 2016 to highlight the issue, encourage world leaders to act and to ask people to pray and financially support the persecuted Church. Nottingham Diocese is one of very few who

organise a Schools Mass for the event, whilst in recent years, Our Lady of Lincoln Church lights up red as an act of solidarity. It also holds an extra Mass, on the day, specifically for the intention of afflicted Christians.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph all suffered persecution for their faith, including displacement, with Jesus ultimately executed as a result of it. Before His death, the Lord stated that His disciples could expect to face persecution, He also said, whilst stretching His hand out towards His disciples, that anyone who does His Father's will is His brother and sister and mother. Let us ask ourselves: do we consider people in other parts of the world and persecuted for their faith part of our holy family? Each Christmas we listen once again to the story of the Holy Family and remember local families in need, through toy collections and food donations. This

Christmas, in the 2025 Jubilee year, when a number of Holy Doors will be opened in Rome, by Pope Francis, maybe we could resolve to open the door of our own hearts to learning more about the Christian family further afield and the difficulties they can face, please consider doing so, and keep them (and those who seek to harm them) in prayer and offer assistance in whatever ways each of us can. More information about the work of the two charities, and how to help, can be found by visiting their respective websites: opendoorsuk.org and www.acnuk.org

With thanks to Fr John, parish priest of Our Lady of Lincoln Church, for providing, each Red Wednesday, an opportunity to stand in solidarity with fellow Catholics and Christians all around the world and putting the spotlight on this important cause for the Lincoln Catholic community.



Our Lady of Lincoln Church on Red Wednesday



Deacon Chris Blunt formally retires from St Ralph Sherwin

The beginning of the Advent season marked the official resignation of Deacon Chris Blunt from active ministry, as he reached his 75th birthday.

He has been a blessing to the churches of St Mary's Derby, Holy Family Allestree and Christ the King Mackworth. Deacon Chris worked tirelessly and quietly behind the scenes for many years before training as a deacon, and undertaking numerous duties in the parish. Many couples have been married by him, and numerous babies baptised.

Chris' wife Elaine has been a huge support to him through the years. Fr Greg Tobin thanked them both for their service and commitment to the Church during a celebration after the morning Mass.

Deacon Chris will not be completely disappearing from parish life, and looks forward to continuing to help and support the parishioners and clergy.

Fran Hazel



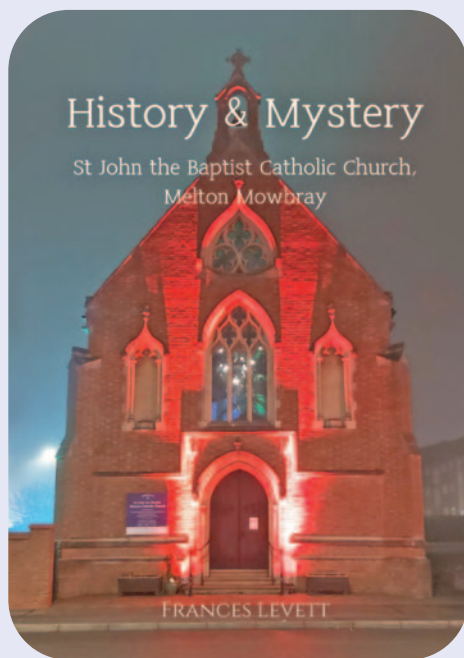
History & Mystery - raising funds for a new church

Would you like to know more about the history of the beautiful church of St John the Baptist, one of the oldest churches in the diocese of Nottingham?

What is the significance of its name? Where was the original site for the church and why was it abandoned? What was strange about the east window?

You will find these and many more questions answered in a new fascinating booklet "History and Mystery" by parishioner Frances Levett. There are also some questions which have not been answered, and the answers may remain forever a mystery. Or... maybe you can throw a light on some of the mysteries and help to solve them?

The new 44 page booklet is for sale now, price £6.50 + £1.50 postage. It's good quality with a laminated cover and glossy pages and would make an ideal Christmas present. It contains some rare



and unusual photos from the past. All proceeds will go to the Building fund to build a church and community hall next to St John's in Melton. To order your copy email franceslevett@gmail.com.

Good Shepherd SVP Christmas Dinner 2024



The Good Shepherd SVP conference volunteered their time and talents to ensure 50 of our beneficiaries shared in the most wonderful Christmas experience together. All were treated to sumptuous dinner, Carol singing and a Christmas present delivered to everyone by Santa himself. Our local Mayor of Gedling and sixth formers from Christ The King School also supported our event serving drinks and food to everyone. One beneficiary described the event as 'magical'. A great time had by all – Merry Christmas everyone!

Rachael Boyce

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Word of God Sunday

On 26th January 2025 (the Third Sunday of the Year) we celebrate Sunday of the Word of God. This annual celebration was established by Pope Francis with his Apostolic Letter entitled *Aperuit Illis* (2019).

The title, meaning “He opened to them,” refers to Jesus’ action for his disciples on the road to Emmaus. As they were walking along downcast on Easter day, lamenting Jesus’ death, he opened the Scriptures to them, showing how the Messiah had to suffer first before entering into his risen glory.

The Sunday of the Word of God is a yearly celebration when we focus especially on the gift of the Scriptures. On this particular Sunday, we are invited in a special way to open ourselves to receiving God’s word, brought to us in the sacred text.

The Old Testament reading describes a key moment when the Jewish people

were rebuilding their community after the years of the Babylonian exile. They gathered in Jerusalem to hear God’s word being read aloud to them in Hebrew by Ezra the priest. Just as we stand when we hear the gospel being read at Mass, so the Jews stood to welcome the message of the Torah.

But because many of them now spoke Aramaic rather than biblical Hebrew, Ezra had to translate the sacred text into Aramaic. Once they understood when they heard God’s word in their own language, many of them wept, because they realised they had previously been unfaithful to God. But Ezra told them not to be sad, because God was giving them a new beginning. He said: “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”

The gospel tells the familiar story of Jesus presenting his manifesto in the synagogue at Nazareth. Just as Ezra had once read to the people from the law of Moses, so Jesus now read to them from the prophet Isaiah. The prophet’s message spoke of a new beginning, because God’s Spirit was resting

on his chosen one, bringing good news to the poor and proclaiming the year of the Lord’s favour.

Whereas Ezra’s reading of the Torah led to a reaction of penitence among the Jews in Jerusalem, Jesus’ reading from the prophet produced an atmosphere of expectancy in the synagogue at Nazareth: “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

If the people were willing to accept it, God’s Spirit would work through Jesus, to restore sight to the blind and bring release to those oppressed in mind or body. But when Jesus reminded them of God’s miraculous feeding of the widow of Zarephath and the healing of the Syrian leper Naaman—both outsiders—sadly they closed their hearts to his message.

We are called to open our hearts to Jesus’ message, so that we can live as his people on earth. Having heard God’s word, we are called to act harmoniously with one another, like the various parts of a human body.

St Paul gives us an insight into the life of the community, where each person plays a significant part. Just as a human body has many parts, which all fulfil their own function, so it is in Christ’s body the church. The eye sees and the ear hears, the nose smells and the foot walks. Each part contributes to the life and health of the body.

St Paul asks: “If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?” In other words, each member of the community, however ordinary, plays a necessary part in its life.

As we hear God’s word addressed to each one of us, we pray that we may hear what God wishes to say to us personally. Then strengthened by his Spirit, we pray that we may play our part happily in the life of the community, knowing that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Back foot, front foot

Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at this time of the year, is acclaimed by all three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam which date back respectively some three and a half millennia, two millennia and to the eighth century. Over the intervening years, their sibling rivalry - some might regard as the ultimate form of internecine strife - has surely been enough to try the patience of all the saints, let alone Christ himself.

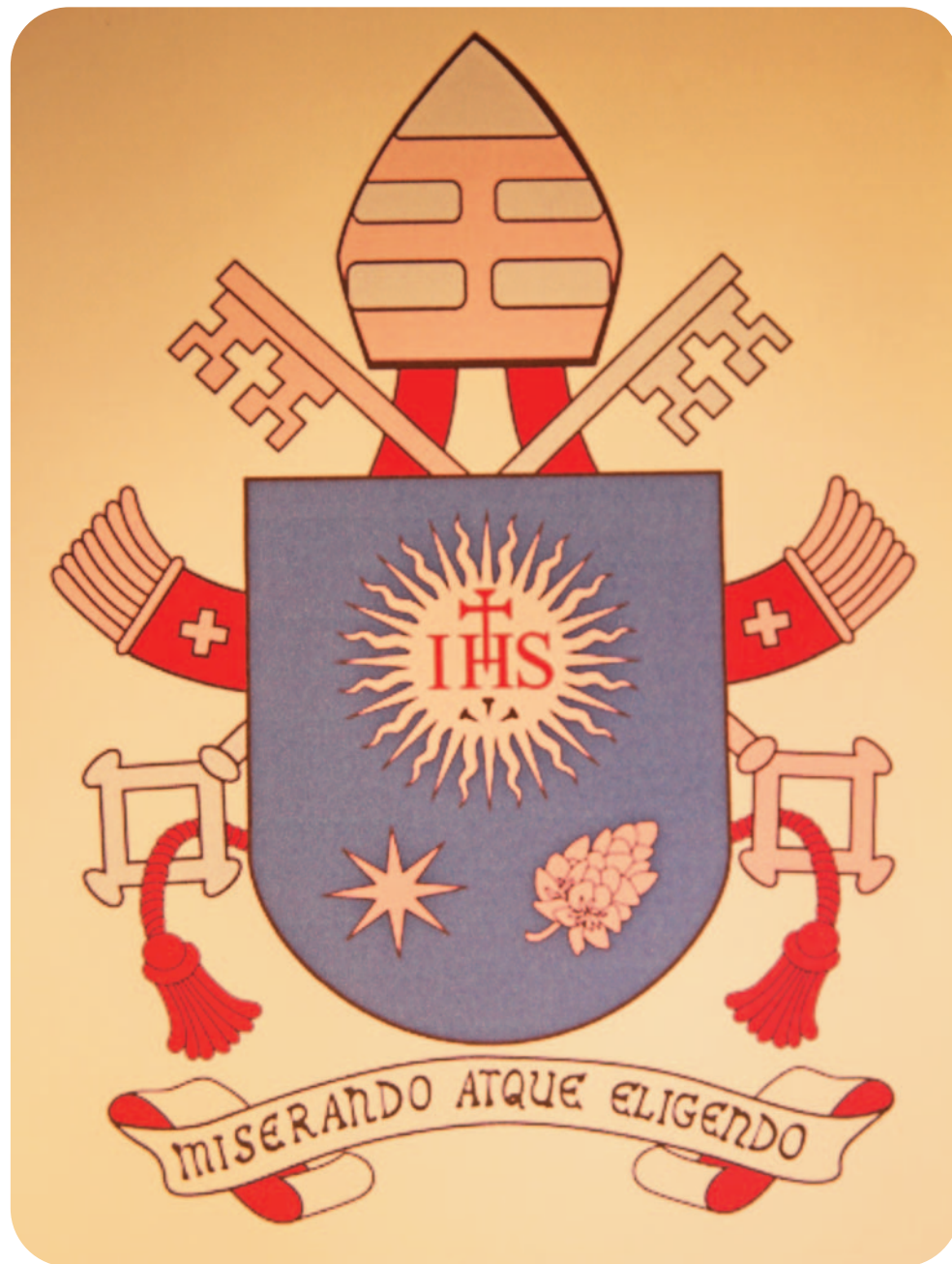
Patience, along with understanding, sits well within the Christian ethos. But neither of these two qualities has that get-up-and-go which we are oftentimes but only casually exhorted to adopt in our role as evangelists, nomenclature which I take in common parlance to mean 'promoters', 'marketeers'.

The birth of the Christ Child gives the opportunity to bring focus among those of little or no faith not to the hedonism usurping this time of the year but to the Christian message which we are charged to impart.

The world of marketing, as opposed to selling, teaches us how important it is to broadcast what you are about, to declare your essence, to get your message across, to get what you need to say out there. Business speak with terms like rationale, aims, objectives and mission statement might not be to everyone's liking when it comes to Christian evangelisation. But positioning statements, such as we do have and use in plenty, are instrumental in taking matters forward, in attracting the attention of target audiences. Perhaps we need to think more sharply along these lines.

The coats of arms and notably the corresponding mottoes, effectively positioning statements, of our bishops of England and Wales offer a fascinating field of study.

We have twenty-one dioceses in England and Wales, each led by an Ordinary (a bishop) with authority given by the Pope to exercise pastoral function over the local diocese. That gives an initial corpus of twenty-one bishops. To that number can be added any Co-Adjutor Bishops, those who assist diocesan bishops and have the right to succeed them, Suffragan Bishops, who lead a suffragan diocese within a larger ecclesiastical province but who have no assumed right of succession. Then there are others. They all add up to a grand total of some five thousand six hundred bishops



worldwide supporting some 3,000 actual dioceses.

Well, I haven't yet managed to read many of the 'mottoes' adopted by all the world's Catholic bishops - I can't even admit to having set myself that task - but those I have looked at and set about understanding are noticeable for their optimism, determination, sense of positive endeavour amid joy within Christ's embrace. They form a wonderful bank of marketing material worth translation and explanation to audiences.

But it's so sad these days when the vibes coming from churches across the land speak not of positivism but of managing decline: decline in the number of laity attending Church, decline in the number of vocations to the priesthood, decline in the revenue stream, decline in the standard of buildings. But, I say, let's out with that gloom! For God's sake!

So let's join in full and open celebration of the new birth bringing new energy to ours, the most diverse religion on the face of the planet.

Along with family, friends and colleagues I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year full of health, happiness and all things positive.

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Dr J L Kettle-Williams is an experienced business communications consultant and wordsmith (tutor, writer, translator).

Mini Vinnies (SVP)



Our Good Shepherd SVP President (Ken Steele) was invited in to the Good Shepherd Academy to commission 30 new Mini Vinnies in Year 5. We shared in an assembly together and the children had many questions for Ken! Lots of the questions focused upon how it feels to help others. These Mini Vinnies have already made a fantastic start by collecting food donations for their local foodbank. Please keep these youngsters in your prayers as they turn concern into action.

Rachael Boyce



St Anthony's Autumn Fair



The parish of St Anthony's at Calverton held their Autumn Fair on 23rd November. As a result of many generous donations there was a wonderful array of stalls with some beautiful hand crafted gifts as well as home baked treats. With 2 well stocked tombolas and plenty of hot drinks and biscuits there was something for everyone. Admission was free. Despite very wet weather many people came along for a wonderful social gathering. Thanks to all of those who helped make the event such a success. A total of £1064 was raised for the church and for Emmanuel House.

Bernadette of St Anthony's Calverton

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Good Shepherd Christmas Fair welcomes over 1000 visitors and raises £10.5k

On Saturday 30 September 2024, the Good Shepherd Church hosted its annual Christmas Fair. The volunteers spent many long hours behind the scenes to bring this event to life and their time and talent was rewarded with over 1,000 visitors. The event raised a staggering £10,500.

The fair was opened by the Mayor of Gedling, Cllr Ron McCrossen along with Michael Payne MP. Councillors Kyle Robinson-Payne, Viv McCrossen, Lynda Pearson, Sandra Barnes and her husband Peter also supported the event throughout the day. Arnold Fire and Rescue and the local community Police delighted visitors with their presence, and children were able to explore inside their vehicles while chatting to these first responders.

Prices were set at an inclusive level with the hope that everyone who attended had a lovely time without having to spend too much. Children had free entry and a free Santa's grotto with a treat for every child. Every stall aimed at children had a gift every time, face painting was just £1 and food prices were frozen for another year, with hot dogs priced at just £2 each.

"Months of preparation but worth it in the end. More than just a fundraiser, we hopefully delivered a Christmas Fair that was financially inclusive so families who might be feeling the pinch were able to attend and experience some festive fun. We rely almost entirely on donations and it really is a privilege to have so much community support. I'd like to think that our event embodies the spirit of Christmas.

The cherry on the cake has been having both the Mayor of Gedling and our local MP, as well as both fire and police officers each spend a few hours chatting to our visitors and volunteers. This boosted everyone's morale no end," says Sarah Benedek, organiser of the Christmas fair.

The date for next year's fair has already been reserved for Saturday 29 November 2025 10.30am to 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Sarah Benedek



The Good Shepherd

Thackeray's Lane, Woodthorpe, NG5 4HT

Christmas Eve, 24th December

5.00 pm. Children's Celebration -
+ blessing of the Crib &
Christmas Tree for the Season
Children & Folk Musicians

Christmas Day, 25th December

00.00 am. Christmas Mass at Midnight
Parish Choir
10.00 am. Christmas Day Mass with Carol

St Anthony

Mansfield Lane, Calverton NG14 6NP

Tuesday, 24th December -

Christmas Eve Vigil
3.30 pm. Christmas Mass,
+ Blessing of the Crib & Christmas
Tree for the Season

Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church

1 St Joseph's Street, Matlock DE4 3NG

All Saints Catholic Church

Longreave Lane, Hassop, Derbyshire DE45 1NS

Hassop

Christmas Carol Service
7:00pm - Friday 20th December

Christmas Eve Vigil
Tuesday 24th December

Hassop

3:45pm - Gathering Christmas Music
4:00pm - Christmas Eve Family Mass

Matlock

5:45pm - Gathering - Christmas Music
6:00pm - Christmas Eve Family Mass

Christmas Day Morning
Wednesday 25th December

9.00am - Matlock - Mass
10.30am - Hassop - Mass

3000 push ups - Adam raises funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust

A teenager who has battled cancer for three years has completed 3,000 push-ups as part of a challenge to raise money for the charity that helped him.

Fifteen-year-old Adam Dabrowski, who is a student at Blessed Robert Catholic Voluntary Academy in Burton, took on the physical fundraiser with his dad Mariusz.

The father and son duo completed 3,000 push-ups each - 100 a day for 30 days - hoping to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Adam was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 12, at the end of Year 7, after becoming short of breath, even when lying down.

Tests revealed he had leukaemia and he faced an intensive nine-month course of chemotherapy, undergoing treatment three or four days a week following a two-week stay in hospital.

The treatment affected him physically and at one point he struggled to walk and could not even stand. He missed approximately half of the following three years of school and recently rang the bell at hospital in Nottingham after doctors said he was in remission.

Adam is now having monthly check ups and is at school full-time in Year 11, preparing for his GCSE exams next year.

He said: "It was at the end of Year 7 that I was struggling to breathe and I had some tests and was told it was leukaemia. At that age I had no idea what that meant but I knew it was bad when my mum started to cry. I still didn't know what it was.

"I went on steroids for 28 days as I had pneumonia and then I was given a three-year plan for chemotherapy. It was also happening at the time of Covid so I had to be really careful to avoid infections.

"I lost most of my muscle mass and my grandma had to come over from Poland to help look after me. I was having trouble getting up the stairs, trouble even standing, I was really weak.

"I missed a lot of school but after the first nine months I then went down to having chemotherapy every day in tablets, weekly blood tests, chemotherapy once a month in hospital as well as having to take steroids, and lumbar puncture every three months. I really struggled to concentrate; I was just not myself. I think during that whole time there were only two or three weeks when I felt pretty good.

"In September I rang the bell at the hospital and now I'll be having monthly check-ups."

A celebration was held in school to mark the fact that Adam is in remission and all of the staff attended. Adam's mum Paulina and his dad both attended the emotional occasion.

His dad Mariusz suggested that the pair take on the charity push-up challenge.

Adam said: "When I started to get stronger I went to the gym and at the end of Year 9 I was going to the gym more and working hard. I ended up gaining a lot of weight that I needed to lose so I thought the charity challenge would be a good idea and it's to help the charity that helped me. The Teenage Cancer Trust helped to provide a teen room at the hospital and I'm sure at some point I would have spoken to someone from the Trust."

Adam and his dad completed 3,000 push-ups each at home.

Adam said: "As the days went on I found I could do 40 to 50 push ups in one go. I'm just excited to feel like myself now and I can live my life like kids my age do."

Adam's mum and dad said: "We are proud of Adam's strength and resilience and are happy that he is a part of the wonderful Blessed Robert Sutton Family. It seems now like ages ago but we remember every moment of his journey. We cannot thank the doctors and nurses enough who looked after our son for the whole time and we feel blessed to have such wonderful souls around us who made Adam's day-to-day life easier."

Samuel Gray, Headteacher at Blessed Robert Sutton, said: "As the new Head I was so sad to hear of Adam's journey yet it has been so inspiring to see him around school smiling and with so many friends around him. To now embark on a mission to support others like him is truly inspiring."

Amanda Mcdowall, Adam's Head of Year, said: "From the moment we found out in school how ill Adam was no-one could believe it. Adam is a lively popular, hardworking, lovely lad and a real little gentleman. There was no sense to it and no getting your head round it.

"Of course cancer doesn't discriminate but it doesn't stop you thinking how could this happen to such a wonderful young person. I cannot imagine how it must have been for his parents.



"Adam was able to come into school very occasionally and under strict guidelines from the hospital. He still continued to try to keep up with his studies despite being told by numerous staff this was not his priority.

"It has been a three-year battle for Adam and his family but when we learnt he was being invited into hospital to ring the bell for his last treatment and that he was

officially free from so much of the invasive medication, many of the staff were in tears.

"Adam is a true hero and a real inspiration to those who are privileged to know him. We could not be more proud of him and wish him all the very best."

If you would like to donate to the push-up challenge click the link Mariusz Dabrowski is fundraising for Teenage Cancer Trust

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Melton Mowbray church brings peace to the storm

The weather was terrible. Just as Jesus said, the rain came down, the floods came, the winds blew and hurled themselves on St John's Church in Melton. Storm Darragh was raging. But inside the church, all was peace, light and beauty.

The church was holding its 5th annual Christmas Wreath Festival, opening its doors and welcoming people free of charge to see a church bedecked with 100 home-made Christmas wreaths. It was a competition to make the most inventive wreath out of any materials. People used postage stamps, tennis balls, bottle tops, Lego - a variety of things which might otherwise have been thrown away or disregarded, and transformed them into beautiful decorations. Hung amid fairy lights with the exterior of the church floodlit in red, blue and green, the effect was entrancing, spiritual and peaceful.

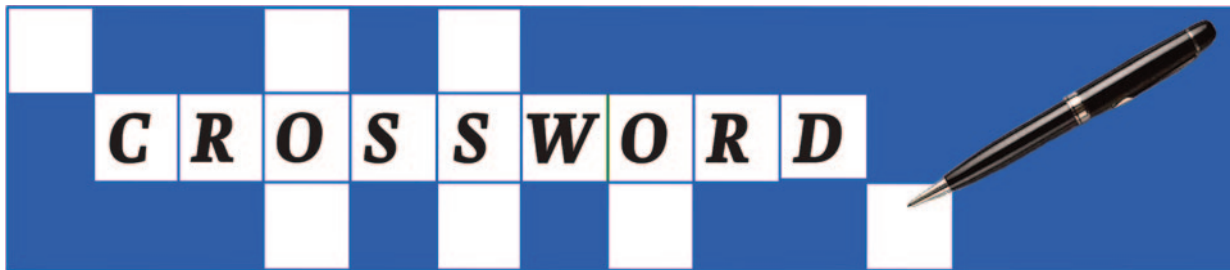


Organiser Frances Levett said, "We gave our visitors a leaflet with information about the origin of wreaths in pre-Christian times, and how Christianity altered the practice and emphasised the circular shape symbolising God with no beginning

or end, greenery as a symbol of everlasting life and lights as a symbol of the light of Christ coming into the world at Christmas. It was great to offer our church as a refuge from the storm outside, and talk to so many people who were not of our faith."

Although the weather conditions very much affected the number of people who were able to come, the Church still received 160 visitors, and all the wreaths and lights were left up for another week. Frances Levett said, "We had more than one wreath on the

theme of world peace. Several people asked if they could all be left up until our carol service as they were such an aid to prayer and the weather prevented many people from being able to benefit from them."



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same.

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Cases I select at random for the book (12)
- 8 Concentrated exchange of Russian using little American money? (7)
- 9 Widespread looting at first during search (5)
- 10 Nets second following corner (5)
- 11 Stay in bed to read Punch, perhaps (3,4)
- 12 Obtain a new piano sound, but there's no intro to give one a clue (4,2,7)
- 15 Japanese massage some Muslims, and after time, American's back (7)
- 17 Up to now more than one's being abominable (5)
- 19 Hand needs week to bring on puppy (5)
- 20 Still, it is the road back after stagnation (7)
- 21 Decision at pontoon bridge: maybe it's one too far? (5,2,5)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 What cohesion? Everyone's different (4,2,3,3)
- 2 Georgia's study, majoring in dance (5)
- 3 Money nearly stretches to the Orient in subscription which covers two continents (7)
- 4 Carol's nice dull bijou building (2,5,6)
- 5 Lost cat after a little way, following fish (5)
- 6 See Jeff Endicott's lodging in address out east (7)
- 7 Scanned to get rub, something that's good for blocked pipes (12)
- 13 Virginia, one at home being the most self-important (7)

- 14 Critical point for resort in Florida (3,4)

- 16 Subject of river stems from a line on a map (5)

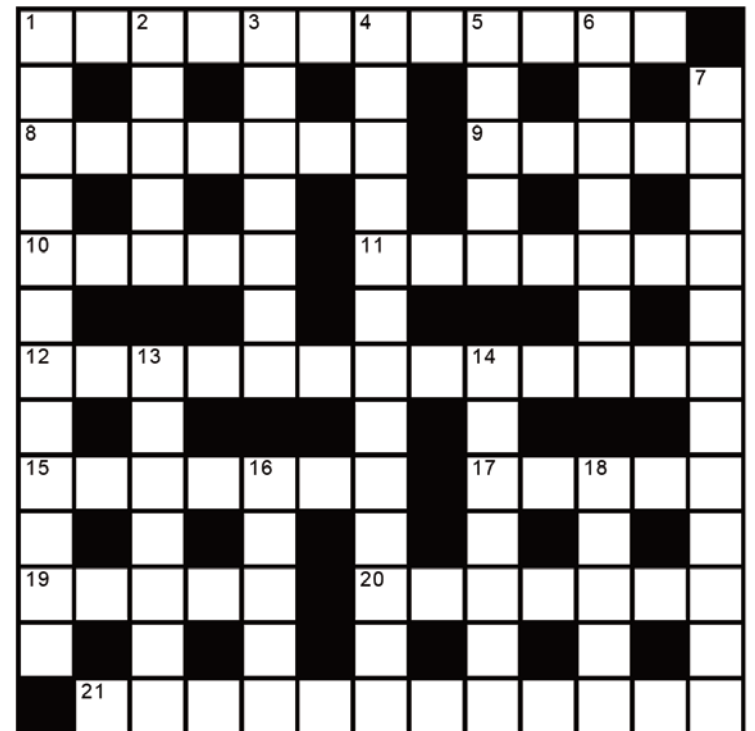
- 18 Sounding impatient but no good leaving when all are playing together (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 One of the OT's Wisdom Books (12)
- 8 Focused (7)
- 9 Weapon (5)
- 10 Ensnarers (5)
- 11 Don't get up early from bed (3,4)
- 12 Get wind of something; suspect (4,2,7)
- 15 Japanese form of acupuncture (7)
- 17 Legends of the Himalayas (5)
- 19 Cub; pup (5)
- 20 Sloth; passivity (7)
- 21 Dilemma in pontoon to hold what you have or gamble by taking another card (5,2,5)

QUICK Down

- 1 Saying that everyone has a right to have different preferences (4,2,3,3)
- 2 Latin American dance with dancers in single file (5)
- 3 Unbroken landmass from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific (7)
- 4 Christmas song anglicized as Good Christian Men, Rejoice (2,5,6)



- 5 Alley cat, for example (5)
- 6 Title of respect from the Ottoman Empire (7)
- 7 Chesty cough medicine (12)
- 13 Most conceited (7)
- 14 Resort at the southernmost tip of Florida (3,4)
- 16 Subject matter (5)
- 18 In music, 'to be performed by the entire ensemble' (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Ecclesiastes, 8 Centred, 9 Rifle, 10 Traps, 11 Lay into, 12 Have an inkling, 15 Shiatsu, 17 Yetis, 19 Whelp, 20 Inertia, 21 Stick or twist. Down: 1 Each to his own, 2 Conga, 3 Eurasia, 4 In Dulci Jubilo, 5 Stray, 6 Effendi, 7 Decongestant, 13 Vainest, 14 Key West, 16 Topic, 18 Tutti.