

# St. Leonard's Church, Frankley, B32 4BL



## Church News December 2017



*WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY, BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR FULL OF JOY, LOVE AND HOPE.*

### Services to be led by visiting clergy during the vacancy:

11.15 a.m. FAMILY COMMUNION every week  
5.00 p.m. EVENSONG N.B. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in each month only

For the arranging of banns, baptisms or marriages at St. Leonard's, please meet Church Warden, Jacqui Jones, at St. Leonard's Church Hall on Wednesday evenings between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. **Please note new time!**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>	<b>Christingle Toy Service</b> <i>(Please return Childrens' Society boxes &amp; bring any donations of good quality toys/gifts for local children in need)</i>
<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Friendship Group Meal @ The Sun</b>
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>After Service</b>	<b>Staying on For Lunch Christmas Dinner</b> <i>(Please book your place by adding your name to the list at the back of the church...cost £5)</i>
<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>	<b>Carols By Candlelight</b>
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>	<b>Carols Around the Crib &amp; Nativity</b>
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30 p.m.</b>	<b>'Midnight' Christmas Service</b> <i>(A 'wonder-full' service to celebrate this most holy night)</i>
<b>Note: No service on Christmas Day</b>		
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>

### PCC Members

**Church Warden & Parish Safeguarding Officer:** : Jacqui Jones

**Vice Chair:** Norman Hart      **Secretary:** Annette Grigg      **Treasurer:** Joy Greaves  
**Gift Aid Secretary & Health and Safety Officer:** Peter Razzell

**Parish Identity Verifier (DBS checks)** Joy Bardell

Jo Andrews,      Beryl Gibson,      Jenny Watkins,      Martin Morton,  
Pat Billingham,      Rory O'Connor,      Ioana Ocolisan,      Caroline Gauder

*Next meeting of the PCC is proposed for 25th January at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.*

**Contact details: Church website: [frankleychurch.co.uk](http://frankleychurch.co.uk)  
Church Warden Jacqui Jones Phone: 0121 421 3584 Mobile: 0779 0121 1641**





**Information From The Registers:**

**Baptism** Sunday 12th November of Archie Peter Sharpe (from New Zealand!)

**Funeral** Wednesday 15th November of Ron Wainman

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

**\* December's meeting has been replaced by the Christmas meal @ The Sun, Romsley\***

From January, Beryl, Jacqui & Pat Jelfs will host future meetings in the Church Hall at 2 pm on the second Monday of every month (not Sunday as I mistakenly wrote in last month's Church News, for which I apologise.)

**CHURCH FLOWERS**

Pat Bowyer is now responsible for the flower arrangements in church. Please put your name on the list at the back of the church, or, contact Pat if you would like to join the team who do so much to beautify our lovely church. If anyone would like flowers for a particular date to mark a special occasion, (cost £20), please contact Pat directly on 0121 453 9994 or 0796 4377840.

**CHURCH CLEANING**

\*More volunteers needed, please!\*

**FAIRTRADE \*No Fair Trade stall in December!\***

Jenny is leaving us shortly but Joy Greaves has kindly agreed to take over the sale of Fair Trade goods from January. Please support Joy's efforts to raise much needed funds for our beloved church. A huge 'Thank you' to Jenny and all who have purchased goods from her over the years as the contribution to church funds has been significant. *Please keep buying!*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Childrens' Society Boxes**

Please return these at the Christingle service or to Jacqui Jones as soon as possible. Thank you

**SHOE BOXES**

Jacqui has sent off 32 shoe boxes. Thank you to all who contributed.

**Tale Of A Shoebox**

I'm just a humble shoebox  
And not worth very much,  
But wait and see me in a while,  
I'll have a loving touch!  
I could have been discarded  
And simply thrown away,  
But now I've been recycled  
And cared for day by day.  
  
So many little toys and gifts  
Are snugly packed within,  
And when I'm really filled up tight  
Adventures will begin.

I'll soon be wrapped up neatly  
In paper shiny bright,  
And I'll be feeling very proud  
So full of love and light.  
  
Then soon I will be travelling  
To many distant lands,  
And children will be waiting  
With eager, stretched out hands.  
So don't discard your shoebox,  
Just think what you can do,  
God bless the folk who work so hard,  
God bless the children too!

**By Iris Hesselden**



### **Jill writes:**

Well, December already? How did that happen so quickly? Either I'm getting older (shush!) and time is flying quicker than ever, or, there's only been ten months in this year! Hopefully, *you* will be on schedule with your Christmas preparations and looking forward to attending at least one of the church services over the very special Christmas period. Not as many services as we are used to of course, due to the interregnum, but hopefully all who want to attend our church at this time will be able to do so. Jacqui has certainly been working incredibly hard to keep things going for us and we are all indebted to her.... Jacqui, just take time to look after yourself too, there's a good wench!

***Les Crofts has stepped up to help Jacqui with her many duties. Thank you, Les, you really are a Godsend to Jacqui and to the rest of us. Bless you!***

Thank you to all those who provided feedback on my first Church News last month. Feedback and/or constructive criticism, is welcome, as are your own contributions which can either be emailed to me ([jill-collins@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jill-collins@blueyonder.co.uk)) or left in church. You may wish to try texting or phoning my mobile: 07527867297 ***but please note that I am often unable to respond to phone calls immediately. However, if you leave a message, I will return your call as soon as I can.*** I will also gladly phone you back if calls to a mobile are not free with your telephone service.

***Unfortunately, I cannot work to the tight deadlines that Beryl somehow managed, so do please send any contributions before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.***

I'm trying to send the Church News via email to all whose email address is listed in the latest Church Directory for you to read and/or print at home. A few teething problems with this last month so **please** let me know if you cannot open the email attachment! Anybody whose email address is not listed but wishes to have a copy emailed to them can send me a request to do so to the email address above and I'll do my best to oblige.

*Printed copies will be available for congregation members who are without access to a computer and/or printer. Jacqui is going to attempt to print this & future editions on an a pre-historic machine at the Rectory... if this works, there'll be no printing costs for a few months. If it doesn't work, I'll be around with a begging bowl for contributions and some vallium for Jacqui!*

Hopefully, a copy will also soon be available on the church's website: [frankleychurch.co.uk](http://frankleychurch.co.uk).

Happy Christmas and God Bless you all. From Jill

### **Jenny & Bryn Watkins**

All being well, Jenny & Bryn are due to move to their new home in Cleobury Mortimer very soon. Hopefully, they will manage to come back to see us when they can but they will obviously be greatly missed. With Bryn's help and support, Jenny has been heavily involved and contributed massively in so many ways to St. Leonard's Church... her wonderful flower arranging & baking skills spring immediately to mind, as does her help on the PCC, admin/secretarial efforts.. too much to list, greatly valued and esteemed assets to our church family. You are so lovely and we are indebted to you both. Thank you sincerely for everything you've done for us all. We wish you every happiness in your new home and all the very best for the future. May God bless you both abundantly. Good luck with the move & visit soon!

***CHURCH FAYRE Thanks to a tremendous amount of hard work by Jacqui & her team; generous donations plus proceeds from sales of refreshments, goods, raffle tickets etc., the total gain to church funds so far is £1177.13***



# Church Christmas Cards On Sale

## 5 For £2



### Travels with Dot & Geoff.

We had the good fortune to go to Portugal on a River Douro cruise, and how super it was. Actually it is only since 1971 that the river has been navigable for larger ships as it took seven years to build the five huge locks, one being the deepest in the world (allegedly). This is called the Carrapatelo...It is 125 miles up to the Spanish border and that is asides UNESCO listed with dramatic steep sides of terraced vineyards and olive groves and wooded slopes, and a stretch with the most amazing rocks and boulders; really wild. These vineyards are mostly owned by all the famous port distillers, with their names on huge displays at the top of the hills. Names such as Porteman and Taylors. These had warehouses in Porto where you could go through the whole process of the manufacture of port wine, from start to finish.

We flew to Porto and had a taxi to the port where we embarked on the ship. The super thing about river cruising is that every cabin has a river view and always has stops along the way, but more of next time:.....

*Thanks to Dot for her Holiday Journal extract.... as I shall enjoy a port & lemon or two over Christmas, I was interested to learn of the above!*

### W.I. MEETINGS

These meetings take place in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. All are welcome and feel free to bring a friend!

*And there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Luke 2:8-9*



### Christmas Tree Lights Of Remembrance

Once again Beryl invites you to contribute towards our Christmas Tree Lights of Remembrance...if you would like a light to shine in memory of your loved one(s), and for their name(s) to be read out during the Midnight service, please see Beryl. Special envelopes will be at the back of the church for return as soon as possible to Beryl, please.

*For Unto Us A son Is born, Unto Us A Son Is Given*



## **CHRISTMAS BIBLE TRIVIA:** How well do you know the Christmas story?

### **Questions:**

1. Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
2. True or False: Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus because they were following a star.
3. What form of transportation did Mary and Joseph use to get to Bethlehem?
4. Who told Joseph the baby's name was to be Jesus?
5. The shepherds and the wise men went to see Jesus. Which group followed a star and which group went to find the baby because an angel told them where to look?
6. When the shepherds went looking for Jesus, what was the sign they were to look for?
7. How many wise men or kings or magi came to see Jesus?
8. How old was Jesus when the wise men found him?
9. What animals does the Bible say were present at the birth of Jesus?
10. Two of the four **Gospels** do not mention the birth of Christ. Which two?

*(Answers on next page)*

### **The Meaning of '12 Days of Christmas'**

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

### **Religious Jokes from Christmas Crackers**

- Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? Samson because he brought the house down.
- Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!
- Tonight's sermon: 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our carol practice.
- Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible  
*When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.*



## Charity Begins at Christmas

After the Advent church service, eight year old Lee said to the preacher: 'When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money.'

'Well, thank you, 'the preacher replied, 'but why?'

'Because my father says that you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had.'

## Religious Education.....student test papers

- The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked 'Am I my brother's son?'
- When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the 'Magna Carta'
- Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony

## **BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1. Caesar Augustus. He ordered the people to go back to the city of their forefathers. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem. Luke 2:1.
2. False. As in the previous answer, they went not because an angel told them or because a star led them. They were obedient to the established governmental authority.
3. The Bible does not say how they went from Galilee to Bethlehem. It was an 80 mile trip for them. It is likely that they rode some type of animal, but the Bible gives no details. It is commonly depicted that Mary rode a donkey while Joseph walked along side, but we don't really know.
4. An angel in Matthew 1:21. The Bible does not say that this was Gabriel; however, it is assumed to be him since he was the one specifically mentioned as the messenger to Mary and Zacharias in Luke 1.
5. The shepherds followed the instructions of the angels in Luke 2:9-15. The wise men followed the star to find the place where Jesus was. Matthew 2:1, 2.
6. A baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2:12.
7. The Bible does not say how many wise men there were. Tradition says there were three because of the three gifts. There are even names given to the three wise men in different countries and cultures, but we don't really know their names. It is also very likely there were many more than just three.
8. It is certain that Jesus was somewhere between a month old and a couple of years old. The wise men saw His star at his birth and began following it. If the journey was 500 miles from Persia and Mesopotamia (around modern day Iraq) then it would have taken at least a month. By the time they arrived Jesus and His family had moved into a house. Later in the story Herod ordered all the children aged 2 years and younger to be killed. Therefore, Jesus was at least a month old and not yet 2 years old. Matthew 2:9-18.
9. In the New Testament accounts of Christ's birth there is no mention of any animals. However, Isaiah 1:3 could be a prophecy talking about at least a donkey seeing the crib of his Master (God). It could allude to the fact that an ox was there too. If a bunch of shepherds were there, one would assume sheep would have been present. But there is no definite list of animals mentioned in the Bible.
10. Neither Mark or John tell the story of the birth of Christ.



## Jesus Is Better Than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.

*JESUS is everywhere.*

Santa rides in a sleigh.

*JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.*

Santa comes but once a year.

*JESUS is an ever present help.*

Santa fills your stockings with goodies.

*JESUS supplies all your needs.*

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited

*JESUS stands at your door and knocks.. and then enters your heart.*

You have to stand in line to see Santa

*JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.*

Santa lets you sit on his lap

*JESUS lets you rest in His arms.*

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"

*JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.*

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly

*JESUS has a heart full of love.*

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO

*JESUS offers health, help and hope.*

Santa says "You better not cry"

*JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."*

Santa's little helpers make toys

*JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.*

Santa may make you chuckle but

*JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.*

While Santa puts gifts under your tree

*JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.*

**It's obvious there is really no comparison.**

**We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.**

**We need to put Christ back in Christmas.**

**JESUS is still the reason for the season.**

**Yes, Jesus is better, he is even better than Santa Claus!**

*But don't worry kids (big & small!), Santa is on his way and will still pay you a visit if you have been good!*





## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:



\_\_\_\_ The following send their greetings and have given a donation to the church instead of sending individual cards.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and New Year, from Jacqui xxx

Christmas Greetings To All At St. Leonard's from Rosie Bates x

Happy Christmas & All good wishes for the New Year  
from Pat Billingham and Grandchildren

Merry Christmas & A good and healthy New Year to all at St. Leonard's  
With love from Gladys Brassington x

Wishing all the St. Leonard's 'Family' every blessing at Christmas and throughout the  
coming year. From Jill Collins xx

Best wishes for Christmas & the New Year to you all from Beryl & Ron x

I wish everyone a very happy, joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year,  
from Janet Haverson

A Happy Christmas & A Healthy & Contented New Year to all at St. Leonard's,  
from Pat Jelfs with love x

Season's Greetings to all at St. Leonard's. I wish you all a happy, blessed Christmas and  
send my best wishes to you all. Thank you to all who have sent cards and held me in  
thought & prayer. From Edgar.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.  
Dot and Geoff Key

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the new Year. Gerald and Wendy Strickland.

To all my friends & everyone I know at St. Leonard's, I wish you a very Happy Christmas  
and a Happy, Healthy New Year.. from Rita Trevis

JOY TO THE WORLD AND PEACE ON  
EARTH TO ALL

