



December 2021 &
January 2022

Stratton Team Ministry
Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God Together
www.strattonteamministry.co.uk



STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY

Priest in Charge: Reverend Elveen Mead
Curate Reverend Mark Tidey
Lay Minister: Lisa Lodwick
Alison Burston
Dan Read

Church Administrator Georgina Martin 826505
Email: stmargaretsoffice2@btconnect.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Margaret's Church and St Mary Magdalene Church

Mrs June Lewis 822954
Mr Richard Pflieger 828367
Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Wardens

Mr David Horne 724776
Mr Ian Jones 07769703385

St Leonards Church

Mrs Liz Hillman 762935
Mrs Liz Bannister 763657

Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers & DBS Lead Recruiters

Dr Mike Boshier 07799835437
Mrs Mary Boshier

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for St. Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene

Mrs Rosalind Mitchell (Secretary) 764146
Mrs Diane Whitford
(Deputy Secretary of St Mary Magdalene) 824339

St Leonards

Mr Michael Curtis
(PCC secretary St Leonards)

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Stratton Methodist Church, 829335
St Mary's R C Church, The Presbytery, Swindon 535089

One More Step Along The World I Go...

You may know the song.

It has been chosen at a number of different weddings in my time here. It is quite a popular and indeed poignant choice.

Perhaps the couples remember it from school; I did not sing it when I was at school, but I definitely did when I was teaching.

It sums up life's journey and a journey with God.

Of course, couples chose it to reflect their own journeys with one another and I hope they remember that God is going along with them too.

As I was asked to write this little ditty, I thought of that song.

I have often said that our churches have love in the very foundations, the stones and whatever is in between. Centuries of services celebrating special, poignant and sometimes tragic occasions of the journey through life- births, marriages and deaths. All expressions of love. The width, breadth and depth of love in life.

And every Sunday we journey through our lives together- praising, worshipping and being with God. Celebrating His love. The width, breadth and depth of love of His love.

As we go through this season we remember and celebrate Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. A time they would feel the presence, blessing and love of God, throughout all of the challenges they faced on their journey.

The end of their journey would be Immanuel; God with us. Something we can all celebrate.

For the past 4½ years I have joined you on a journey. We have walked along together- walking along together with God.

I have very much felt and appreciated the width, breadth and depth of your love.

For this I will always be grateful.

This I will always remember and hold dear to my heart.

Though we will be apart, we will all continue in our journeys together, safe in the knowledge of God who goes in front, behind and indeed alongside us.

Immanuel- God with us.

Reverend Mark



Memoirs of Eric Barnes

MY CHURCH

AS I JOURNEY TO STANTON FITZWARREN.
THE VILLAGE I'VE ALWAYS LOVED.
I MARVEL TO FIND THE CHURCH DOWN CHURCH LANE
A SERENE AND PEACEFUL SPOT.

I PAUSE AND REFLECT HOW THROUGH THE YEARS
THOUSANDS HAVE KNELT IN THAT PLACE.
SOME IN GREAT SORROW, SOME IN GREAT JOY
BUT EACH ONE SEEKING GOD'S GRACE.

AND THROUGH ALL THE YEARS ITS ARMS HAVE SPREAD OUT
BIDDING US WELCOME - COME IN
SOME HAVE ACCEPTED AND FOUND A NEW LIFE
WITH PEACE AND CONTENTMENT WITHIN.

BUT MANY ALAS ONLY PASS BY
WITHOUT A CARE OR A THOUGHT
UNTIL ONE DAY THEY LEARN WITH REGRET
THAT HAPPINESS CANNOT BE BOUGHT

IT STANDS TO REMIND US IN TIMES SUCH AS THESE
AS FOR FAME AND FOR FORTUNE WE SEARCH.
THAT TRUE PEACE OF MIND AND JOY WILL BE FOUND
IF THE CENTRE OF LIFE IS OUR CHURCH



Eric Barnes



**St Margaret's Church
All ready for Advent**



Volunteers needed to either knit or crochet squares or blankets for the GWH

Or have you got any spare balls of wool to offer?

The GWH End of Life team and Brighter Futures are providing End of Life patient's with blankets.

Blankets are provided to make the hospital setting more homely and less medical in the patients last days of life. The family can then keep the blanket as a loving memory.

Obviously with the COVID 19 pandemic, all blankets and squares must adhere to the Trust's Infection Control Policy so if you can help out at all please contact June Lewis for the simple guidelines.

June Lewis: 07788713729 or email june.lewis13@btinternet.com



St Margaret's Church Advent 2021 A Host of Angels

Please help to decorate St Margaret's church during Advent.

By taking an Angel and either colouring, adding words or a prayer and then return it to St Margaret's office or church between 26th November and Saturday 18th December so it can be hung making a host of Angels.

A chance to view the angels on Thursday Morning 16th and 23rd December and Saturday morning 18th December 10am to 12noon





FREE!

Messy
Church



Christmas

SATURDAY SCENE

At St Margaret's Centre

(Kenwin Close, off Ermin street, Stratton St. Margaret)

Saturday 11th

December

@ 4pm

Join us for



St Margaret's Church, St Leonard's Church, St Mary Magdalene's Church and Coleview Community Centre

for more information Please contact us at

✉ saturdayscene@strattonteamministry.co.uk

☎ 01793 826505

www.facebook.com/stmsaturdayscene





GIVING

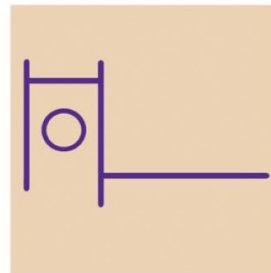
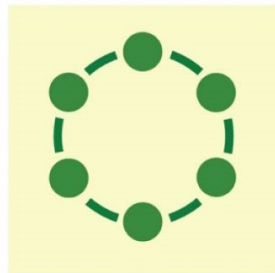
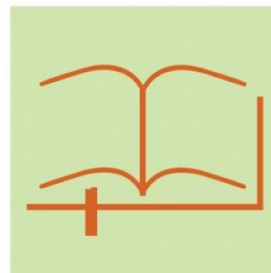
You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

Great News! You can now sign up to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online. There is a link for this on the Giving page of our website:

<https://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/giving/>

If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the church. It is perfectly safe and can be stopped or changed at any time.

PGS is a great way to give to the work and mission of St Margaret's Church. Donations given through PGS come straight to the Church, there are no admin fees or bank charges for us to pay. 41 people have now signed up to do this - Thank you



TM

PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME

December



December 5th - 1st Sunday of the Month - Second Sunday of Advent

9:30am St Margaret's Church Holy Communion Service

9:30am St Leonards Church Sunday Morning Worship

10am St Mary Magdalene Church Family Service

December 12th - 2nd Sunday of the Month - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am St Margaret's Church Sunday Morning Worship

11am St Leonards Church Family Service

9:30am St Mary Magdalene Church Holy Communion Service

December 19th - 3rd Sunday of the Month - Fourth Sunday of Advent

11am Coleview Sunday Morning Team Worship

6pm St Margaret's Church Nine Lessons and Carols Service

6pm St Mary Magdalene Church Nine Lessons and Carols Service

December 26th - 4th Sunday of the Month - First Sunday of Christmas

No Services

PLEASE NOTE

Under current pandemic circumstances all services are subject to change.

Please see our website for the most up to date information

www.strattonteamministry.co.uk

We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.

We are online at 9am Monday to Saturday for Morning Prayer via

[@Strattonteamministry.co.uk](https://twitter.com/Strattonteamministry)



Christmas Eve - Friday 24th December

4pm	St Leonards	Walking Nativity
4pm	St Mary Magdalene	Christingle Family Service
9pm	St Leonards Church	Holy Communion Service
11:30pm	St Margaret's Church	Holy Communion Service
11:30pm	St Mary Magdalene Church	Holy Communion Service

Christmas Day - Saturday 25th December

10am	St Margaret's Church	Holy Communion Service
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January



2022

January 2nd - 1st Sunday of the Month - The Second Sunday of Christmas

9:30am	St Margaret's Church	Holy Communion Service
9:30am	St Leonards Church	Sunday Morning Worship
10am	St Mary Magdalene	Church Family Service

January 9th - 2nd Sunday of the Month - The Baptism of Christ

9:30am	St Margaret's Church	Sunday Morning Worship
11am	St Leonards Church	Family Service
9:30am	St Mary Magdalene Church	Holy Communion Service

January 16th - 3rd Sunday of the Month - The Second Sunday of Epiphany

10:30am	Team Service	At Stratton Methodist Church
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January 23rd - 4th Sunday of the Month - The Third Sunday of Epiphany

9:30am	St Margaret's Church	Sunday Morning Worship
9:30am	St Leonards Church	Holy Communion Service
11am	Coleview	Holy Communion Service

January 30th - 5th Sunday of the Month - The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10am	St Margaret's Church	Team Service - A Farewell to Reverend Mark Tidey
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Recycling @ St Margaret's Centre

**RECYCLE YOUR
CRISP PACKETS HERE!**



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AIR AMBULANCE**



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Any brand of EMPTY medicine blister packets



**St Mary Magdalene Church
South Marston**

MEETING POINT

**The 'drop in' is for all members of our
community**

**Is on the 3rd Saturday of the month
Come and Join Us for Coffee**

In the Village Hall

10:00 - 12:00 on

Saturday 18th December

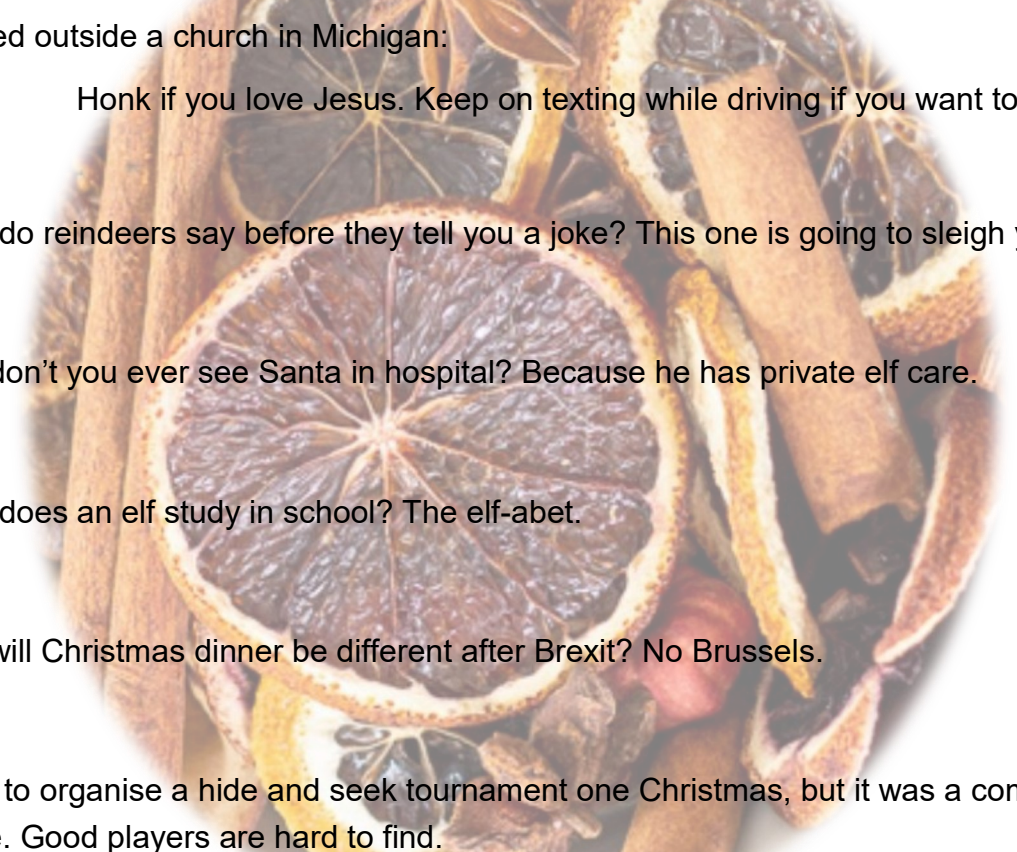
&

15th January 2022

**Enquiries or for table reservations
please call 01793 831473**

stm

A Potpourri for the coming season, yes it will soon be here.

- 
- ❄ Spotted outside a church in Michigan:
Honk if you love Jesus. Keep on texting while driving if you want to meet him.
 - ❄ What do reindeers say before they tell you a joke? This one is going to sleigh you.
 - ❄ Why don't you ever see Santa in hospital? Because he has private elf care.
 - ❄ What does an elf study in school? The elf-abet.
 - ❄ How will Christmas dinner be different after Brexit? No Brussels.
 - ❄ I tried to organise a hide and seek tournament one Christmas, but it was a complete failure. Good players are hard to find.

Jesus is the reason.

In Bethlehem God gave to us, The source of Christmas Joy
A star is shown on a miracle, the virgin birth of a boy.
He was both God and Man, a saviour for us all.
The way to get to our heavenly home if we just heed his call
So as we shop and spend and wrap And enjoy Christmas season.
Let us keep in mind the sacred truth, Jesus is the reason.



- ❄ Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elfis Presley
- ❄ Why did Santa Clause get a parking ticket on Christmas eve? He left his sleigh in a snow parking zone.
- ❄ What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa? A Christmas Quacker
- ❄ Where do you find reindeer? It depends on where you leave them.

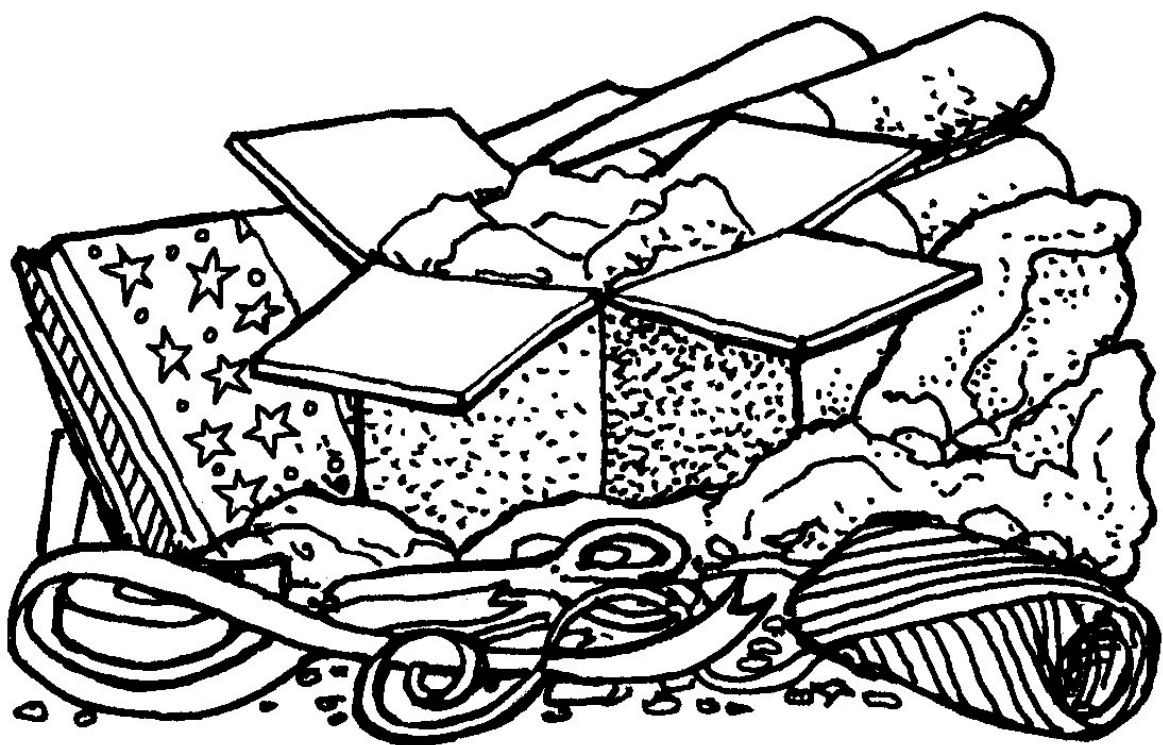
The First Christmas

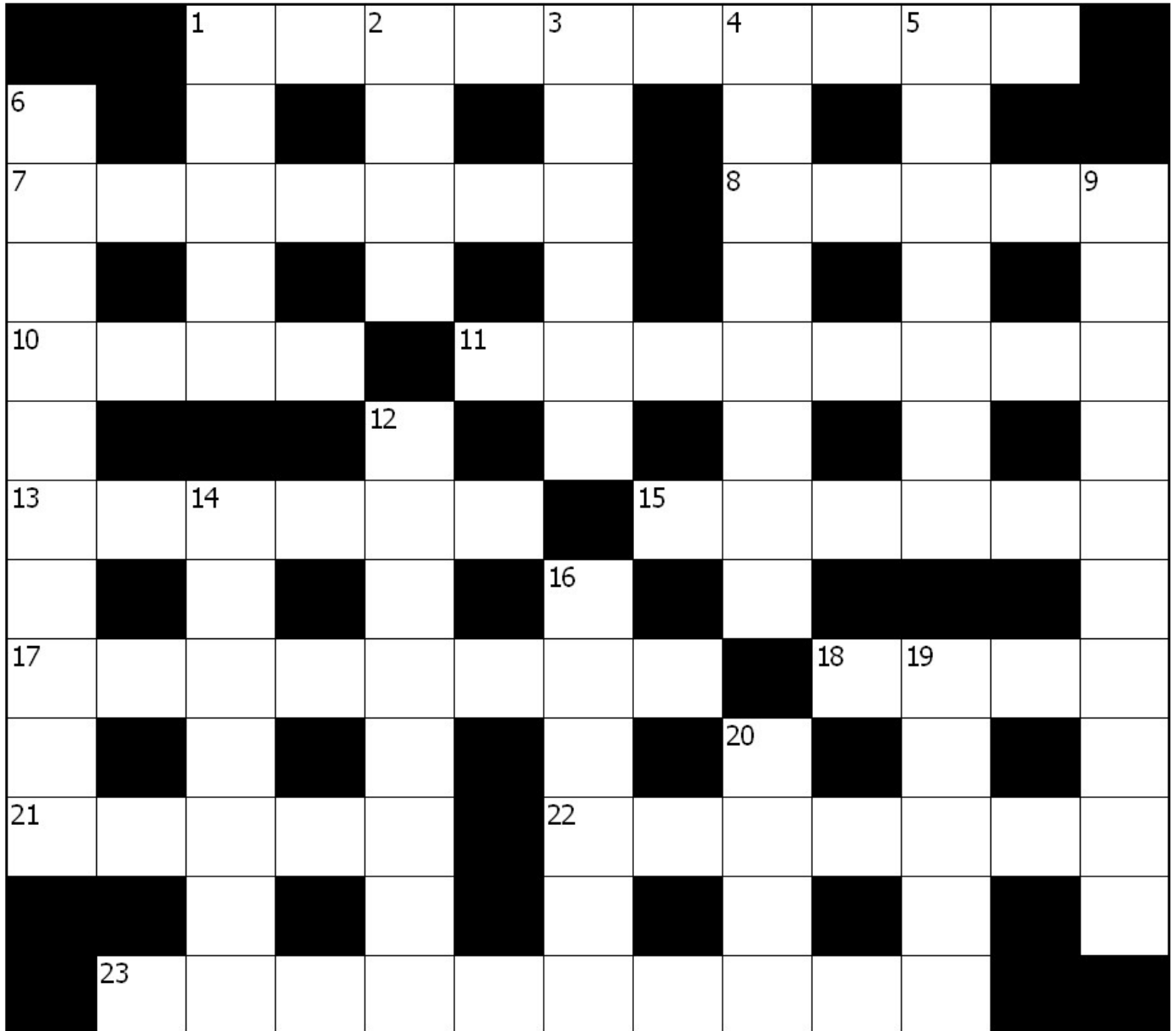
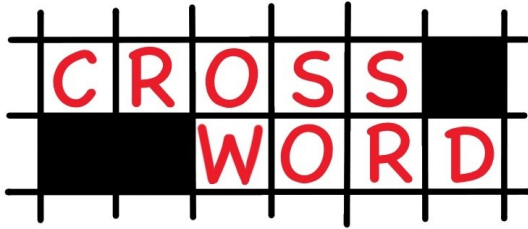
It never snows at Christmas in that dry and dusty land
Instead of freezing blizzards, there are palms and drifting sands
and years ago a stable and a most unusual star
and three men who followed it, by road not by car.
While sleeping on the quiet hills, a shepherd gave a cry
He'd seen a crowd of angels in the silent starlit sky
In the stable, ox and ass stood very still and calm
and gazed upon the baby, safe and snug in Mary's arms
And Joseph, lost in the shadows, face lit by an oil lamp glow
stood wondering, that first Christmas day, two thousand years ago.

Martin Swinger

To end with my last thought for this Christmas:
A little child, a shining star, a stable rude, the door ajar.
Yet in that place so crude, forlorn, the hope of all the world was born.

Seasons Greetings from The Joker.





Across

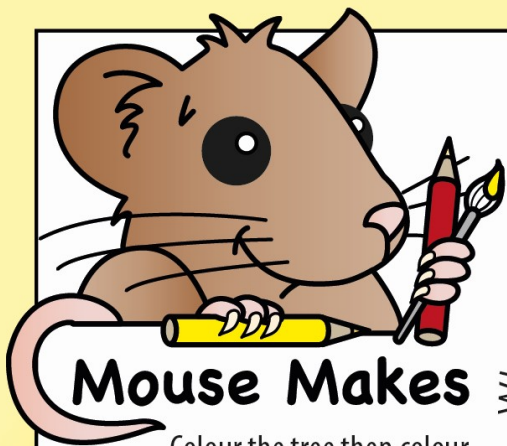
- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)

Across

- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith _____ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 '_____ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as _____ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living _____, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will _____ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)



Mouse Makes

Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?



A STAR
shows the way
to Jesus
Read
Matthew 2:1-12



ANGELS
bring messages from God

Read about
Gabriel's message in
Luke 1:26-38

Read the
shepherd's story in
Luke 1:26-38



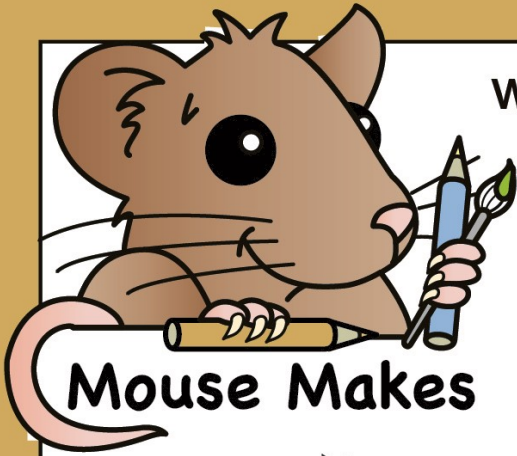
**LIGHTS
AND CANDLES**
remind us that Jesus
lights our way to God
Read *Luke 2:29-32*

PRESENTS
remind us of God's
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**



"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

Presents at Christmas
under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking
waiting for me,
But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible
and you will find out!
It's about **JESUS**
- the best present of all,
JESUS our **Saviour**,
God's gift to us all!



What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?

READ Matthew 2:1-12

Who came from the East?

Why had they come?

What were they following?

Who was alarmed by their arrival?

Who had the prophet written about?

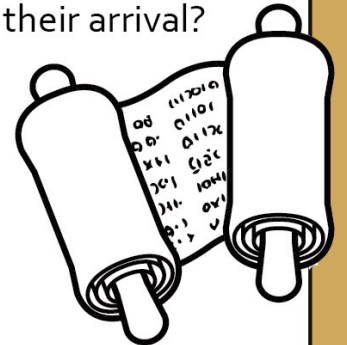
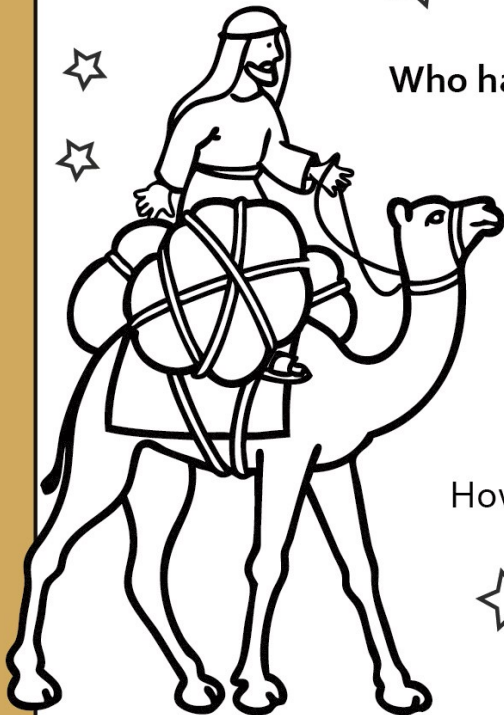
Where were they then sent?

What were they to look for?
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them?

Who did they see? What did they do?

How were they warned to go home another way?



READ Matthew 2:13-23

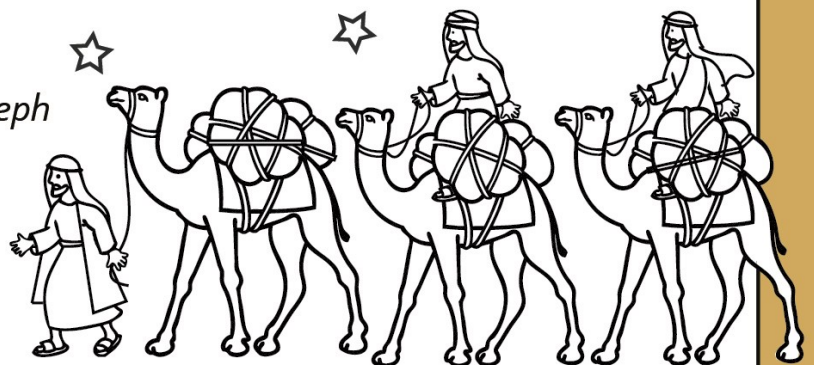
Who appeared to Joseph?

What was he told? Why? What did he do?

Who then became angry?.... and why? What horrible thing did he then do?

When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family?

Where did Jesus finally grow up?



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Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE

for Articles and Information anytime before 15th January 2022

Georgina Martin: Church Office,
Tel: 826505 St Margaret's Centre
Email: stmargaretsoffice2@btconnect.com

Also, by hand or call Georgina Martin on 07768 243675

Errors and omissions — while we do try to ensure that all details are correct, some things may slip through and we apologise for that.

PARISH DIRECTORY & CENTRE USERS

ORGANISATIONS

Babies & Toddlers	Georgina Martin	07768 243675
Bell Ringers	Wendy Sears	07769 788821
Boys' Brigade	Teresa Daghish	07796 925621
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398
Cadley Dance	Maria Howse	824446
Centre Bookings	c/o Church Office	826505
Choir	Geoff Walters	822006
Church Cleaning Rota	Pat England,	822786
Coleview	Church Office	826505
Church Flowers	Richard Pflieger	828367
Evening Fellowship Group	Anne Pope	722187
	email eannepope@gmail .com	
FWO Envelopes	Ray England	822786
Gift Aid Sec.	David Horne	724776
Guide-Brownie Commissioner	Zoe Smith	831190
Kentwood Choir	Mrs S Harrod	725863
Music Group	Rob South	822811
Organists	Rob South	822811
	Geoff Walters	822006
Preschool	Hayley Woods, Supervisor	07816 547752
Wl. Ermin St.	Sue Mould,	670634
Wl. Stratton St Margaret	Mrs Covell	829900

Golden Charter

Funeral Plans



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