

## WHEN MORE IS LESS

I had the joy of watching the film *The Nativity* a week ago (not my choice of film, I might add), and struck again by how easy it is to make the Christmas story more than it is, and how, sadly, that makes it less. We make more of Christmas by adding drama that just isn't in the story. For example, adding 'back stories', such as the story from the point of view of the Innkeeper, the donkey (neither of which are in the Christmas story), or telling it in a way that makes it more about one of the shepherds than the birth of Jesus. The angels become rock stars, Wise Men become slapstick comedians and so forth. Now, I'm really, really not against creativity and music in telling the story, but if we think the wow-factor lies in anything outside the wonder of birth of Jesus, then we've completely missed why the nativity is called the Greatest Story Ever Told. It's the tendency we all have to make the story primarily about us, for us to 'shine'. Let me encourage you to consider taking the bracing fresh air of the true nativity of Jesus. The story is the most extra-ordinary event in human history - the Son of the Most High God' was born into a backwater town in an obscure corner of the Roman Empire. The eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, took on human flesh. Jesus never intended us to think he was just a good teacher. He was God on earth, come to uniquely reveal God to us, and open the way to God. The God who is over us is now for us, because He became human, fully God and fully man.

*Joy to the World - the Lord has come!*

*David*

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH  
FROM DAVID BARNSLEY



### Songs of Praise

A short service of favourite hymns, chosen by you.  
**First Thursdays (6th Feb, 5th March)**  
2pm in the Church Hall, followed by tea and cakes.  
**Please note there is no Songs of Praise in January.**

### Third Thursday

19th Dec, 16th Jan, 20th Feb.  
2pm in the Church Hall.  
Tea, cake and company!

Did you know St Paul's Church is on Facebook? Search for 'St Paul's Church Little Eaton' and follow us.



## Reordering Update

The process of reordering St Paul's is continuing—the Church Council is working with our architect to create a proposed design for the layout of the building once we have levelled the floor. We want to make sure that we get the design right and so this is taking some time. We will keep you up to date as we have news to share!

## December - January

### December

Tue 3	7.30pm	Ignition
Wed 4	7.30pm	Joint Prayer Meeting
Thur 5	2pm	Advent Songs of Praise
	7.30pm	Growth Groups
Mon 9	7.00pm	Impact
Tues 10	7.30pm	Ignition
Mon 16	7.30pm	P.C.C.
Tues 17	7.30pm	Impact & Ignition Social
Thur 19	2.00pm	Third Thursday
	7.30pm	Growth Groups
Tue 24	4.30pm	Crib Service
Wed 25	10am	Christmas Day Service at St Alkmund's

### January

Mon 6	7.00pm	Impact
Tue 5	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Ignition
Wed 8	7.45pm	Joint Prayer Meeting St Alkmund's
Thur 9	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting at St Paul's
Sat 11	9.00am	Prayer Breakfast at Christ Church Derby
Mon 13	7.00pm	Impact
Tue 14	10.00am	Growth Group
	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 16	2.00pm	Third Thursday
	7.45pm	Life Explored, Church Hall
Mon 20	7.00pm	Impact
Tue 21	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 23	7.30pm	Growth Groups
	7.45pm	Life Explored, Church Hall
Mon 27	7.00pm	Impact
Tue 28	10.00am	Growth Group
	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 30	7.45pm	Life Explored, Church Hall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

# Christmas at St. Paul's

22nd Dec | 4.30pm  
Carol Service

Christmas Eve | 4.30pm  
Crib Service

Christmas Day | 10.00am  
Family Celebration at  
St Alkmund's Duffield

Please note the new service times  
and there will not be a Midnight  
Communion Service.

### Vicar and Newsletter Editor:

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Please note: David's usual day off is a Friday.

[www.litleeatonchurch.co.uk](http://www.litleeatonchurch.co.uk)

## SERVICES AT ST PAUL'S

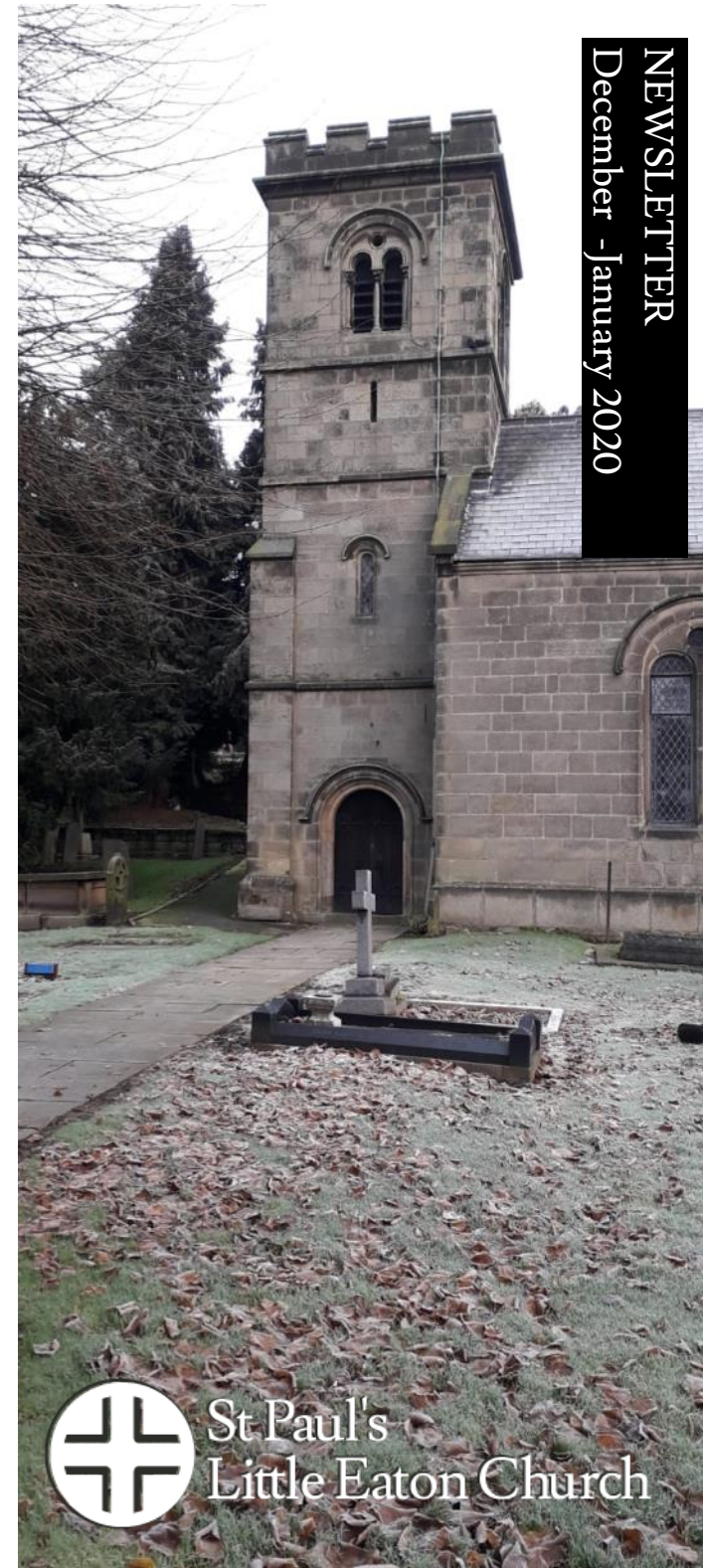
Dec 1st	4.30pm	Holy Communion
Dec 8th	4.30pm	Afternoon Service
Dec 15th	4.30pm	Afternoon Service
Dec 22nd	4.30pm	Carol Service
Dec 24th	4.30pm	Crib Service
Dec 29th	4.30pm	Afternoon Service
Jan 5th	4.30pm	Holy Communion
Jan 12th	4.30pm	Afternoon Service
Jan 19th	4.30pm	Afternoon Service
Jan 26th	4.30pm	Afternoon Service

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

0-2's	Creché	Sunday at 4.30pm
	Church Hall, Little Eaton	
3-11's	<b>Explorers</b>	Sunday at 4.30pm
	Church Hall, Little Eaton	
Y7-9	<b>Impact</b>	Mondays at 7.00pm
	St Alkmund's Parish Hall, Duffield	
Y10-13	<b>Ignition</b>	Tuesdays at 7.30pm
	St Alkmund's Parish Hall, Duffield	
Y7-13	<b>Salt Café</b>	1st Sunday at 5.30pm
	St Alkmund's Parish Hall, Duffield	

## REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

<b>Growth Groups</b> (meet fortnightly)	
Tuesday 10am	Thursday 7.45 pm
<b>Church Prayer Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday
Duffield Church Hall/St Paul's	7.30 pm
<b>Songs of Praise</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday
Church Hall	2.00 pm
<b>Third Thursdays</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday
Church Hall	2.00 pm



St Paul's  
Little Eaton Church