



St Paul's
Little Eaton Church

Parish Magazine



Christmas 2024

ST PAUL'S CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS



Vicar: REVD DR JAMES HUGHES

The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Duffield. Telephone 01332 841867

e: vicar@litleeatonchurch.co.uk

Lay Minister for Discipleship & Evangelism:

JAMES ROLLIN

Telephone: 07485 027171

Churchwardens:

ANDY HARDWICK

01332 944100

LUCY BAILEY

07989 733168

PCC Secretary: LIZ HARDWICK 01332 944100

PCC Treasurer: SUE NICHOLSON 01332 843557

Parish Safeguarding Officer: LUCY BAILEY 07989 733168

Church Secretaries: DIANE WHITESIDE & LIZ HARDWICK 01332 987550



THE VICAR'S LETTER

JAMES HUGHES



Dear Friends,

As we talk with one another day by day, and as we interact with other people, particularly as we interact with people we disagree with, then we get into issues of perspective. We might call it bias, and think of members of political parties, or football fans who see the same match but see different things. We might relate people's perspectives to gender, or social class, or age, or to something else. But whenever we think, *well, you would say that wouldn't you*, we are dealing with issues relating to perspective.

And of course, we need to recognize that we also have a perspective on the world. We recognize that how we think about things is influenced by who we are and how we grew up. We see things in a certain way, which is fine.

But what if we're wrong about something? What if we needed to change our view about something? We might ask our good friends, but there is a good chance that our friends will have similar perspectives to us. Think about the way in which social media algorithms feed us information that is likely to reinforce perspectives we already have. How will our ideas be challenged? Who can question our questions and assumptions?

We need something outside the system, outside our own little web of perspectives, to address us. Which is why over the next few hundred words, we'll be looking at

Matthew 2, one of the traditional Christmas readings about the wise men, and Herod, and Jesus. Because these words will always challenge our perspectives. Look where it starts:

Matthew 2: ¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." (all passages ESV)

The question the passage sets is this:

The king of the Jews has been born—how will we respond to him? The wise men want to worship him, to give homage given to a new ruler. Herod has a different response:

Matthew 2: ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Herod is troubled, fearful. He sees the political implications of the birth of another ruler, so he asks about the Christ or Messiah. Here is what Herod fears: a rival ruler who will upset things and cause trouble with the Romans, and maybe even supplant him. He asks where the Messiah will be born, and the answer comes back—Bethlehem.

The chief priests and teachers know the answer. But this fact does not seem to touch them, it is just information. But if the Messiah has been born, surely this is a time for excitement, not indifference, ➤

➤ for God's people are about to be saved. Theirs is a strange response. Herod acts:

Matthew 2: ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

Herod is driven by fear and by politics—he is rationalizing Jesus into his own thought world. He is remaking Jesus after his own image. Not a saviour to be worshipped, but a threat to be dealt with. Back to the wise men, who follow the star to Bethlehem:

Matthew 2: ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Remember our question: ***The king of the Jews has been born—how will we respond to him?*** Herod, the chief priests, and the wise men. Three responses to the king, three perspectives on Jesus if you like. All of them happen every Christmas. It's worth reflecting a little on each one.

There is the response of ***Indifference***. Christmas is family time, fun time, but it certainly isn't responding to Jesus time. We don't need that. Move from 2024 into 2025 and carry on.

There is the response of ***Rejection***. Notice how Herod makes it about Herod. He doesn't ask who is Jesus. He asks what does Jesus mean *to me*.

This is not about the hope the messiah will bring to Israel. Herod puts all that to one side. He doesn't deny it, after all he attempts to kill Jesus later. He just ignores it, because it doesn't suit his purposes.

Herod's rejection is obvious. But it is also possible to come with a seemingly more positive response to Jesus, that still remakes Him in our image, the modern indulgent Jesus who is lovely and wants me to self-realise; the Jesus that never challenges us.

Then there is the response of the wise men, which I would characterise as ***Openness***. Here were some eastern astrologers, not Jews but full on pagans. However, they are open to recognizing Jesus.

The king of the Jews has been born—how will we respond to him? Are we willing to be challenged from outside our system? Over Christmas we will be looking again and again at the story of that first Christmas, so that we all continue to be challenged from outside our system.

We'd love for you to join us.
See you soon.

James



The Gift

A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY

It was Christmas Eve in the city. The pavements were busy, full of people rushing about. People laughing, going to parties. But on one pavement sat a sad little puppy called Bobby. He had been thrown onto the cold, wet streets by an owner who no longer wanted him. He looked up hopefully as some people walked up by him. But one kicked out at Bobby and pushed him aside. Bobby wasn't hurting on the outside but he was hurting on the inside. He was alone at Christmas, unwanted, uncared for.

Then all of a sudden he looked up and saw an old lady surrounded by a bright shining light. Bobby was dazzled and he cowered against a wall thinking he might be kicked again. But in one moment the lady (whose name was Angela) swept Bobby up into her arms and bundled him up into her coat to keep warm. It happened so fast Bobby didn't have time to think. "You are just what I have been looking for!" said Angela. Bobby was frightened but unable to do anything. In a way he was just happy to be warm.

Angela walked along through the busy streets until she stopped in front of a large welcoming house full of Christmas lights. She rapped on the door so loud it startled Bobby. The door opened and a man stood there smiling. "Come in Mum, we have been expecting you," he said. Mum entered with Bobby under her coat still hidden.

In the room, which was lit by a roaring fire with Christmas stockings hanging from the fireplace, there were two children playing, Tim and Annie. "Grannie!" shouted Annie who came running over. "I have your Christmas gift that I promised would be a special one this year," said Grannie. You see Annie's old dog, Scamps, whom she had known since a baby, had taken poorly and died a few weeks ago and Grannie said she would cheer her up by bringing her a special Christmas present.

Annie squealed with delight as her Grannie opened up her coat and revealed Bobby to her. "Oh, I will love him to bits!" she shouted. "Thank you so much. It is the greatest Christmas present you could give me." "No," said Angela, as Bobby snuggled up to Annie and feeling so much happier. "The greatest gift is what you will give this pup. It is the gift of love. Love that will last a lifetime." And that is what Christmas is all about.



The End

Allan Barber

As the Bible tells us, Christmas is indeed about love—God's great love for us—John Chapter 3 verses 16–17: "For God so **loved** the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Why not join us over Christmas to find out more?

At a loose end?



Little Eaton Ladies Craft Group meets on the last Saturday of each month in the Church Hall, 2-4pm

Bring your knitting, sewing or other crafts, or simply join us for tea, cake and chat

s a n c t u a r y

drop in café

Come along and be creative or just have tea and chat

Thursdays from 1.30pm to 3pm

Back at St Alkmund's from September 5th



St Alkmund's
Duffield Parish Church

THE BIBLE

The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament

The **Old Testament** starts from Creation and goes to just before Jesus was born. Christians believe that as the creator of the world, God has the right to say how human-kind should live and to judge how we live.

But the Bible teaches that—right from the very start of the Old Testament, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden (“the fall”)—humans have *sinned*—they have rebelled against God and his laws on how to live and they have replaced God with other gods—which might be money, power, status, possessions, or something else—seeking after and worshipping such things instead of God; worshipping that which is *created*, not the Creator. This is what the Bible calls sin.

In the Old Testament God speaks through Prophets (people chosen to bring God’s message) about how to live by his rules for human flourishing (including Moses, the Ten Commandments and other laws). But in their sin, humankind is unable to fully keep God’s laws.

Throughout the Old Testament, a Messiah/King is prophesied and promised—one who will come to save us from sin, so that people can be reconciled with God and have a restored relationship with Him....



...And the **New Testament** begins when God sends His Son Jesus to earth (fully God, fully man). Jesus comes to earth as a man, living a perfect sinless life; living among us for our benefit; coming to earth to save us, dying on the cross and rising to life again. At the cross, Jesus defeats sin and death, taking God’s just judgement on sin in our place, to save, rescue and restore us to God.



And as the Bible sets out, that’s the ‘good news’ of the Gospel. The Gospel is all about what God’s done for us through Jesus and His death and resurrection. The Gospel is about how God saves people from sin. Ephesians 2 verses 4 & 5 says: “*...God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together with Christ—by grace we have been saved...*”.

We all instinctively have an inherent sense of justice and the death of Jesus on the cross emphasises how much sin and judgement matters to God. The cross shows the lengths God had to go to deal with sin, in order that people can be reconciled with God and have a restored relationship with Him.

If you’d like to find out more about either the Bible, the Gospel or Jesus, then do join us at 4.30pm, either for our Christmas services, or anytime on a Sunday afternoon. We’d love to see you!

Caroline Walker

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

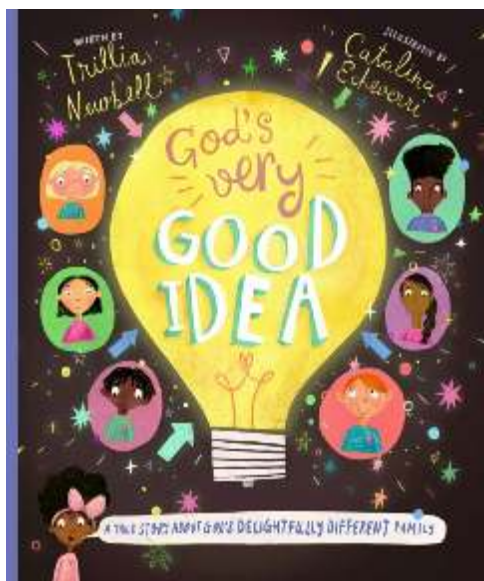


'God's Very Good Idea' by Trillia Newbell

A delightful book to read with children or grandchildren, that tells the true story of God's delightfully different family and his very good idea to make people in the first place. People of all sorts made to reflect what God is like. We see how it started well and then—spoiler alert—people ruined God's idea and chose not to love him. We see the results of that and our need to say sorry to God and how we all need forgiveness.

Then we read about God's plan to rescue his very good idea. We are introduced to Jesus and find out how the man born as a baby at Christmas did just that. But you need to read the book to find out exactly what Jesus did and how important it was. Then we find out how God will finish his very good idea and how we can even enjoy being part of it now.

A gentle introduction to a crucial topic, this book is also beautifully illustrated by Catalina Echeverri.



I only eat on Sundays

Diets. There are so many we can choose from. In one sense we may be more health conscious than our parents, but we clearly aren't any healthier through modern diet plans. Or is it that the diet plans aren't really used properly, or they don't work? Apparently, obesity remains at about 26% in the UK. That's roughly someone in every household! And Christmas is nearly on us with yet more eating (and temptation to eat).



I confess I really don't understand diets where you fast on some days and eat 'normally' in between. Surely, it would be better to face the real issue: is it eating the wrong things, or eating too much? I heard a joke once about a man with a donkey and the feeding cost was too high. So, he cut down how much the donkey was being fed—OK. Then he cut back a few more times because it looked like it was working. But telling the whole history he said, "I'd just got it down to nothing when my donkey died!" I suspect it's a better joke when told properly.

But it takes me to the heading on this article. How much do we "feed" our spiritual self?

Quite possibly you only get fed spiritually once each week when you go to church—you eat only on Sundays. Why don't you feed every day? You could use the principles and facts gleaned on Sundays to read the Bible and pray during the week.

However, many of us don't even "feed" once a week. No wonder we don't see a "plate of spiritual food" as appetising. It might seem like a remote indigenous person's diet of grubs and worms: it isn't food we are familiar with. But just like going on a holiday abroad and tasting what's offered, try coming to St. Paul's on a Sunday afternoon and "taste" our spiritual food. It's not "grubs and worms"! The Old Testament Prophet Jeremiah described God's word in this way: "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)



So come, eat, enjoy and delight with us in God's word on Sunday afternoons. See you on Sunday!

Richard Nicholson

Youth and Children in Little Eaton and Duffield



St Paul's
Little Eaton Church



St Alkmund's
Duffield Parish Church

AUTUMN - WINTER 2024



James Munro



Adam O'Dowd



Our Children & Youth Workers

Here at St Alkmund's and St Paul's, we have lively and welcoming groups of young people exploring the Bible and Christian life together. Everyone is invited and questions are warmly encouraged. Here's what's happening across the benefice:

SPARKS



St Alkmund's Children's Church | Sunday 10am service | Age 3-11

After Summer if you're between the ages of 3-11, come along and join us at Sparks, as this term we look at who Jesus is and what he we here to do. We meet every Sunday 10:30am during the morning service in the hall for games, biscuits and story.

EXPLORERS



St Paul's Children's Church | Sunday 4.30pm service | Under 14s

Our church family in Little Eaton welcome you to our growing group for young people under 14 who are eager to learn more about the Bible and what it means for their own relationships with God.

We follow a whole church curriculum to encourage our youth to interact and share encouragements and challenges with our older church members who stay in the service. With lessons focused on Matthew, we look forward to exploring the topics raised in these passages with our regular enthusiasm, games, drama and of course bible discussion.

Family Events



Occasional events across the benefice | All welcome!

During a term we organise events to bring together Christians of any age, with the goal of evangelism and spending time as a church family. These events are a perfect opportunity to invite friends to a church event they might not normally come to.

This term we are excited to run our sequel evening to the wild quiz night called Pandemonium (Friday 15th Nov) as well as a hoping to run a monthly boardgame group, so please ask around as more details are to come...

SALT CAFE

St Alkmund's Church Hall | Sundays 6-7pm | School Years 7-13
Chat, pizza, and games called Taco Cat and Poetry for Neanderthals...
Salt Cafe is our friendly, open youth group, meeting in term time for games, big questions, and fast and furious ping-pong. Head home or stay afterwards for our relaxed and fantastic 7pm cafe-style service (45mins).
Email Adam to join our mailing list and find us on instagram
@alkmundsduffield

FUEL

St Alkmund's Church Youth | Sunday 10am | Year 7-9
Our younger youth also nip out during the sermon for our Bible time and big questions with our amazing leaders (and a terribly unhealthy breakfast). Come and see!

ASSEMBLIES

Primary School | Assemblies and Services

If you attend William Gilbert Primary, Little Eaton Primary or Duffield Meadows Primary we look forward to seeing you regularly as we learn from the books of Psalms and Proverbs.

Our assemblies offer a great chance for learning not just the narratives of the Bible but also developing an understanding of the biblical concepts. We also offer school RE lessons and larger school service talks throughout the year.



PATHFINDERS

Little Eaton Primary | BI-WEEKLY Wednesday Lunchtime Club

If you attend Little Eaton Primary, then Pathfinders might just be the group for you. This is a fortnightly lunchtime club on Wednesdays, where children can ask James questions and learn a little more about the Bible between games and chat. At Pathfinders, we open up The Jesus Storybook Bible to build a picture of the Bible's overall story.

If you're interested in joining us at Pathfinders, talk to James or come and try it out Wednesday lunchtimes.



For any additional information or any questions, please get in touch:

adam@stalkmundsduffield.co.uk

munro@stalkmundsduffield.co.uk



Cafe Church

at St Paul's Little Eaton

4.30 - 5.30pm
Every 1st Sunday

A casual service with refreshments
around tables in the church hall.
Everyone is welcome

Come for coffee
Stay for Jesus



Did you know you can now have
twice the fun?

TOTS

Thursday mornings, 10am - 12 noon in St Paul's hall
and also

Friday mornings, 10am - 12 noon in St Alkmund's hall

Everyone is welcome to come, play and chat, sing songs, make a
craft, make a mess, and drink good coffee!

The Christmas Cat and the Hollysaurus Nativity



“I t’s snowing!” cried Holly in great excitement on Sunday afternoon, as millions of snowflakes covered their garden in a glistening white blanket. Billy, their new rescue cat, squashed his nose up against the windowpane to see what all the fuss was about. “Do you think Billy’s ever seen the snow?” Holly asked her parents.

“There’s only one way to find out,” replied her mum, taking Billy into the garden. Within minutes, he was jumping up and down like a jack-in-the-box, trying to catch the snowflakes. When they settled on his coat, he started licking them off his tabby stripes. “Hey, Holly, how about a snowball fight?” asked Dad, taking aim at her back. Holly shrieked in delight. Billy raced back into the house and hid in the kitchen.

At school the next morning, Holly’s teacher, Mrs Thompson, spoke to the class. “Now, listen carefully, everyone,” she said. “We need to get our dinosaurs finished by tomorrow to make way for the Nativity play preparations.”

Holly had been working for weeks on the school dinosaur project. They had to draw and paint their favourite dinosaur onto a life-sized piece of thick cardboard. Each dinosaur model was to be attached to a display stand, bearing the FIRST NAME of the pupil who created it, next to the word SAURUS. Holly had agonised over which dinosaur to draw. She loved the giant, plant-eating Brachiosaurus with its long, slender neck. She also loved the peaceful Stegosaurus with the pretty plates along its back. In the end, she chose the famously fearsome, meat-eating Tyrannosaurus Rex that stood 21 feet at full height. Holly proudly added the name ‘Hollysaurus’ to her artwork.

➤ By Thursday afternoon, the school caretaker had built a large stable with a crib on the stage in the main hall. He placed a wooden figure of Baby Jesus in the crib and covered the floor with straw. Mrs Thompson painted some sheep and cattle onto display screens around the crib. The Nativity scene was ready, and rehearsals began in earnest.

On Friday lunchtime, Holly asked Mrs Thompson a question. "Please Miss, can my dinosaur stand by the crib to welcome the Baby Jesus during the Nativity play next week?"

"Holly, that's a unique idea, but we have to maintain the story as it's been told for generations and use the traditional props," explained Mrs Thompson.

Holly's heart sank. "But God created my dinosaur as well," said Holly.

"Well, I fully respect your wish to be inclusive, Holly, so I'll ask our head teacher, Mrs Oliver, for her permission."

* * *

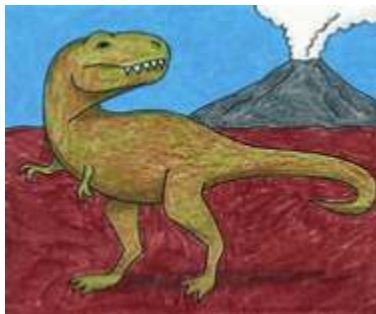
"What's that, Mum?" asked Holly, pointing at a big red buggy in the hallway.

"It's for Billy, sweetheart. He's coming to your Nativity rehearsal on Tuesday afternoon. It's time he started enjoying life. The buggy will keep him safe."

"Oh wow! That's a great idea," said Holly. "Now my teachers can meet him!"

The rehearsal came round quickly, and the parents began to take their seats in the school hall. Holly beamed with pride as she spotted her Hollysaurus in front of the crib. She beamed even more when her teachers made a big fuss of Billy. A little boy in the audience hung around the buggy as the play started. He nudged the zip open so he could stroke the tabby cat. This panicked Billy. He burst out of the buggy and raced across the stage, knocking the Hollysaurus and the other animals to the floor. All the children stopped singing. Mrs Thompson, the Three Wise Men and the shepherds tried to catch Billy. Mary and Joseph started to giggle. Confusion reigned.

The next day, Holly's parents phoned the school and apologised for the commotion. They persuaded their daughter to still take part in the Nativity performances at the end of the week. Billy stayed safely at home. The audience erupted in laughter and applause when they saw the Hollysaurus beside the crib. Everyone recognised the importance of including animals, past and present, and the joy that the dinosaur had brought to the Nativity celebration.



Sue Vickers

‘Why do we do what we do?’

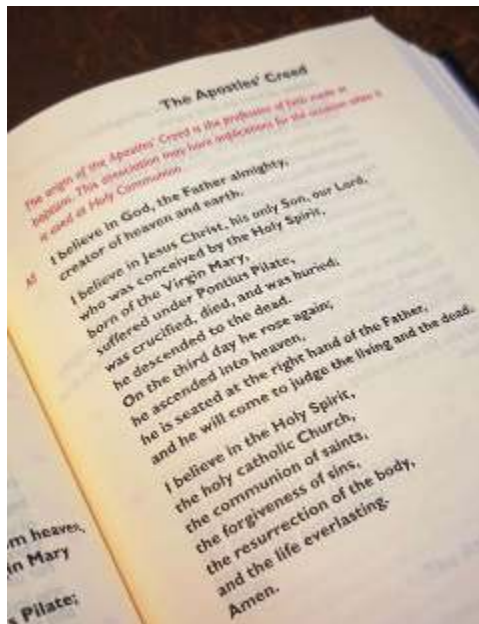
Why are the Creeds regularly said in church?

Part 1

In this periodic series of articles, we’ve previously thought about why Christians go to church, and last time we thought about singing hymns and songs at church. This time, we’re considering the *Creeds*, which are something we regularly say during our services, and this article seeks to explain why they’re regularly said at church.

Various versions of the Creed may be used in a church service; the **Apostles’ Creed**, which emerged by the early 4th Century, and which we’ll examine key aspects of in this article, can be described as the ‘short version’. The Apostles’ Creed reads as follows:

“I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.”



The Apostles’ Creed helpfully articulates and summarises what the Bible teaches and covers key aspects of the Christian faith and what Christians believe. If we look in detail at the above words of the Apostles’ Creed, we can see that it is structured around the *Trinity*.

The *Trinity* is the foundational Christian belief that God is one Being who exists in three Persons (God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit) and the Apostles’ Creed sets out each of the three aspects of the Trinity, beginning with God the Father and ➤

➤ Creation: “...***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth...***”.

The Apostles’ Creed then moves on to consider God the Son: “...***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...***”, clearly stating that the Lord Jesus is both fully God AND fully human; highlighting both Jesus’s *divinity* and His *humanity*; ‘God become Man’.

The Apostles’ Creed next covers the subject of *redemption*, which is absolutely central to the Christian faith. The Creed sets out how Jesus came to earth to save us, dying on the cross in our place for *sin*, for all the wrong things humankind does; Jesus: “...***suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead...***”.

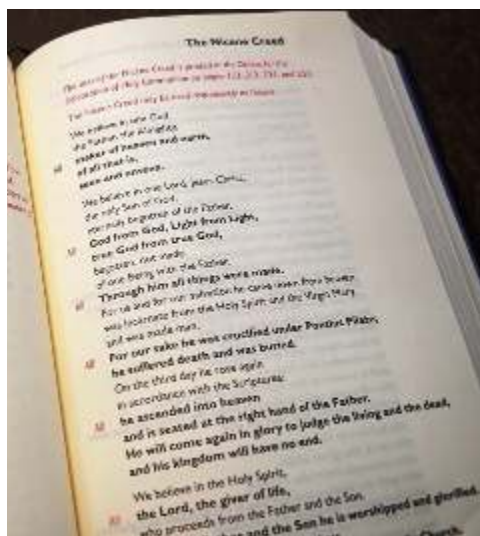
Having defeated sin and death at the cross, Jesus rose again and ascended to heaven, but as the Creed next explains, Jesus will one day return at the end of time: “...***On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead...***”.

In its closing lines, the Apostles’ Creed highlights (as the Apostle Paul sets out in detail in the Bible in chapter 15 of the book of I Corinthians) the central ‘salvation hope’ of the Christian faith: “...***the forgiveness of sins, the***

resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting...”—the fact that because Jesus was *resurrected*—because Jesus was raised from death to life, so too will all those who believe and trust in the Lord Jesus and what He has done to save us from sin also be raised to everlasting life with God.

I hope that this article helps to briefly explain another aspect of ‘*why we do what we do*’ at church; why we frequently say the Creed together as a helpful and useful summary of the key tenets of the Christian faith.

Next time, we’ll consider the *Nicene Creed*, a ‘longer’ version. But if you’ve



got any questions in the meantime, or would like to find out more, then why not pop along to one of our services? You will be most welcome to join us!

James Rollin

Festive Ring Cake

For this recipe you will ideally require a 3-pint ring mould and a piping bag with a medium sized nozzle. The finished ring can be decorated with red ribbon.

Cake ingredients

6oz / 170 g caster sugar
Grated rind and juice of 1 orange
8oz/227g cranberries
12oz/340g self raising flour
8oz/227g pitted and chopped dates
1 oz/28g chopped walnuts
2 eggs
5 fl oz/ 142g natural yoghurt
4oz/ 113g of margarine or butter melted

Icing ingredients

4oz/ 113g icing sugar sieved
3–4 tsp water



Method

- 1** Mix together in a pan 2oz/56g of the caster sugar and the grated orange and juice. Bring to the boil then add cranberries and simmer gently for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.
- 2** Meanwhile, stir together the flour and rest of the sugar. Add the dates and nuts and then the cooled syrup. Combine the eggs, yoghurt and melted butter and add to the flour mixture. Mix well and turn the batter onto a greased tin/ring mould.
- 3** Bake in the oven at Gas mark 4 or 180C/350F for approx 1.5 hours.
- 4** Mix together the icing, and drizzle or pipe over the cake.

Kathryn Barber

A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

What is the perfect Christmas?

**For many, the perfect Christmas
is celebrating with family and friends
amidst a spectacle of sparkling decorations,
and the finest wine and food.
An array of presents lying under the tree
complete the happy mood.**

**For some, the perfect Christmas
is embracing a way of escape
to destinations near and far.
Leaving the hustle and bustle behind,
enjoying a relaxing break
at each congenial place they find.**

**But surely the perfect Christmas
isn't just about holidays, parties,
festive decorations, delicious food,
and presents big and small.
Because if we don't make time for Jesus,
then how can it be Christmas at all.**

**Anne Palmer
(Local Poet)**



St Paul's Little Eaton Church

Vicarage Lane, Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5EA

You are very welcome to join us for our 4.30pm afternoon services, either in the church building, or alternatively online, via our Benefice YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedBeneficeofDuffieldLittleEaton>

Contact St Paul's at:

admin@littleeatonchurch.co.uk

www.littleeatonchurch.co.uk



St Paul's Church Little Eaton



[Linkedin.com/company/st-pauls-little-eaton](https://www.linkedin.com/company/st-pauls-little-eaton)



[@LEatonChurch](https://twitter.com/LEatonChurch)

If you don't regularly receive a copy of this magazine and would like to, please contact the church office and we can add you to the distribution list.