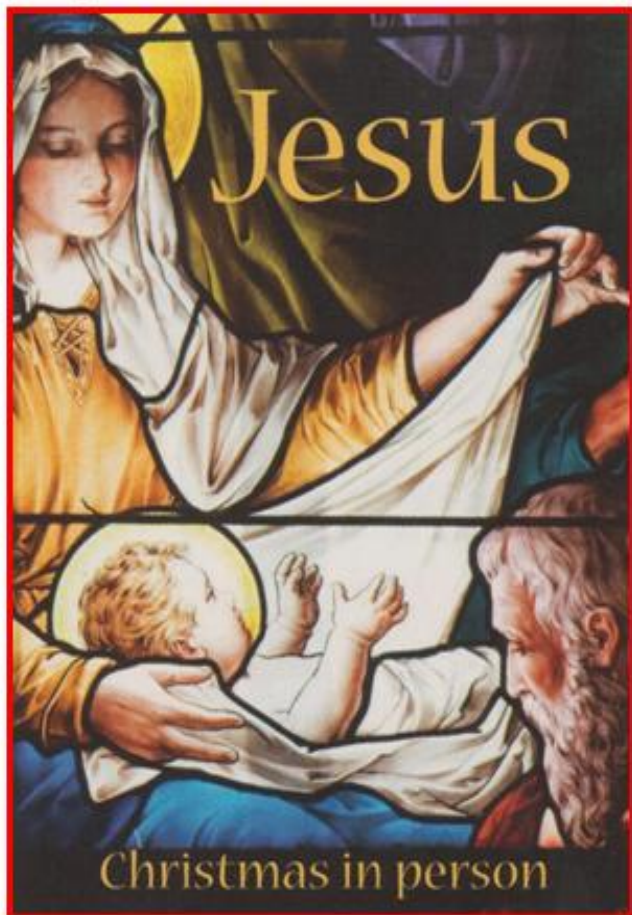


# Peter Tidings

The magazine of the Parish Church of St Peter, Burnley



50p



December 2011  
& January 2012

## *The Rector Writes...* December 2011

*'Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat...' The trouble is that Christmas has been coming since about September.*

*The shops seem to get their seasonal goods in earlier and earlier each year - I suppose it's an attempt by one store to steal a march on their rivals, but, in fact, they're all at it*



*But before Christmas is the season of Advent, which has all but been swallowed up by the Christmas rush.*

*The Advent season is a kind of paradox. In the Middle Ages the Church kept Advent as a time of great solemnity, with fasting and penitence.*

*It was a time in which to meditate upon the ultimate issues of death, judgement, hell and heaven.*

*But it was also a time of great rejoicing. For Christ would come, not only as Judge, but also as Saviour, and would usher in the Kingdom of God.*

*Advent, therefore, provided a vivid preparation for the joys of Christmas that were to come and which were eagerly awaited.*

*And when Christmas comes, what joy there will be. Christmas is the second most important Festival of the Christian Church, but the one which evokes the most emotion - and sentimentality.*

*Already, in many homes the process has begun of buying presents, writing cards, baking cakes, and so on.*

*All to celebrate the Birth of a Baby - and what a Baby! Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, come down to earth to live and to die for you and for me.*

*It has been my joy, several times, to stand in the crypt of the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem, at the spot where, by tradition, Jesus was born.*



*Whether or not it is the actual place really doesn't matter that much. For many centuries the huge church has stood over the cave and millions of pilgrims have come to worship and remember that Jesus was born of a simple maiden, who was chosen by God for that purpose, and honoured by generations of Christian people ever since, throughout the world.*

*To have been there has made the Nativity very real for me, as a believer, and I have to admit I always get very choked up when I kneel to pray in that dim, dark, underground cavern, with its walls smoke-blackened from centuries of candle flames, and redolent of the prayers of millions of devout pilgrims who have been there before me.*

*Christmas speaks too about shepherds and Wise Men, and the angels who heralded the Holy Birth.*

*One of my great privileges on pilgrimage is to celebrate the Eucharist at the Shepherds' Fields, just outside Bethlehem, when we use the collect and readings for Christmas, and sing carols, no matter what time of the year it is! It is a beautiful experience at any time.*



*Thanks to the vagaries of our calendar, the memorial of the Coming of the Wise Men happens just after New Year, on 6th January, the Feast of the Epiphany.*

*'Epiphany' is from a Greek word that means 'showing' or 'revelation' - and indicates the time that the Infant King, the Redeemer of the world, was shown and revealed to those Magi, who had travelled so far to*

*greet him and present their precious gifts.*

*The Birth of Jesus marked a new beginning for the world and for the human race, a turning point in the history of the earth.*

*New Year also marks a new beginning in so many ways, and no-one knows what lies ahead as the year begins.*

*For some, 2012 will be a happy year, with successes and joys and many pleasures to remember later.*

*For others, however, it will be a year of sorrow and sadness, or failure and loss. I'm not being gloomy, only truthful.*

*I know which of the two options, however, I wish for you and yours. May 2012 be your best year ever.*

*But above all things, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and New Year offer opportunities to praise God for his on-going love and goodness. There is a wide variety of services available in your church - please try to make it a priority to attend as many as possible.*

*Our love and blessings to you and yours for a very Happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.*

*Tow and Kath*

# The Events Committee

A very big thank you from the Events Committee for all your support and help over the last twelve months, and especially to everyone who helped at, or who came to, our Christmas Market on 19th November. We raised £1961 on the day and the total has now reached £2014, more than we have ever raised before. Well done to you all!

The Festival of Christmas Trees, Cribs and Angels is our major event this month - full details on another page. Please encourage your friends and families to support the event and make it our "best event ever".

Our next meeting, on Tuesday 10th January at 7.30pm in the Rectory, is when we will be planning the events and dates for 2012. Please come along and help us to organise some *different* events - your expertise is needed.

A date for next year: Monday 13th February, 7 for 7.30pm - Fashion Show and Sale in St Peter's Church by SD Fashion Show Co, Ltd. Tickets £4 from Kath Bill.

All Good Wishes and Every Blessing for a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Good New Year.



We were sad and sorry to learn of the death of one of our members, Mrs Elsie Pelling, and we extend to Gordon and the family our sincere sympathy.

Our last meeting for 2011 was on Wednesday 30th November, when Sue Hughes helped us to embroider beautiful Christmas cards. We thank Sue for sharing her talents and time with us. We discovered how hard it was even to thread a very fine needle, but most of us were well pleased with the results.

No meeting in December; we next meet on Wednesday 25th January for our Annual General Meeting, preceded by a service of Holy Communion at 2.00pm. Our MU subs of £18 are due at the end of January and can be handed to our Treasurer, Peter Pike, when convenient. At the time of writing this report, Peter is in hospital: we extend warm wishes to him for a speedy recovery.

St Stephen's MU have invited us to join them for their pre-Christmas Buffet in the Community Room of St Stephen's Church on Tuesday 13th December, at 2.00pm, as part of their regular meeting. Please ring Barbara Harworth on 01282 456979 if you would like to attend.

*Kath Bill, Branch Secretary*



## Flower Guild



We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday 23rd December, from 10.00am onwards.

Gifts of greenery would be very much appreciated, also offers of help. Just come along on the day to help us make St Peter's look beautiful for Christmas.

## Bible Reading Fellowship

Bible Reading Fellowship Notes are available from Kath Bill from January to April 2012. They cost £3.90. Please consider taking them - it is a really good way of a daily focus on the Word of God.



## The Children's Society

The annual Christingle Service in aid of The Children's Society will take place on Sunday 11th December at 10.30am. Please give it your support.

Sunday 18th December  
at 4.00pm



### 'CAROLS FOR BURNLEY'



A Christmas Carol Service for the  
Parish and the Town.

*This is your parish Carol Service  
for Christmas. Please come and  
support it, and welcome your fellow  
-citizens!*



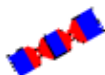
### Christmas Crackers

\* Three young children were playing the parts of the Wise Men in the school Nativity play. They came to Mary and Joseph at the manger and said:

Magi 1: *Here, this is gold.*

Magi 2: *This is more.*

Magi 3: *And Frank sent this.*



\* What if the Wise Men had been Wise Women? Well, they would have asked for directions and arrived on time, helped to deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, brought a casserole, and given the child much more practical gifts!



\* Good King Wenceslas rings a pizza takeaway to order his usual. "Certainly, your Majesty", says the Manager, "deep pan, crisp and even?"



# The 100 Club

The winner of the November monthly draw was Mrs Brenda Rochester. The weekly lucky winners were Mr Jim Francis, Mr Eddie Fildes, Mrs Maple Derham, and Mrs Di Holden.

## Thursday Lunch Club



We were saddened by the news of Geoff Law's death at our meeting on 1st December, and extend to his family our love and sympathy. Geoff will be sadly missed by us all.

Our Christmas Lunch is on Thursday 15th, at 12 noon for 12.30. if you have not booked, please do so as a matter of urgency.

We start up again on Thursday 5th January and then meet again on the 19th. The charge is £4 for a two course meal, with drinks on arrival and after the meal - very good value.

All Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Kath Bill (on behalf of) Andrée Eastwood, Edna Dawson, Di Holden, Ethel Jessop & Cynthia Bramley.

## Charity News

The Charities Committee met recently and allocated some gifts and donations to a number of causes, namely:

Water Aid	£500
St Peter, Zamdela	£250
Friends of Sikinga	£250
Save the Children	£300
Burnley Blind Society	£150
Burnley Deaf Society	£150
Sightsavers	£200
IMC (In Ministry to Children)	£200



### Friends of St Peter's

The Friends had a stall at the Christmas Market on November 19<sup>th</sup>, which was Teddy Bear's Pick-a-Stick, which made £123. This stall was run by Barbara Murray and Stephen Holt, whom we thank for all the hard work involved. Friends will be receiving their end of year letter very soon, with all our dates for next year. I hope you have by now bought your diary for 2012.

## Services and Readings in January 2012

1st Naming & Circumcision of Jesus	8.00am 10.30am  6.00pm	Holy Communion (B,CP) Sung Eucharist (DK,SD)  Choral Evensong - cancelled	Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	CP
4th	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion Midweek with God		
8th Epiphany Sunday	8.00am 10.30am  6.00pm	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist (AB, CP)  Choral Evensong	Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 Isaiah 42:1-9 Ephesians 2:1-10	PP AR
11th	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion Midweek with God		
15th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	8.00am 10.30am  4.00pm	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist (HS, KB)  Choral Evensong	Revelation 5:1-10 John 1:43-51 Isaiah 60:9-22 Hebrews 6:17 - 7:10	AB DS
18th	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion Midweek with God		
22nd 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	8.00am 10.30am  6.00pm	Holy Communion Family Service  Choral Evensong	To be arranged  Jeremiah 3:21 - 4:2 Matthew 4:12-23	PL
25th	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion Midweek with God		
29th Presentation of Christ in the Temple	8.00am 10.30am  6.00pm	Holy Communion (B,CP) Family Eucharist (SD, AB)  Choral Evensong	Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40 Haggai 2:1-9 John 2:18-22	JAM CS

# Children's Page

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and New Year are all covered by this issue of your Page. The Wordsearch contains words to do with all of these events, so see how many you can find from the list. They can go up, down, forwards, backwards or diagonally. But beware - there is one word in the list which is not in the grid. What is it?

X	B	J	P	V	E	W	I	S	E	M	E	N
S	E	I	T	R	A	P	F	J	Q	R	C	A
U	T	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	S	A	T
F	H	X	P	M	Y	R	R	H	A	H	T	I
B	L	J	O	S	E	P	H	M	N	E	T	V
S	E	A	D	V	E	N	T	A	G	P	L	I
C	H	R	X	T	Y	S	B	R	E	H	E	T
V	E	A	J	P	I	M	D	Y	L	E	S	Y
S	M	N	E	R	U	D	L	K	S	R	H	P
U	Z	T	H	F	G	H	O	R	A	D	E	K
S	P	C	O	M	I	N	G	H	U	S	D	J
E	Q	X	S	D	N	R	A	E	Y	W	E	N
J	O	Y	T	O	Y	N	A	H	P	I	P	E

Advent  
Coming  
Christmas  
Nativity  
Jesus  
Bethlehem  
Mary  
Joseph  
Shepherds  
Wise Men  
Epiphany  
Presents  
New Year  
Gold  
Frankincense  
Myrrh  
Parties  
Angels  
Joy  
Cattle shed



*Colour the Tree -  
ready for  
Christmas*



Are you going to make a  
New Year Resoution?  
Write it here:

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The angels in heaven sang when Jesus was born.  
What was the name of the place where was he born?

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What was unusual about the place of his Birth?

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Who were the first people to visit Jesus?

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Later, others came. Who? \_\_\_\_\_

What gifts did they bring to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do **YOU** want for Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_

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