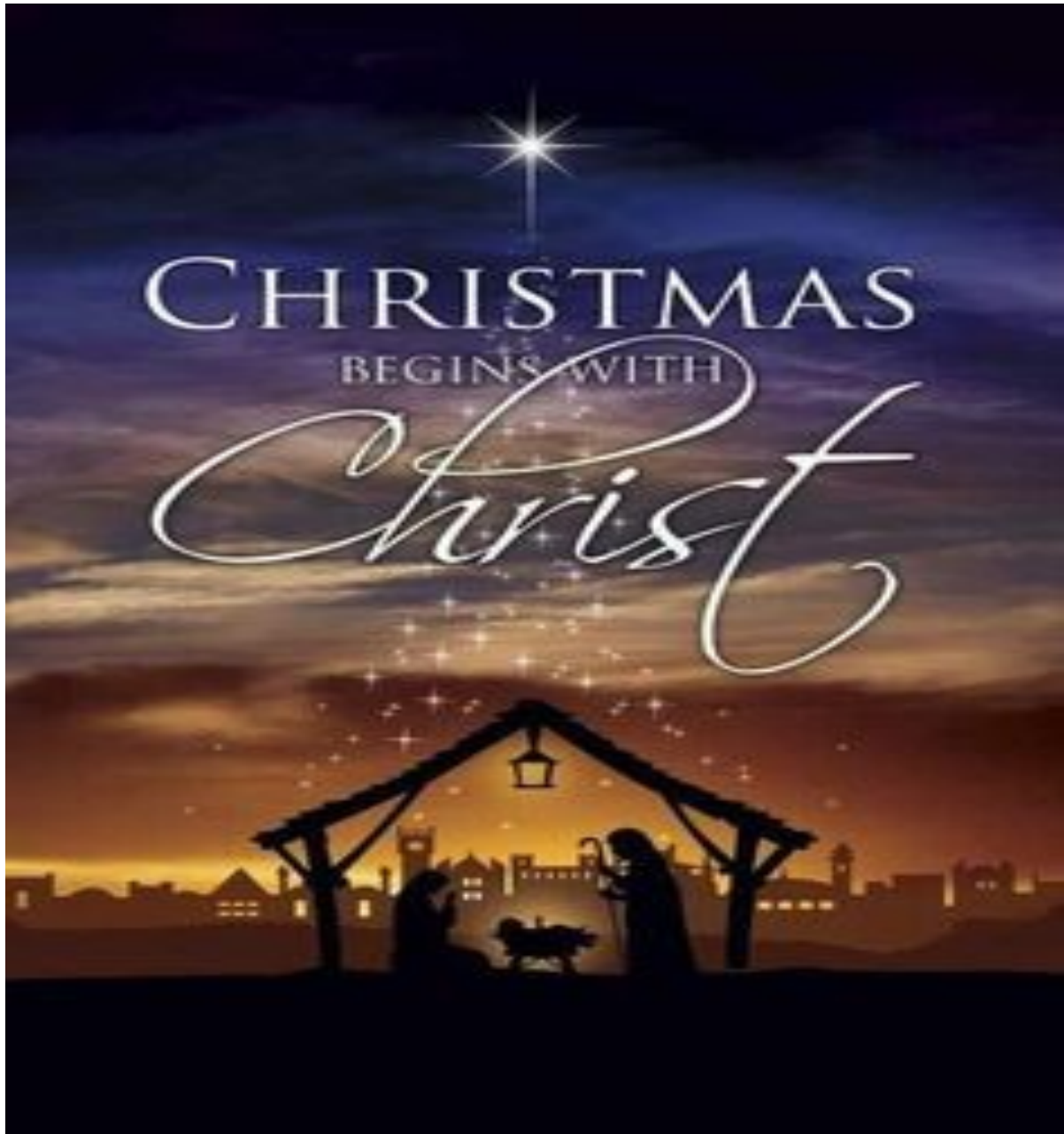


Chell Parish Churches

Building a Community in Christ



Fellowship of Faith

December 2016

Price 20p



Dear Friends,

It's that time of year when the Christmas Advertisements come on our TVs. Have you ever played the game where you try to find a link between what's being portrayed and the Biblical account of the birth of the Saviour of the World? Last year John Lewis Company raised awareness of Alzheimer's disease in the use of their advertisement. It did at least touch on issues of compassion.

However, try as I might I cannot find any link between 2 foxes, a badger, a squirrel, a hedgehog and a dog bouncing on a garden trampoline and the Christmas narrative.

John Lewis are not alone in their 'cutesy' approach to Christmas...Waitrose, for example, have an advertisement that finishes with 2 robins eating a mince pie. And so they roll on...

Please don't misunderstand me; I am no Scrooge shouting 'Humbug' at the TV. What does concern me is that the emphasis by the advertisers on seemingly anything or anyone but Jesus, can make it seem that the birth of Jesus is but a fringe aspect of Christmas, when in fact, to coin the phrase from numerous Christian Posters, **'He is the Reason for the Season'**.

It seems fairly obvious that we cannot rely on most mainstream advertisers to convey the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.

There are some who do a Christian version of some of the ads; if you have access to the internet, perhaps a take a look at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoxTF_31yyE which was a re-make of last year's John Lewis Christmas Ad by Dan Rackham.

Yet if we focus just on Christmas, we miss out Advent – the pre-Christmas season when we are called to reflect on our relationship with God. It is a time for self examination when we are called upon to do two things; to be ready to celebrate again the birth of Jesus and at the same time to prepare ourselves for Jesus' 2nd Coming.

Advent is the time when we have to honestly ask of ourselves, *'Am I ready to meet Jesus? Am I ready in heart and soul to come face to face with my Saviour?'*

All who met Jesus that first Christmas acknowledged Jesus as the Saviour of all and their personal Saviour.

So get personal with Jesus this Advent, like the characters in Luke's and Matthew's Gospels, accept Jesus what for you may be first time or it may be a renewal of your relationship with Jesus; then come Christmas you'll be celebrating and praising with the angelic choirs (cf Luke 2: 13 & 14).

Every blessing for Advent and Christmas 2016
Rev Chris

From the Registers
Funerals

3rd November 2016

Prayers with Family and Friends of

Sid Hill

Age 85

Chell Parish
Christmas Fayre

Saturday 10th December
at
Church of the Saviour

If you are able to donate any items
it would be much appreciated.

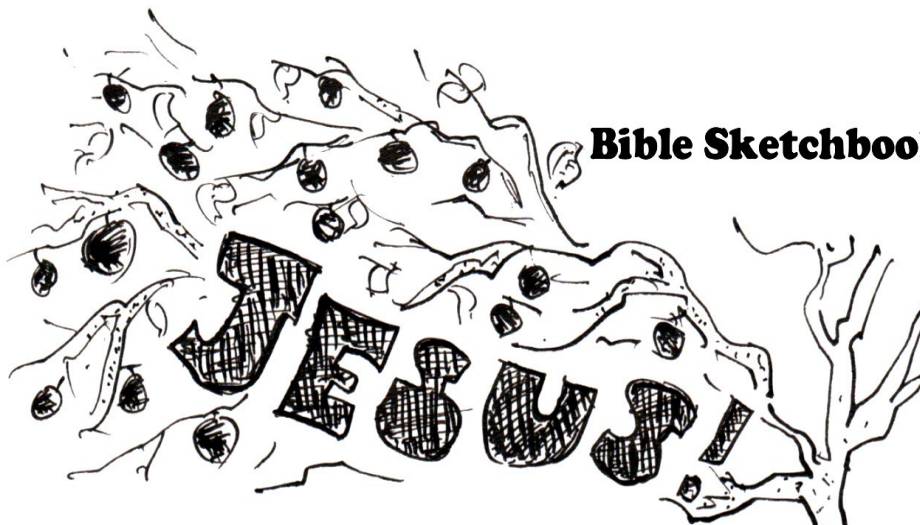
Tombola items
Toys/games
Christmas gifts

X Many thanks Becky x



The Church office at St Michael's is open from 9.30am to 12.30pm
on Mondays and Thursdays for enquiries.

Telephone 01782 839198



4,000 years and still going strong!

Do you realise the Christmas idea goes back at least 4,000 years? OK - we all know it was 2,000 years ago Jesus was born. But it was 4,000 years ago God promised his ancestor Abraham he would have as many children as stars in the sky!

Then 3,000 years ago one of his descendants, Jesse, was promised that from the **stump** of his life a new **shoot** would emerge, who would become a great king. First of all one of Jesse's sons, David, was anointed king. But the greatest king of all came 1,000 years later. This was Jesus - a direct descendant on his mother's side and fathered by the Holy Spirit! He was a **branch** of that original shoot, who would be beautiful, glorious, bearing masses of fruit, King of Kings for all people, everywhere, for ever! And he's still going strong!

Food for thought and celebration! Read more in Isaiah 11:1; Romans 15:12; Revelation 5:5



Feed the Parish

Can you help a family in need in Our Parish this Christmas?

As most of you will be aware last Christmas Chell Parish delivered Eight Christmas food parcels and toys to families, in need, within our Parish. We will be doing the same thing again this Christmas and need your help.

Join us in the 'Countdown to Christmas' appeal

How does it work ?

Each day in the run up to Christmas, if you are able, put one of the items listed below into a bag or box. On Sunday 18th December bring your donated items to St Michael's Church where they will be sorted and distributed across our Parish.

Lets make Christmas 2016 special for everyone

Donation Ideas

Tinned meat or fish
Long life Milk
Tinned fruit/puddings/vegetables
Instant potato powder or tinned potatoes
Tea/coffee/squash/long life juice
Child's selection box/chocolate coins
Cereal/crisps/savoury snacks/sweets
Cakes/biscuits/jelly

Many thanks in advance for your support

If you would like to help pack or deliver Christmas Hampers we will be packing them at St Michael's Church on Tuesday 20th Dec from 11am—for more information please contact me

Becky x

Church of the Saviour, Chell Heath

Christmas Fayre

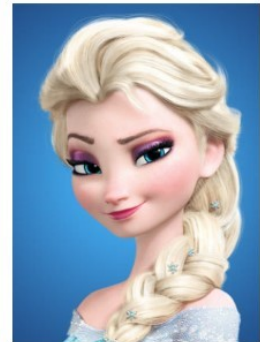
Saturday 10th December 2016

12noon - 3pm



Visit Santa

Meet Elsa



Craft Stalls



Tombola

Light refreshments

Christmas gift and toys



Face painting

Children's entertainment



Free entry

St Michael & All Angels Church, Chell , Stoke on Trent ST6 6JT



Messy Play

Food fun

Family Dinner Time

Nativity story

Tree decorations

Carols

Christmas Crafts

Friday 9th December 2016 - 3.30-5pm

St Michael's Church

All Children are to be accompanied by an adult
£ donations welcome



Find us on
Facebook

Young disciples-chell parish

MY CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
I want to thank You for the Christmas tree,
That reminds me of Your love for me.
And under the tree, gifts with ribbons curled,
Remind me Jesus is Your gift to the world.
The colors of Christmas are so bright,
Red, green, blue, yellow, and white.
They tell me about the birth of the King,
Of joy and life that He would bring.
The meaning of Christmas is not just fun,
But Your gift Father—Your precious Son.
Through Him we see Your tender care,
This gift of Jesus nothing can compare.
Father help me this Christmas to see
All that you have done for me.
May all the symbols remind me of You,
And all that Jesus came to do.
Amen.



Christmas Day Dinner

For the Homeless and the one's in need

Church of the Saviour, Chell Heath ST6 6HZ

Meal will be served at 12.30pm

The day will be packed with fun and games with a buffet tea at 6pm.

If you would like to reserve a place please book to avoid disappointment.

Contact: Jeannette 07783145034 - 07507999850

Christmas Messy Church

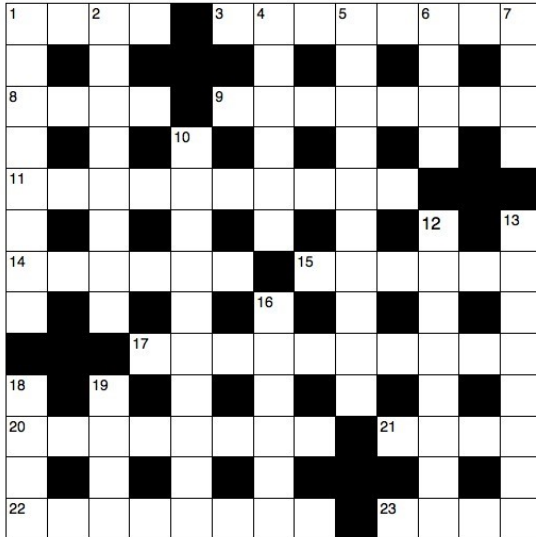
Help Needed at Christmas Messy Church. If you can spare some time to help with food, craft tables or to chat to families then please come along. If you would like more information please speak to Becky or one of the Messy Church team.



Chell Parish Christmas Fayre

Help Needed at the Christmas Fayre. If you could spare some time to help decorate the Grotto or help on the day please let me know. Donations to the stalls can be given in at St Michael's Church at the Café on Wednesday's or contact me to arrange collection. Many thanks Becky x

The Crossword



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

LAST MONTHS ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysoprase.

DOWN: 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.

Sudoku

	9	8		2	4			
		3	5		9			
2			6			7		
1	6	2				3		4
9	7						6	2
3		4				9	5	7
		6			7			5
			2		1	4		
			4	3		8	7	

December 2016 Parish Services

<p>Church of the Saviour 4th December 11am Joint service at St Michael's</p> <p>Christingle Service 3pm</p>	<p>St Michaels 4th December 11 am Advent 2 Holy Communion Romans 15 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12 Leader: Rev Chris Preacher: Rev Chris Prayers: Reader: Cliff</p>
<p>11th December 10.30am Advent 3 Morning Worship James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11 Leader: Rev Chris Preacher: Rev Chris Prayers: Ian Reader: Wendy</p> <p>Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm</p>	<p>11th December 11am Advent 3 Morning Worship James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11 Leader: Marcia Preacher: Mike Prayers: Norma Reader: Marie</p>
<p>18th December 10.30am Advent 4 Holy Communion Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18 to end Leader: Rev Chris Preacher: Rev Chris Prayers: Reader:</p>	<p>18th December 11am Advent 4 Holy Communion Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18 to end Leader: Robert Preacher: Robert Prayers: Marg J Reader: Maureen</p>
	<p>18th December 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight</p>
<p>24th December 11.30pm</p> <p>Christmas Eve Holy Communion Joint Service at St Michael's</p>	<p>24th December 11.30pm</p> <p>Christmas Eve Holy Communion</p>
<p>25th December 10.30am Christmas Day Family Service Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14 Leader: Rev Chris Preacher: Rev Chris Prayers: Reader: Kay</p>	<p>25th December 10.30am Christmas Day Family Service Joint Service at Church of the Saviour</p>

IF YOU REALLY LOVE JESUS
YOUR LIFE WILL SHOW IT.