

Miracle and Mystery by Heather Pencavel



God
you could have come with miracle and magic,
in a flash of light, in a hurricane of judgement,
so that the earth shook, and the universe trembled
.....but you chose to come in a baby's newborn cry,
you chose to make your coming known
to working men on a cold hillside,
to wandering scholars,
to an innkeeper,
and to the beasts of the field.

Because you came, a baby born to a young girl,
you brought miracle and mystery into ordinary things,
and the whole of creation sings at your coming
and is blessed.

Thank you for the Yorkie bars

'Thank you so much for the abundance of Yorkie Bars. Your generosity has been overwhelming. The residents of HMP Grendon & Springhill will feel remembered at Christmas and it also makes me feel very supported by you all in my prison work. Thank you as well for the socks you gave last year so generously that we didn't need any more for this year! Thank you so much. Have a lovely Christmas, with grateful thanks'

Sue (Revd Sue Smith)

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Happy Christmas to all our readers from the Pewsheets Team!!

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 22nd December

Notices for the week



Our church is a member of the Wychert Vale family of churches

4th SUNDAY of ADVENT



10:30am

FAMILY WORSHIP

led by Richard Smith

4:00pm

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR

led by Revd Phil Groves



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



24th Dec

4:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

for all the family – you are welcome to come dressed as any character from the nativity story.

Further details:

Jenny Hopcroft or Clare and Lee Buckingham

11:30pm

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

25th Dec

10:00am

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION at St Peter & St Paul DINTON

29th Dec

10:30am

MORNING WORSHIP

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Luke 1:39-55

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,
⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."



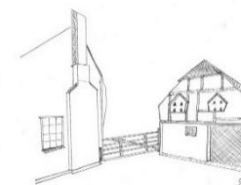
Everlasting God, we share today with Mary and Elizabeth their love and joy as the waiting for Jesus's birth nears its end. Quieten our hearts and lives so that we can hear your voice amongst the hustle and bustle of everyday life as Christmas approaches.

Amen

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Carols in the Courtyard

Did we let torrential rain stop us from having a wonderful and joyous evening eating, drinking and singing carols with friends and family? **No we did not!** As often is the case, Clive Corbould saved the day by providing a couple of gazebos as well as cooking up a storm on the griddle. Our multi-talented friend, Richard Smith provided the musical accompaniment.



And I've saved the best news for last. Our generous guests donated a total of £270 towards the Free Christmas Day Dinner hosted at St Mary's Church in Aylesbury. Thank you for everybody who donated and see you next year!

Best wishes, Terry, Clare and Pumpkin

(note from editor – **THANKYOU** to Terry and Clare for their generous hospitality. Was it raining? I don't think we noticed!)

Choir

Thankyou to our wonderful choir who will be lifting our worship in the Carol Service today. This doesn't just happen on the day, they have been practising hard for several weeks. Special thanks also go to Chris Ashbridge and to Richard Smith. The choir will be taking a well deserved break after today. Practices will resume in February, the exact date will be confirmed nearer the time.

Perhaps you have been thinking about joining the choir but haven't got around to it? if so your New Year resolution could be to ring Chris Ashbridge in January!

Tel no: 01296 748777

Church Decorating

A huge thank you to the team for decorating the church so beautifully ready for Christmas.

Thank you to **Gwen, Clare, Su H, Sue B, Shirley & Dee**, it is much appreciated by everyone in the church and shows off our beautiful building to visitors.

Thank you as well to **Aaron** (Village Tree Surgeons) for providing us with the Christmas tree once again this year. This is also very much appreciated and will bring enjoyment to everyone throughout the Christmas season of services.



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