

Christ Church Ramsbottom



Newsletter

JANUARY 2025

Church Services: Sundays 10.30am

5th Jan	Cafe Worship	Rev Stephen Crook
12th Jan		Susan Applegate
19th Jan	Covenant Service Holy Communion	Rev Stephen Crook
26th Jan		Rev Stephen Crook

Regular Weekly Church Activities

Tuesdays	Rammy Pantry	10am - 12pm
Tuesdays	Prayer Meeting (usually on Zoom)	7pm
Tuesdays	Explorers Restarts 7th January	5.45pm - 7pm
Wednesdays	Little Stars Restarts 8th January	9.30 - 11.30am
Thursdays	Drop-In Cafe Plus Soup & Roll from 12 Restarts 9th January	10am - 12.30pm
Thursdays	Rammy Pantry	10am - 12pm

Dates & Events

7th Jan 7.15pm	Church Officers Meeting	@ Church
9th Jan 7pm	Monthly Bible Study	@ Church
18th Jan 9.30am	Circuit Prayer Meeting	Tbc



From our Minister Stephen Crook

Welcome to



As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we are reminded of God's eternal faithfulness and the hope He offers to all who trust in Him. The coming year is a fresh canvas, and though we do not know what lies ahead, we are assured of His presence with us every step of the way.

Scripture teaches us that **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"** (Hebrews 13:8). This truth is a foundation upon which we can confidently place our lives and we can trust that our unchanging God will provide, protect and guide us - through both good times and bad.

The Psalmist writes, **"The Lord will fulfil His purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever—do not abandon the works of Your hands"** (Psalm 138:8). No matter the challenges or changes we encounter, we are not abandoned. God's

purpose for our lives remains steadfast, and His love never fails.

As we begin this year, let us remember to walk in the light of His Word, to seek His wisdom in prayer, and to be vessels of His love to others. May our hearts be open to His leading, and our lives reflect the hope, peace, and joy that only He can provide.

As we leave behind the past, both its good times and bad, may we move forward with hope and determination, trusting that God has good plans for us this year.

With faith in His promises and eyes fixed on Jesus, we embrace 2025 with joy and anticipation. To God be the glory in all that we do, now and always.

Happy New Year!

Rev Stephen

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Acts

By Canon Paul Hardingham

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

Luke's aim is:

To present a history. Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

To give a defence. We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8-12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8-11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

To provide a guide. We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

Pray with your shoes

With the rush of Christmas almost over, we tumble into the New Year, sleep for a couple of days, take down the decorations and plod back to work, school or our normal routines. There's a pleasure about getting back to normality, but there's also the challenge of looking forward to what the year will bring.

Not all of us welcome this new year. For some of us, we know it will bring separations and loss: children growing up and growing away, moving away, family and friends moving on.

For some of us, it will bring extra work, new responsibilities, study for exams, looking after others. For others of us, we will have to start again; to learn to be on our own, perhaps through moving away or the loss of those we have lived with for many years and decades.

Just for this month, when you put on your shoes each morning, ask God to be with you in the day ahead. Ask Him to walk ahead of you, to be by your side and close behind you, to surround you with His presence. For it is His day that we are walking into and not ours. Let His will be done, and not ours.

And then, as you take your shoes off, see what you can thank God for from that day together. To help to remind you, why not leave a single shoe by the main door - that might get visitors asking too!

Praying with the Prayers of the Bible

by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, formerly of the Nazarene Theological College, Manchester



In this series we will be looking at 12 prayers found in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Some are prayers for personal circumstances, while others relate to family or church or nation. In studying all 12 prayers the emphasis will be on what we can learn about prayer and how we can be encouraged to pray more regularly, more fervently and more expectantly.

Praying about the Unknown Future: "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Genesis 15:2-3.

This is the Bible's first prayer. That doesn't mean that no one before Abraham had prayed, but this is the first time we have a record of someone praying to God.

We learn as early as Genesis 4 that "men began to call on the name of the Lord" (v.26) but it does not explicitly say that they prayed. We can hardly believe that godly men like Enoch and Noah never prayed. Enoch 'walked with God' and in his long pilgrimage of three hundred years of fellowship with God (Gen. 5:22) he must have prayed many times.

Even before Abraham's first prayer is mentioned we are told that God appeared to him, that he built an altar for sacrifice and worship and that he called on the name of the Lord (Gen. 12:7; 13:18). But now he faces a real crisis in his life.

When God first appeared to him, he had been promised that from his family a great nation would emerge (Gen. 12:1-3). Now

many years later he still has no children and custom dictates that his chief servant, Eliezer, will inherit everything. Has God forgotten him? Were all those promises of being a father just make believe or self-delusion?

So he cried to God, "What will you give me?" It was a desperate prayer from a desperate heart. What was God doing? Why had He not kept His promises? Had He forgotten? Was He not able to do what He had promised? We have all been where Abraham was when he prayed that prayer. We want to believe but *why is nothing happening?*

Then God answered! "Your own son shall be your heir" (v.4). This wonderful answer was sealed with a dramatic illustration. God directed Abraham to look up into the night sky. "Number the stars if you can," God said. "So shall your descendants be." Abraham would one day have as many offspring as the stars in the sky! Impossible? Incredible? Far-fetched?

But it happened! The next chapter records the birth of his son Ishmael, and two chapters later we read of the birth of Isaac, the son of promise. And history, both biblical and secular, confirms that the illustration from the stars was no exaggeration!

So, the Bible's first prayer helps us in several ways. First, when our hearts ache because of fear or doubt or uncertainty, take it to God in prayer. Second, God's delays are not denials. Third, with Abraham who 'believed the Lord' (v.6), let us trust quietly in our sovereign and gracious God.

At the Start of the Year

Canon Paul Hardingham

2025 is a year of Jubilee in the Roman Catholic Church, a year which takes place every 25 years. It's a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. This acts as a challenge for all of us:

How can we spend more time talking and listening to God through reading the Bible and prayer?

How can we grow our love for our family and friends?

How can we make more impact at work, by demonstrating an attractive faith to colleagues?

When Joshua led God's people to the banks of the Jordan, ready to cross over into the Promised Land, he said: *'you have never been this way before'* (Joshua 3:4). At the beginning of a New Year, when we don't know what the future holds, how can we grow in our relationship with God?

Keep our focus on God: The people were told to follow the Ark, symbolising God's presence, as they crossed the river. Let's keep our focus on God and His Word throughout this year and keep in step with where He is leading us.

Consecrate ourselves: Joshua said, *'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'* (3:5).

God has exciting opportunities ahead for us in this coming year! Let us dedicate our lives afresh to Him, as we let go of known sin and

keep our eyes open on seeing God at work in all of our lives.

Will 2025 be a good year for us? *'In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.'* Abraham Lincoln.

Reflecting Faith: Taking down the Christmas Tree Decorations

Last month we considered the decorations we put on our Christmas trees, both at home and in our churches.

Many churches keep their decorations - or at least their nativity scene - in place until Candlemas at the beginning of February, but most of us take our domestic ones down around Epiphany, on 6th January, when we recall the arrival of the Three Kings.

But how do we manage them for the rest of the year, after we have taken them down?

Our Christmas 'baubles' come in all colours, in matt and shiny, in all shapes and sizes. They can remind us of people, who also come in all shapes and sizes, colours and tones. Baubles are very fragile, like we are sometimes.

This year as you take down your decorations, have a good look at them and think about the care that you take to store them safely, so that they will not break.

How much more care do you take in looking after the people who make up your life? Your family, friends, neighbours, church, colleagues, local shop keepers, and so on?

It's quick and easy to pick up the decorations and just drop them in a box, but without some gentle care, will they be okay for next year?

It's too easy to pass folk by, and get on with what we are doing for ourselves, our own plans and goals; but aren't people worth more than that?

Who do we know that would greatly benefit if we gave them just a bit more time, a bit more consideration?

This month: Have a look at your decorations and see if any of them need a bit of refreshing, some TLC, (tender loving care), just as we all do.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 18th to 25th January

It is now 1,700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. Not many people know that.

Anyway - so what?

Because the Council of Nicaea, in 325, was the very first ecumenical council that the Christian Church ever held. A serious heresy had crept into the Eastern Church: Arianism, which taught that Jesus Christ was not divine, but only human.

To resolve the crisis, the Emperor Constantine called a council and summoned both the Western Church and the Eastern Church. Constantine knew that the Church had to get together and pull in the same

direction. They did, and out of that Council came the Nicene Creed.

Get together and pull in the same direction. That is a good description of what Christ's Church on earth should be doing. That is the hope of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

For 2025, the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity focuses on belief, in commemoration of the Council of Nicaea, held so long ago.

The Scripture passage chosen for the worship service is Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, as narrated in John 11:17-27. Jesus had said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

Jesus is the Messiah. He is divine. Mary believed in Him, and so did the Council of Nicaea in 325. And so do hundreds of millions of Christians today.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to 25th January - the 'octave' of St Peter and St Paul. This year's resources can be found at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>



8th Jan

Norma

14th Jan

Diana

16th Jan

Judith D.

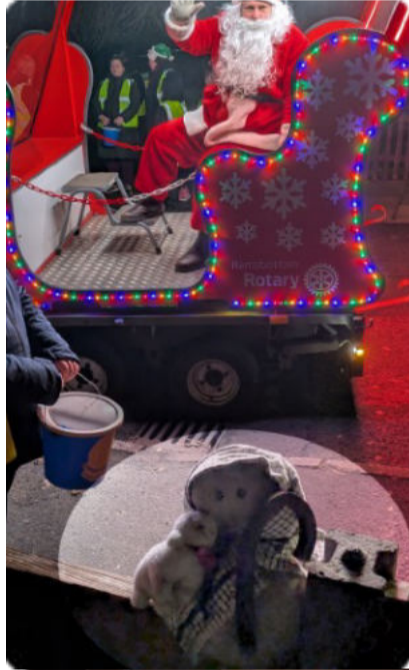
To join the birthday scheme fill in the application form on the Birthday Scheme leaflet found on the notice board and leave in the office or talk to Mary.

Journey to Bethlehem Ramsbottom 2024





Helping with the plumbing!



Herding cats!



January Prayer Diary

Please take time each day to pray for the event or the person mentioned in the diary. If you are unsure what to pray or are unsure who the people are, then simply pray that God might bless them and keep them safe.



Wednesday	1	That we will be grounded and united in Christ during 2025
Thursday	2	Karen
Friday	3	Katie, Simon, Marin and Thora
Saturday	4	Carol & David
Sunday	5	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	6	For those attending Messy Play
Tuesday	7	For a successful new term for Explorers
Wednesday	8	For Little Stars at the start of a new term
Thursday	9	The Recorded Music Society as they use our building
Friday	10	Oksana
Saturday	11	For those attending Baby Ballet
Sunday	12	Our Service today led by Susan Applegate
Monday	13	Freda
Tuesday	14	For the work of Rammy Pantry

Wednesday	15	For those attending Slimming World
Thursday	16	For our Drop-In Cafe
Friday	17	Rammy Pantry Clients
Saturday	18	Lesley & Tom
Sunday	19	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	20	For those attending Pilates
Tuesday	21	John & Louise
Wednesday	22	Ian & Joan
Thursday	23	Mary
Friday	24	For those who are struggling and waiting for life to change
Saturday	25	For Street Pastors, Bury
Sunday	26	Our Services today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	27	Andrea & Mark with BMS in Chad
Tuesday	28	For those attending Jo Jingles
Wednesday	29	Christine C.
Thursday	30	For those who live in the Great Eaves Area
Friday	31	Sara

God in the Arts

'The Annunciation' - by Domenico Veneziano

For 2025, the Revd Michael Burgess considers the sacred in Art.

During this year, we shall be 'visiting' different art galleries and museums in England to explore their treasures. Our first visit is to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Founded in 1816, it is a wonderful building in Trumpington Street that houses a wealth of art and antiquities.



Domenico Veneziano, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Our painting this month is *The Annunciation* by Domenico Veneziano, who died in Florence in 1461. It is part of the Magnoli altarpiece, and other panels are on display in Washington and Berlin. The scene has been much loved of artists throughout the ages. We can read the account of Gabriel announcing the good news of motherhood to Mary in chapter two of St Luke's Gospel. In the simplicity and beauty of Veneziano's work, we see Gabriel kneeling with lilies, the traditional symbol of our Lady, who is standing on the far side of the canvas. It is early morning, but the two squares on the wall show the blackness of night. They stand either side of a garden where the door is closed.

An enclosed garden, like the lilies, is a medieval symbol of Mary. 'A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed' we read in the Song of Songs. We might think of the Garden of the Hesperides or the apple orchard of Avalon, or perhaps a monastic herbal garden. They are all images of fruitfulness and new life enclosed by walls. Mary receives the good news of Gabriel and responds with the words, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord.' Her words will open the garden door and lead her out into the new world of redemption, just as Genesis tells us how turning against God closed the garden door of Eden to Adam and Eve.

The pathway from the portico and garden in Veneziano's painting will take Mary into a world where she will give birth to a son, Emmanuel. But that joy of motherhood will be coloured by a flight to Egypt and eventually the death of her Son. Then another garden will announce new and eternal life in the joy of the Resurrection. Here Mary's words will open that door in the garden. She will walk through, trusting in God and letting love guide her steps.

We begin this New Year with an invitation to open the door of our lives to God's guidance and love. That invitation begins with the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. Trusting in that gospel, we can open our lives, like the door of the garden, and travel in trust and love through all that the year will bring.

In place of cabbage

On Sunday after the church service, a woman told the minister that when she had sent her husband to buy a cabbage for lunch, he had fallen and broken his leg. "That's terrible!" said the minister. "What did you do?"

"I opened a can of peas," she replied

Sudoku

Sudoku is a number puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The object is to place the numbers 1-9 in the empty squares so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

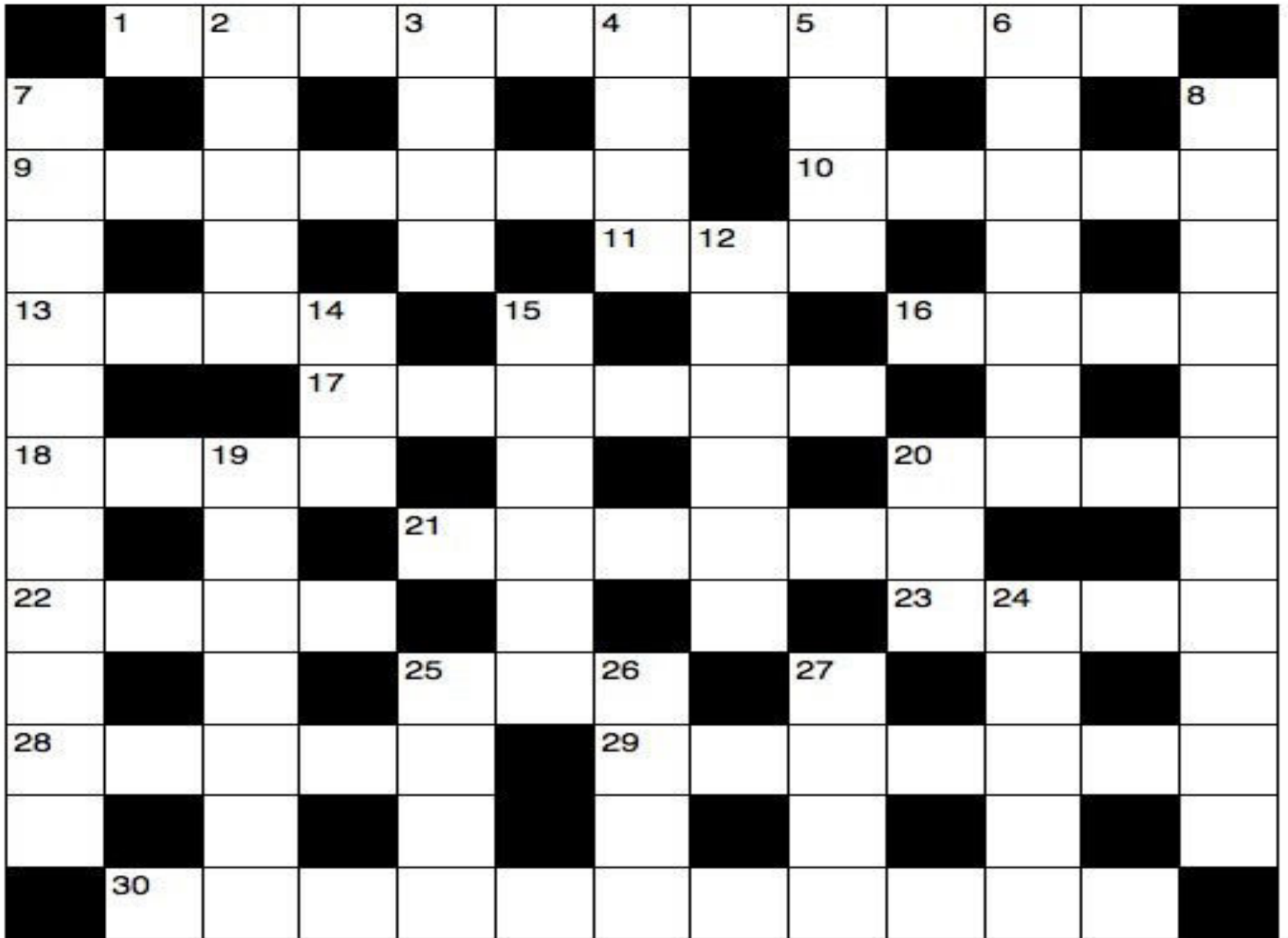
E
A
S
Y

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

M
E
D
I
U
M

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7)
- 10 'But – I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 'Take and –; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3)
13. Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 'Woe to those who – iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 'How shall we – if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 'There is surely – – of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

Down

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)
- 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)
- 4 'Jesus Christ is the – yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)
- 5 Tidy (4)
- 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)
- 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25-26) (11)
- 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)
- 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)
- 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)
- 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)
- 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but – us from the evil one'(Matthew 6:13) (7)
- 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, – D. Sankey (3)
- 24 Rarely used musical note (5)
- 25 'Your will be done on earth – it – in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)
- 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will – them with a – , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)

WORDSEARCH

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

Gifts of the Wise Men

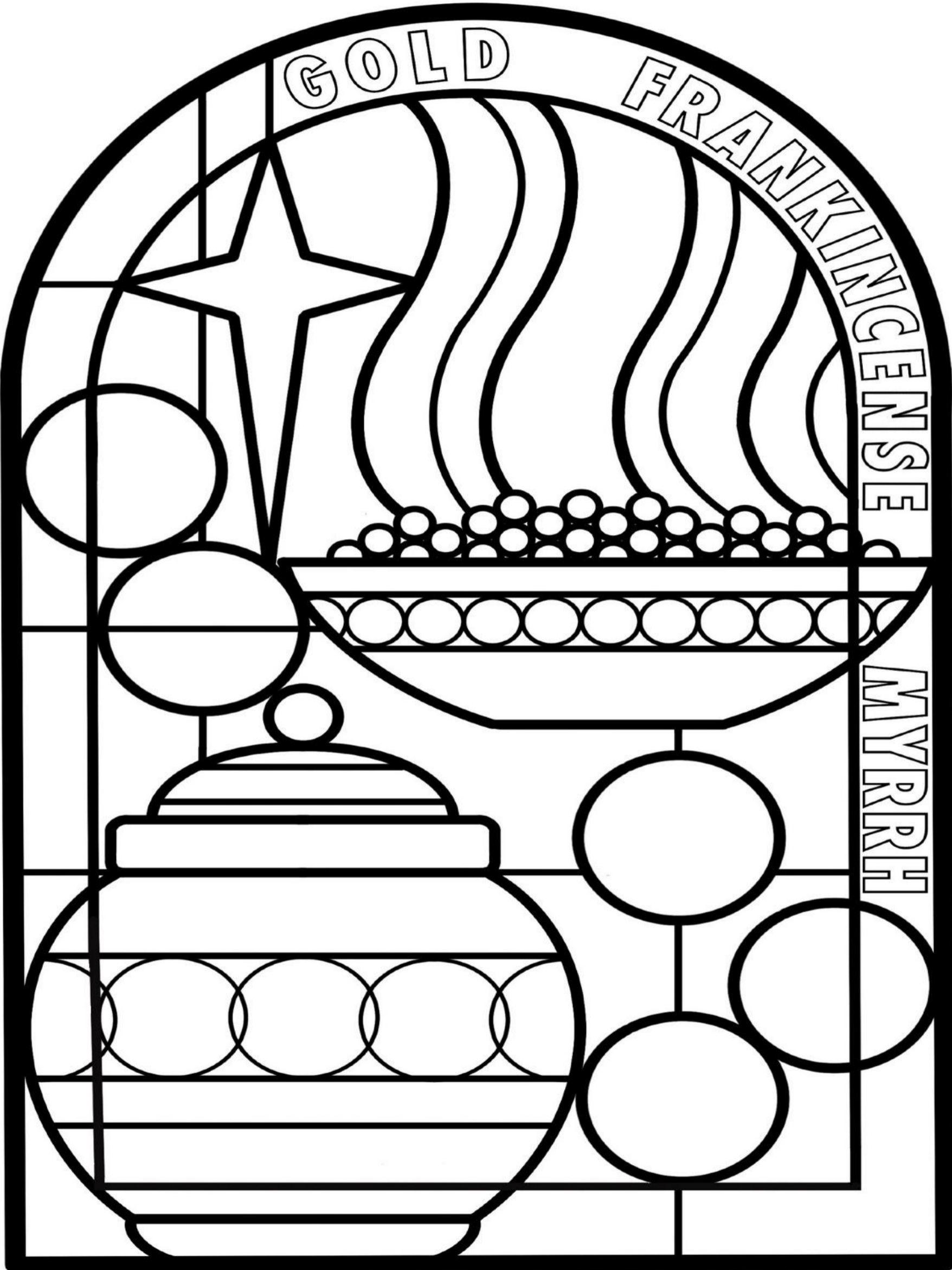
What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? One Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote the much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

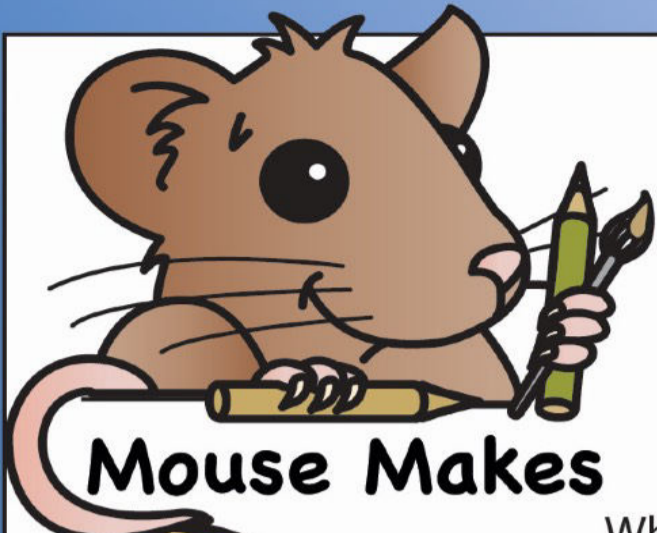
Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. **Frankincense** had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. **Myrrh** was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first Gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had!

Gifts	Henry	Kings	Spice	Divine
Gold	Hopkins	Orient	Ancients	Sacrifice
Frankincense	Carol	Worship	Bodies	Die
Myrrh	Three	Temple	Burial	Gentile
			Honoured	faith

Mindfulness Colouring for all ages





Mouse Makes

After Jesus was born in Belthlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.




J E W S
M A R Y
W S O N
O T N A

How many other words can you make from:
EPIPHANY

C H I L D K H M Y R R H
F R A N K I N C E N C E
J O Y A N G E L R H
G A E G Y P T P

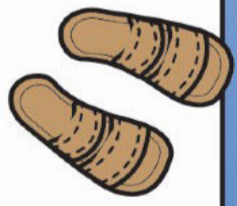
EPIPHANY is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe.
Where did Jesus finally grow up?


READ
the story of the wise men in *Matthew 2:1-23*

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

E G O D
B O R N
F L E E
L D G E



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

Puzzle Answers

	G	O	D	L	E	S	S	N	E	S	S	
G		D		A		A		E		E		G
E	G	O	T	I	S	M		A	F	T	E	R
R		U		R		E	A	T		T		A
S	O	R	T		O		P		P	L	A	N
H			E	S	C	A	P	E		E		D
O	D	D	S		T		L		I	D	E	M
N		E		N	O	F	E	A	R			O
I	D	L	E		P		S		A	B	E	T
T		I		A	I	L		W		R		H
E	A	V	E	S		A	C	H	I	E	V	E
S		E		I		S		I		V		R
	G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R	

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

Sudoku Easy

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

Sudoku Medium

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

January Rotas

Sundays

2025	Chairs	Opening up	Door	Closing	Vestry	Refreshments	Communion
5th Jan	Valerie & Norman	Valerie & Norman	Norman	Valerie & Norman	Bill	Julie & Carol	
12th Jan	Joan & Bill	Joan & Bill	Ian	Joan & Bill	Joan H.	Joan & Bill	
19th Jan	Diana & Steve	Diana & Steve	Bill	Diana & Steve	Joan R.	Diana & Steve	Julie & Susan
26th Jan	Joan & Ian	Joan & Ian	Carol	Joan & Ian	Susan	Joan & Ian	

Thursday Drop in Café

2025	9am	9am	Baking	Soup	Closing	Closing
9th Jan	Susan	Julie / Carol K.		Susan	Stephen	Susan
16th Jan	Susan	Julie / Carol K.			Stephen	Susan
23rd Jan	Susan	Julie / Carol K.			Stephen	Susan
30th Jan	Susan	Julie / Carol K.			Stephen	Susan

Little Stars

Date	Kitchen
8th January	Marjorie
15th January	Jaon & Bill
22nd January	Lesley
29th January	Julie



Moses revisited

Young Joseph was asked what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When Moses got to the Red Sea, his engineers built a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across it safely. Then Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to blow up the bridge, and so all the Israelites were saved."

"Did your teacher really say that?!" asked his mother, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



"It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab a pew by the electric socket."

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