

**ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH MUCHALLS**

**December 2025 – January 2026**



**Sunday Service 10.30am**

**Prayer & Chat Wednesday 11.00am (from January 2026)**

The church is open for private prayer during daylight hours

## From our Minister



In some ways I think I should be apologizing to all of you for leading you astray, or maybe I should be apologizing to myself for leading myself astray. I truly thought when I wrote to you last month that that would have been my last article, yet here we are again. I have no intention of rehearsing the details of the last few weeks and hesitate in saying what lies ahead, as I only feel confident in saying who knows.

Most of us, for a good deal of our lives, enjoy the regularity of routine, however, for most of us, at least for some parts of our lives face periods of uncertainty. These days I regularly rehearse the words of Mother Julian of Norwich..."all will be well, and all matter of things will be well". It sometimes feels hard to embrace those words and I keep telling myself that I am a person of hope. And so, to December and to Christmas. As I write this I think of the people of Bethlehem, and I think of the Church of the Nativity, I think of the many tourists who in the past have flocked to the birth place of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and I think of those who are resident in those areas who are so very dependent on travellers, I think of the ordinary folk on both sides of the conflict whose lives have been disrupted and who moment by moment experience uncertainty. It is, I believe hard for most of us to embrace the feelings of all those caught up in that particular conflict, to say nothing of all the other conflicts throughout this world. I wonder what they are feeling, what they are thinking.

Recently a priest challenged me by saying that Jesus Christ came to this world not to save us from our sins, but that he came to teach us how to love. I know that for many those words contradict much that we have been taught throughout our lives, but for a moment stop and consider them. Jesus primarily came into this world to teach us how to love; if we love, the very action of love, annihilates sin, if we love someone, something, it is virtually impossible to sin against them. I know that arguments can be made that if you love one person that may mean that you can't love another, but I would argue that you are arguing the point for the sake of arguing. In the broadest sense I think that the concept of Jesus coming to this world to show us how to love is a sound concept and it would be worthwhile for us as individuals, as church communities and for society to consider it.

Think for a moment of that wee child, Jesus, born somewhere in the middle east, in a time of conflict. In a time when political power, when wealth for some, when poverty for others was marked throughout society. Imagine within that society if the love that Jesus demonstrated was embraced how different that world would have been and then consider our own situation. Would we say that our society, our world was defined primarily by love. I think not.

The truth however is that there are many individuals who do know and understand the calling to love, it may however be that the understanding of loving is very far from the action of loving. In truth much gets in loves way and that is sin.

And so, we come to Christmas, how would you have helped that wee family on that cold December night? How would you have loved and cared for them. How will you spread love this Christmas? Where to begin...perhaps in simply doing, and acknowledging in your actions the source of the love you share, that is, I believe Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Love and Blessings this Christmas Tide

**Mary**

Thank you so much for your great kindness on Sunday the 23rd of November. It seems very strange to be saying thank you for the sendoff, whilst I have my 2026 diary open on my desk knowing that all being well, I will be with you in the New Year, but all I can say is it is what it is.

So many thanks.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas

**Much love**

**Mary**

### **Note from Bishop Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025**

I write to update you on plans for Canon Mary's retirement at the end of November. I met with representatives of the vestries this week to discuss preparations and agree support for the church as you enter a time of vacancy.

As you are probably aware. Mary and Mike will continue to live in the Rectory in Stonehaven for a while after Mary's retirement, as they make arrangements for where they will live permanently. Mike is also helping both churches with fabric matters, which he has agreed to continue while they live in Stonehaven.

As you enter a vacancy, you need help and support for worship and pastoral care. A new plan is that Mary has agreed, in retirement, to continue for a few months as 'House for Duty' – doing a reduced amount of pastoral time and Sunday services in return for living in the Rectory. I am very happy to support this arrangement. Mary would continue to look after worship, lead the vestries, do reduced pastoral work and so forth: but now as an active retired clergyperson.

More help is still needed, so I have asked the Reverend Ellie Charman, who has just started as the Interim Pastor in the vacant Laurencekirk charges, if she would give some time to support Mary with some Sunday services and other work with you. Mary and Mike will be taking December as time off as they start retirement, so Ellie will provide some support for the lay teams and be available for other pastoral work in that month, then assisting Mary from January onwards.

The vestries and I will also be beginning the process of creating profiles, taking stock of all that you have done in the last few years and preparing for recruitment of a new permanent priest over the next few months.

I would like to thank all in the churches for all you do. And I would especially like to thank Mary and Mike for all they have done in the past few years and for being willing, for some months, to continue to lead and support the churches in this new 'House for Duty' manner.

## 10 Fun Facts about Christmas trees

1. Even before the time of Christ, evergreen trees were seen in winter as a symbol of fertility.
2. It was the 16<sup>th</sup> century monk, Martin Luther, who is credited with the idea of having lights on Christmas trees. He added candles to his tree, to look like stars in a forest.
3. Windsor Castle got its first Christmas tree in 1800, brought by Charlotte, wife of George III.
4. It was in 1835 that the term 'Christmas tree' was first used in English.
5. It was in the 1840s, when Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, began bringing trees inside, that led to their popularity throughout the UK.
6. It was Woolworths who first sold manufactured Christmas tree ornaments – back in 1880.
7. The tree in London's Trafalgar Square has been a gift from the city of Oslo, Norway since 1947.
8. The world's tallest Xmas tree, at 221ft high, was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.
9. In a survey of the nation's favourite smells, real Christmas trees came eighth, just behind the sea, but ahead of perfume.
10. About five million real Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year.



## Christmas Unwrapped! - Canon Paul Hardingham

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: '*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.*' (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of **Immanuel** say to us today?

### ***God is present with us***

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary's life.

### ***God is on our side***



Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of ***Immanuel*** ('*God with us*') as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.

### **Prayer for Christmas 2025 *By Daphne Kitching***

Dear Father,  
Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about?

Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby who is Your Son, who was with You in the beginning and who, with You, created all things; that baby who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby who was and is Jesus, God, made man.

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been. Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again, there is light in the darkness of this world's mess – light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome.

Jesus is the Light of the World. Putting our trust in Him, we thank You Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Report from Vestry Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Priest's Report**

- Mary had been in touch with the Archivist at Dundee University who will be coming to St Ternan's in the near future to pick up the relevant material for archiving.
- All papers not required to be kept will be burnt. Mary to arrange the date
- Other papers will be moved into the church

- Rectory will need to be cleaned Matry, Pamela & Norma have volunteered to do this work.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- There is little to report in terms of visible progress but I can report that the Year-End Accounts are now well advanced and as expected show a deficit for the Year of £6,663 which is down slightly on last year (£8,026) although Total Income was down £8,158, year on Year. The biggest saving on costs was of course a 50% saving in heating costs. I expect to have the Accounts ready for the Examiner within the next two weeks.
- I would remind Vestry that these accounts only have to be approved by the Vestry not the Congregation in a General Meeting as they are only presented to the AGM for information. That is because in this matter the Vestry are acting as Trustees and carry the legal liability to produce Accounts under the various Charities Acts.
- Our current Bank Balance is £21,287 which includes our Grant of £5,000 for future Net Zero work. Our legal fees for the Title Deeds have been paid and the 50% contribution from the Diocese for their share has been received. Our outstanding electricity bill of £1,400 is now due and is in the direct debit system after we received a discount for late billing.
- We have agreed a quotation of c.£14,500 for the installation of a new water main and when that becomes payable, I expect we should take steps to negotiate a Loan from the Diocese for both this amount and the anticipated costs of a new heating system secured against the proceeds of the Rectory sale.
- During a recent meeting of the Diocesan Council, it was decided to include in their next budget a provision for a part-time book-keeper based in Dundee to provide support for any Charge which may request it. This support would of course be chargeable to the individual Charges on a usage basis. There was no agreed timetable for it's introduction. It was felt by the Bishop that being able to offer this assistance would encourage more Church members to become Treasurers.

### **Property Convenor's Report**

- On the whole nothing major to report. Some little issues which have been addressed
- Monthly checks have been carried out
- Fire equipment annual check carried out
- PAT testing due, will arrange for this month
- Roofer visited to view some loose slates, they will return to rectify and give a pre-winter check
- David Meldrum still working design, not heard from him, will drop him an email and forward to onto Vestry
- Water main still being progressed By Donalds, have chased via email

### **PVG Report**

- Irene still awaiting PVG clearance

## The future

- As Irene is having problems filling the rota particularly in relation of Priest's taking a service it was decided that as this is also affecting St James's she would get in touch with Anne O'Gorman to suggest that they should ask the Bishop for a meeting.
- Geoff had also indicated that he was thinking about resigning as Treasurer so he too would let the Bishop know of the situation

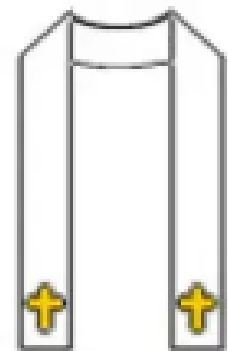
## Remembrance Plaque

- It had been indicated to Irene that several relatives wished to have their relatives' names entered onto the plaque. Unfortunately, the plaque is full. Previous vestries had discussed fixing a new plaque on the other side of the church and a Canon 35 was applied for. This was never actioned. It was decided that Mike would investigate the cost of a new plaque and then a final decision would be made.

## Irene Butler

### Why is the Minister wearing white today? - Ven John Barton

You may have noticed that the Minister who officiates at Church Services may wear a long, thin scarf which is called a stole. This can be white, purple, red or green.



White is for festive occasions like Christmas and Easter, christenings and weddings. Purple is worn during Advent and Lent, when we bring to mind our sins and seek God's forgiveness, in preparation for the wonderful seasons of Christmas and Easter. Red at Pentecost, symbolises the fire of the Holy Spirit, and on Saints Days it signifies that many of them (and some today) were martyred because they were Christians. Green, marking growth and hope is worn for the rest of the year.

So, white for 'best', purple for penitence, red for the Holy Spirit and the blood of the Martyrs, and green for growth.

You will also spot the same changing colours for items on the Altar-Table at the beginning and end of the Service of Holy Communion. The Burse is a flat, square case holding a linen cloth called the corporal, on which the vessels used in Holy Communion are placed. The Veil covers them until they are used.

The vessels are called Paten and Chalice. The Paten is like a plate on which the bread is placed. A bowl, called a Ciborium, may be used for the same purpose. The Chalice is a cup for the wine. Because the bread and wine represent the Body and Blood of Christ, which He sacrificed for us when He was crucified, we handle them with care.

The minister's ceremonial robes, called vestments, and the vessels all point to something greater. In one of St Paul's letters in the New Testament, he explains in these words that receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion has past, present and future significance: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

## **The Nicene Creed: Trinitarian Faith - Canon Paul Hardingham**

In the last of our series on the Nicene Creed, we want to ask about its significance today. The original Creed dates from 325 AD, but was expanded at the Council of Constantinople in 381. Over the last months we have seen how the Creed provides a '*big picture*' of who God is and challenges our commitment to him. Its value can be seen in three main areas:

*The Nicene Creed stresses the need to believe the right thing:*

Sadly, we often hear Christian leaders and churches denying the essential articles of the Christian Faith. To be a part of orthodox Christianity, we must believe in what is affirmed in the Nicene Creed. *'For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures'* (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).

### ***The Nicene Creed affirms the importance of the Trinity:***

Generally, Christians give little thought to the Trinity, and many churches rarely teach on the subject. However, by regularly reciting the Nicene Creed, people are reminded of the doctrine about the triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It protects the truth about the Trinity, especially in opposition to Arianism, which sees Jesus as the first and greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father.

To be a Christian is to be baptised in the triune name and to worship God, who is three persons in one Godhead: *'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'* (Matthew 28:19).

### ***The Nicene Creed focuses on God's salvation:***

At the heart of the Nicene Creed is the good news that Jesus came down from heaven *'for our salvation'*. It understands Christianity as essentially being about sin and salvation, judgment and forgiveness, and new life in Jesus Christ.

This theme is very relevant at Christmas, when we celebrate the baby born in Bethlehem as our Saviour. As the angels said to the shepherds: *'Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'* (Luke 2:11,12).





## True story

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them.

As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"

## A Quiz on the year 2025 (*answers on page 12*)

We are going with multiple choice questions this year.

No "ask a friend" or "phone the audience", sorry.

No prizes for pointless answers or can you beat the chaser.

1. Ashley, Bert and Conall were:
  - *Names of storms*
  - *Names of Eurovision entrant*
  - *Names of footballers*eventually Cambridge. What was the nick name of the original line?
  - *The Varsity Line*
  - *The Farcical Line*
  - *The Gravy Train*
2. There was a re-wilding lynx project this year. Was it:
  - *A new golf course*
  - *Releasing cats in the wild*
  - *Releasing aftershave*
3. Palmerston the former resident cat at the Foreign Office was brought out of retirement for a "purr-fect" diplomatic posting to where:
  - *Belfast*
  - *Bermuda*
  - *Birmingham*
4. What is President Trump's favourite word?
  - *Tariffs*
  - *Musk*
  - *Sorry*
5. We celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of modern railways. The East-West Rail Link is due to be opened next between Oxford, Milton Keynes and
6. Donald Trump called King Charles "a .....man"
  - *Young*
  - *Regal*
  - *Beautiful*
7. *Restaurants* in Pozzuoli Italy cooked up a plan to attract customers who are being put off by 1800 land tremors a month. How long did they have to stay?
  - *Until paid bill*
  - *Until dessert served*
  - *Until coffee served*
8. Birmingham experienced 'Binmageddon'. Was it
  - *Shortage of bin bags*
  - *Too many bin bags*
  - *Bin collector strike*

9. A big hit at the cinema early this year the film *Conclave*. What colour is the smoke used to signify the election of a new Pope?
  - *White*
  - *Black*
  - *Grey*
10. What was Doge that Elon Musk was associated with and then left?
  - *Department of Government Elasticity*
  - *Department of Government Efficiency*
  - *Department of Government Energy*
11. Loretta Swit passed away this year. What long running sitcom is she best known for?
  - *Friends*
  - *Mash*
  - *Frasier*
12. UK proposed a wider ban on destructive bottom trawling. Is it:
  - *Anti-social behaviour*
  - *Long trousers*
  - *A type of fishing*
13. Which composer whose centenary was marked this year invented 'furniture music'? He always kept a hammer in his pocket for fear of muggers and once even founded his own church
  - *Frank Sinatra*
  - *Jean Sibelius*
  - *Erik Satie*
14. What were the "mushroom murders" in Australia?
  - *Killing by adding fungi to dinner guests' meals*
  - *Illegally picking mushrooms from fields*
  - *Killing someone in vegetable aisle at supermarket*
15. Which of the following were not Proms this year?
  - *The Shipping forecast prom*
  - *The Traitors prom*
  - *The Grand Prix prom*
16. 'Skibidi' "Delulu" and 'tradwife' among words added to Cambridge Dictionary. What does delulu mean?
  - *French*
  - *Delusional*
  - *Incontinen*
17. Heartthrob Terence Stamp passed away this year, which part did he play in the 1960s film of *Far from the Madding Crowd*?
  - *Sgt Troy*
  - *Farmer Boldwood*
  - *Gabriel Oak*
18. What month does October Beerfest in Germany start?
  - *October*
  - *September*
  - *November*
19. In October a lady in Kew was given a fine of £150.00 for pouring what down a drain on a road? The council later withdrew the penalty notice.
  - *Beer*
  - *Oil*
  - *Coffee*

## 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!

## Home Schooling

- *Back in the 'good old days', we didn't appreciate how much education was given at home...*
- Our mothers taught us TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
- Our fathers taught us RELIGION: "You better pray that that will come out of the carpet."
- Our mothers taught us LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."
- Our fathers taught us MORE LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."
- Our mothers taught us about CONTORTIONISM: "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
- Our mothers taught us about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"
- And finally, our fathers taught us about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

## **Time to think-** *Lester Amann*

We all have moments in life when our circumstances change dramatically, and we wonder how things are going to work out.

Perhaps it was like this for Mary. One moment she was planning her marriage to Joseph, when an angel announced she was to give birth to God's Son. A few months later she had to leave home, while pregnant, and travel to Bethlehem. Following the birth, in a grim environment, some shepherds visited her. They had seen the angels sing, and had heeded their news that the Messiah had been born.

The Gospel record says that Mary pondered (or remembered or treasured) on all this. (Luke 2:19) Quite an understatement! Mary knew her life would never be the same again. But despite the difficulties, she knew God was with her. God had called her to a task.

As we enter a New Year, how have we seen God at work in our lives so far? Like Mary, we too might need to remind ourselves of God's special touch, to reflect on what has happened already. Mary was aware that she was 'favoured' by God, so whatever was to happen in the future, she knew God was with her, and in control.

God loves us too. We too are special in His sight. Let us step out in faith and obedience to God's call on *our* lives this year, and let us be reassured that God is with us in every situation.

## **'The Annunciation' - by Domenico Veneziano - Revd Michael Burgess**



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.

### **6<sup>th</sup> January - What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?**

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his 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! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

We need to see in the Babe born in Bethlehem the eternal star, which will lead us to the place where truth and love and mercy meet. - *George Appleton*



Let us kneel with the shepherds and the kings, and find our heart's joy and peace in Jesus Christ. - *George Appleton*

We should all be concerned about the future, because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there. - *C F Kettering*

## Quiz 2025 answers

1. Ashley, Bert and Conall were names of storms
2. The re-wilding lynx project was releasing cats in the wild.
3. Palmerston was brought out of retirement for a "purr-fect" diplomatic posting to Bermuda.
4. President Trump's favourite word is tariffs.
5. The nickname of the original line was the Varsity Line as it linked the two universities. It was a favourite journey of CS Lewis.
6. Donald Trump called King Charles" a .....man" Beautiful.
7. *Restaurants* in Pozzuoli Italy cooked up a plan to attract customers who are being put off by 1800 land tremors a month. They got an "earthquake discount" if stayed until dessert served. I do not know if it was successful. I usually prefer the cheeseboard after a meal.
8. Birmingham's 'Binmageddon' was the Bin collector strike.
9. The colour of the smoke used to signify the election of a new Pope is white.
10. Elon Musk was associated with the Department of Government Efficiency.
11. Loretta Swit was best known for MASH. The television series made stars of some of the actors and went on much longer than the Korean War, which it was based on.
12. Destructive bottom trawling is a type of deep-sea fishing.
13. The composer who invented 'furniture music' was Erik Satie.
14. The "mushroom murders" were done by adding fungi to dinner guests' meals.
15. The Grand Prix was not a prom.
16. Delulu means delusional.
17. Heartthrob Terence Stamp played Sgt Troy in the 1960s film of *Far from the Madding Crowd*.
18. Oktober Beerfest in Germany starts in September.
19. She poured a cup of coffee down a drain.

## ***With New Year's Resolutions in mind, here is John Wesley's rule of conduct:***

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can.



### *New Year 2026*

*If we put our hand in God's hand  
As we enter this New Year  
Not knowing what the future holds  
But that our Friend is near.*

*We shall not fear what lies ahead  
If He is by our side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If He will be our guide.*

*The Sinless One from heaven came  
To dwell with us on earth,  
He sought and bought us with His blood  
And offered us new birth.*

*Now as we travel through this year  
He knows the things He's planned,  
So let us trust and know just this -  
Our times are in His hands.*

*By Megan Carter*



**Revd Canon Mary Jepp Tel: 01569 762917**

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# ROTA - DECEMBER 2025



DATE:	CELEBRANT Assistant Address/Reflections	Readers/ Intercessions	Readings:	Sidesperson	Refreshments
07/12/2025 ADVENT 2	BISHOP ANDREW <i>Irene Butler</i>  A.G.M. (after Morning Service)	Carol Masson Geoff Bell Steven Coull  <i>Sheila Usher</i>	ISAIAH 11: 1-10 ROMANS 15: 4-13 MATTHEW 3: 1-12	Sue Selway	Carol/Rhona
14/12/2025 ADVENT 3	REVD ELLIE CHARMAN <i>Dee Foulds</i>	Sue Selway Sheila Usher John Usher  <i>Sue Selway</i>	ISAIAH 35: 1-10 LUKE 1: 46B-55 MATTHEW 11: 2-11	Irene Butler	Maureen
21/12/25 ADVENT 4	IRENE BUTLER  <i>CAROL SERVICE</i>	T B A	ISAIAH 7: 10-16 ROMANS 1: 1-7 MATTHEW 1: 18-25	Steven Coull	Sylvia/David
24/12/2025 11:30PM MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST	<i>Volunteer</i>	Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer	ISAIAH 9: 2-7 TITUS 2: 11-14 LUKE 2: 1-14(15-20)	Volunteer	Volunteer
25/12/2025 9:30am Christmas Day Family Service	IRENE BUTLER <i>Volunteer</i>	Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer	ISAIAH 9.2-7 TITUS 2.11-14 LUKE 2.1-14(15-20)	Volunteer	Volunteer
27/12/2025 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas	STEVEN COULL <i>Irene Butler</i>	Rhona Vassilikos Kaeden Mackay Sue Selway  <i>Dee Foulds</i>	ISAIAH 63: 7-9 HEBREWS 2: 10-18 MATTHEW 2: 13-23	Irene Butler	Carol/Rhona
04/01/2026 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas	REVD CANON MARY JEPP <i>Dee Foulds</i>	Carol Masson Geoff Bell Steven Coull  <i>Sue Selway</i>	JEREMIAH 31: 7-14 EPHESIANS 1: 3-14 JOHN 1: (1-9)10-18	Kaeden Mackay	Maureen/Mike

**CHURCH CLEANING ... DECEMBER 2025 VOLUNTEER(S)**