

The United Benefice of the parishes of Melbourne,
Smisby, Stanton by Bridge and Ticknall



The Bulletin

A weekly publication for the Parish of Melbourne



The First Sunday of Christmas - 31st December 2017

8am **Holy Communion**

10.30am **Benefice Eucharist and Coffee**

Readings: page 4

Introit: Up! Good Christen folk *Piae Cantiones* 1582

harm. Woodward

Setting: *Bourne* Melbourne Service

Carols: 33 vv.1,4, & 7, 42, 34 [21, 22] 26 omit v.4

Anthem: I saw a maiden *Old Basque Noël* arr. Pettman

Organ Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

(BWV 729) J. S. Bach

6.30pm **No Evening Services across the Benefice tonight**

Welcome and Happy New Year!

**Welcome to all worshipping here today with a special
welcome to those who are visitors or newcomers.**

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Across the Benefice Today

Melbourne:

8am – Revd Michael Rogers

10.30am – Revd Margaret Jacques

**Taking responsibility for Church life today:**

8am Holy Communion

Sidespersons: Noreen & Tony Taylor

Server: John Tatam

Reader: Joy Hill

10.30am Benefice Eucharist and Coffee

Sidespersons: Jenny Jackson, David Smith

Crucifer: Allan Jacques

Server: Jo Glaze

Reader: Laurence Rogers

Intercessor: Graham Truscott

Coffee: Sarah Kington, Kate Landenberger, Janet Warner

6.30pm No Evensong tonight

A Christmas message from the Rector:

There is an old story associated with a long-serving parish priest whereby 'the congregation joined in with the words of the vicar's often-used Christmas sermon'.

From a certain point of view, this wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing because it would mean that everyone hearing would know what the priest was trying to say about Christmas. It might also mean that the priest concerned might need to spend a little more time in sermon prep...

Each year as Christmas approaches, I try to spend at least some time in Advent reflecting on the story that we know so well, looking for a fresh angle or two. Often, I try to see the Christmas narrative through the eyes of one of the main characters – what was it like for them? What did they see and hear? What did they feel? How did they respond?

The joy of the Christmas story is that we are *all* involved in it as God calls each of us to play our part and to gaze afresh on the mystery of the Word

made flesh, 'pitching his tent' among us.

This is my first Christmas with you all in the benefice and it has been a joy.

Here's to the future and being made ever more familiar, not just with the words of sermons, but with the words of grace, love and salvation that God, in Jesus Christ, longs us to hear each and every day of our lives.

Happy Christmas! *Yours in Christ's service and love, Steve*

Thank yous:

Thank you so much to everyone who has worked incredibly hard to make our celebration of Christmas so memorable. We know well that this is already a very busy time of year so we are doubly grateful to everyone, often working out of sight and behind the scenes, who enables us to throw open our doors to our town and offer to God the best worship we can give.

Thank you and Happy Christmas! The Rector and Church Wardens

Mothers' Union AGM:

Our usual January AGM and festive nibbles will be held on **Tuesday January 9th at 2pm**. We have also agreed to push back the February meeting to 13th February, Shrove Tuesday, as so many of our members are heading away with the Bell Ringers for a week on Lundy Island. *Ros Bell*

Angels' Delight:

The new term for Angels' Delight will be starting up again on Wednesday January 3rd. If you would like to help, please contact Steve or Rachel or Alison Gregory.

This week in connection with Melbourne Church

Tuesday:	7.25pm	Bellringing Practice
Wednesday:	9am - 11am	Angels' Delight
	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Thursday:	9.15am	Holy Communion
Saturday:	4.30pm	Church prepared for Sunday worship

A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church, we can pray together

Monday: Those in great poverty or need.

Tuesday: Those who have asked for our prayers: Ruth Barkaway, Anne Brazier, John Hubbard, Roo Hubbard, Madge Limbert, Betty Park, Ruth Smith, and Margaret Stockley. Also those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage.

Wednesday: Our group of parishes.

Thursday: The church worldwide. All Christian people. The local church. The Anglican Communion.

Friday: All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

The Departed

In our prayers this week, we can remember those who have died recently, among them Kathleen Winifred Jackson and Wendie Elizabeth Ann Moore, and those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them Harriet Burden, Joseph Laban, Gladys Marston, Ronald Moore (priest), Audrey Moore and Richard Morrison.

Next Week at Melbourne: Epiphany

8am **Holy Communion** (Sidespersons: Joan Pass, Joy Hill)

10.30am **Parish Eucharist for Epiphany, Junior Church & Coffee**

(Sidespersons: Victoria Hancock, Ken Gibson)

(Coffee: Sarah Kington, Kate Landenberger, Steph Hughes)

6.30pm **Evensong** (Sidesperson: Ann Hammond)

The Readings at 8am & 10.30am:

First Reading: *Isaiah 61.10-62.3*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Gospel Reading: *Luke 2.15-21*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.