



### Christmas Word Search

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

- |           |             |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| BALL      | FROSTY      | SANTA CLAUS |
| BELL      | GIFT        | SLED        |
| BLITZEN   | GINGERBREAD | SNOWMAN     |
| CANDYCANE | NOEL        | STAR        |
| CHIMNEY   | NORTHPOLE   | STOCKING    |
| CHRISTMAS | NUTCRACKER  | SUGARPLUMS  |
| COMET     | PEACE       | TOY         |
| CUPID     | PRANCER     | TREE        |
| DANCER    | PRESENT     | VIXEN       |
| DASHER    | REINDEER    | WORKSHOP    |
| DONNER    | RUDOLPH     | WREATH      |
| ELF       | SACK        |             |

# Puzzle Corner



Here's a couple of puzzles to try after the Christmas pudding!

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

# PASSWORDS



THE MAGAZINE FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE PARISH  
 DONEGALL PASS

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[www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk)

# Joy to the World





# DECEMBER SERVICES



SERVICES	MINISTER	READER <i>(Morning services only)</i>
<b>2nd Dec—1st Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Advent Carol Service 6.30 pm Holy Communion	Rev T P Kerr Rev T P Kerr	Various
<b>9th Dec—2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Holy Communion 6.30 pm Holy Communion <i>(St Aidan's)</i>	Rev H Foster Rev T P Kerr	Jacqueline Stephenson <i>Philippians 1</i> -v- 3-11 <i>(Page 184)</i>
<b>16th Dec—3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Holy Communion 6.30 pm Evening Prayer	Rev T P Kerr Rev T P Kerr	Libby Garstang <i>Philippians 4</i> -v- 4-7 <i>(Page 187)</i>
<b>23rd Dec— 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Christmas Family Service 6.30 pm Nine Lessons & Carols	Mr J Newberry Rev T P Kerr	Various
<b>24th Dec— Christmas Eve</b> 11.30 pm The First Holy Communion of Christmas	Rev T P Kerr	-
<b>25th Dec— Christmas Day</b> 11.00 am Family Holy Communion <i>(St Aidan's)</i>	Rev T P Kerr	-
<b>30th Dec— 1st Sunday of Christmas</b> 11.00 am Morning Prayer 6.30 pm No Evening Service	Rev H Foster	Kate Irving <i>1 Samuel 2:18-20,26</i> <i>(Page 240)</i>

*Readers read the First Lesson of the Day—taken from the Pew Bible.  
Readers should confirm their reading with the Rector/Minister*



## Flower Rota—December



Dec 2nd	.....	Mr & Mrs P Copley
	.....	Mrs & Mrs J Taylor—in memory of loved ones
Dec 9th	.....	Mrs & Mrs C Dunwoody—in memory of loved ones
Dec 16th	.....	The Winters family—in memory of their mother Kathleen
	.....	Miss E King—in memory of her father
Dec 23rd	.....	Mrs E Ross—in memory of loved ones
Dec 30th	.....	Vacant

### Thursday Lunchtime Services

Please note, Thursday services are cancelled until further notice.

### Remember in Prayer:



- Ronnie Ballantine
- Martha Fitzsimmons
- Jim Garstang
- Annie Jenkins
- Lily Mark
- David Mason
- Emily Mason
- Annie McCully
- Sadie Parker
- David Sampson
- Jim Smyth
- Laura Smyth
- Frances Smith
- Desmond Spratt
- David Stephenson
- Leila Webster
- Jamie Webster

#### ***Please inform the Rector of:***

- anyone you would like added to our prayer list
- anyone who is in hospital or unwell.

The Church of Ireland “Safeguarding Trust” Policy operates in this church. Panel Members are Rev Terence Kerr, Mr Cecil Dunwoody and Mr Peter Ainley. Notices to this effect have been placed in the church and halls.



for our younger readers ....



### SANTA CLAUS



Did you know that Santa used to be in a green suit until Coca Cola did a series of adverts in America with him in a red suit because that was the colour they used for their adverts? The colour stuck - and when did you last see a green Santa?

And even Santa's name isn't the same one as he started out with - originally he was Saint Nicholas. Over the centuries St Nicholas changed from being a bishop in church robes to a large man in a red suit known as Santa.

So much changes but the real message of Christmas stays the same: a message of love, hope, joy and peace to the world.

### WHATEVER COLOUR YOU LIKE

Here is a Santa you can colour in any colour you like - red, green or even purple. Why not start a trend?



**Who takes Christmas presents to police stations?**  
Santa Clues.

**Who is Santa Claus's wife?**  
Mary Christmas.



*The Rector writes ...*

*December 2012*

*Dear Parishioners*

### THE RECTOR RETIRES

As you probably know, I have announced that at the end of December 2012 I will be retiring as Rector of the Grouped Parishes of St Aidan's and St Mary Magdalene, Belfast.

The Bishop has renewed my licence as a Clergyman and I have been offered various part-time positions in the Diocese of Connor. I became a Christian in 1983 and was subsequently ordained. Before these momentous occasions in my life, I was an engineer and I will be returning to this profession, again on a part-time basis, beginning in January 2013. I have formed my own company with my three sons in which we will work in a new and exciting field - Renewable Energy. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who works tirelessly for this church and to all those who supported my ministry. Finally, may I wish the Parish of St Mary Magdalene every blessing for the future.

*Yours in Christ's Service*

*The Rector*

*It was with shock that we learned of the Rector's retirement and we take this opportunity to wish him and his family every blessing for the future.*

## Consequences

He walked along the shoreline where the air was cool and sweet,  
The only sound the crunching of the stones beneath his feet.  
His troubled thoughts engulfed him as he hurled without a care  
A pebble which soared high - he watched it hurtle through the air.

It sliced into the water like a sword or carving knife  
And he watched in fascination as the lake sprang into life.  
From that one cut the ripples travelled quickly out - and then  
The water fowl in fright took off and were not seen again.

Actions do have consequences though we sometimes do not care  
What happens when a stone is thrown and hurtles through mid-air.

We have no way of knowing where it's finally to land  
And it's much too late to worry when the pebble leaves our hand.

So at this Christmas Season when we praise the Saviour's birth,  
When we celebrate with family, full of joy and festive mirth,  
Let us think about the baby who was born for you and me  
And because of consequences trod the road to Calvary.

JS



### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*It is not even the beginning of Christmas unless it is Christmas in the heart.*

#### Play safe with your Christmas tree

Christmas trees look pretty - but they can be dangerous. And a poorly maintained tree could result in your celebrations coming to a disastrous end. This year, consider the following precautions:

Secure your tree with a wire to prevent it tipping over. Keep your tree well away from floor heaters, radiators, fire-places and other heat sources. Fairy lights are one of the biggest causes of Christmas fires. Only use lights that have a British Standards Institution Kitemark or CE mark on the packaging. This means that have passed stringent safety tests. Even so, never join

more than three strands of lights together. Ensure the mains plugs is wired the right way around. Always turn off the lights at night, or when you leave the house for any length of time. Replace blown bulbs, or the others may overheat. NEVER use candles on a tree. More electricity is used over Christmas than at any other time of the year, and overloads can occur. Never use indoor extension cables outdoors.



### For your diary

<b>Select Vestry</b>	Mon 10th Dec 7.30 pm
<b>Ladies' Guild</b>	Wed 12th Dec 7.30 pm
<b>Antiques Fair</b>	Sat 15th Dec 12.30-4.00 pm <i>Teas rota: Jacqueline &amp; Kate</i>
<b>Snooker Club</b>	Tuesdays 7.00 pm
<b>Midweek Services</b>	cancelled until further notice
<b>BB</b>	Thursdays 6.30 pm onwards



## The Advent Wreath

**D**uring the month of December we will have the Advent Wreath in Church.

This is symbolic and can be used as a way to tell the Christmas story.

The wreath is round - a reminder that the love of God is everlasting; it has no beginning and no end.

Some wreaths are surrounded by greenery, which reminds us of the hope that we have in God, the hope of renewal and the hope of everlasting life.

The candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world, the four outer candles are symbolic of the four Sundays of Advent, and also remind us of the four centuries that passed Between the prophet Malachi (the last book in the Old Testament) and the coming of Jesus Christ.

As the candles are lit each Sunday it is symbolic of the light coming into the world and darkness and sin receding. When at the midnight service the final candle is lit, we remember that Jesus Christ, the light of the world, has come and we rejoice.



**A**lmighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; So that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Happy Christmas everyone and please note that there will not be a magazine produced in January.

## FLOWER LIST FOR 2013

*Yet another year has almost passed and it is time to thank all who donated flowers throughout the year. We are again indebted to Mrs Joan Rodgers who faithfully arranges the flowers every week. I know we all appreciate how this enhances the beauty of our church.*

*Next year's rota is currently being prepared. If you haven't already done so, please let Kate Irving know which date(s) you require.*

*Where there is more than one request for a particular date, the option of a pedestal arrangement is available. It has been agreed that in fairness to everyone, duplicates will alternate on a yearly basis between flowers for the Holy Table and a Pedestal display. In several cases, this has been happening already and, hopefully, everyone will be in agreement with this new arrangement..*

### Mrs Alison Shaw

**W**e are delighted to announce that Mrs Alison Shaw has recently been appointed to the position of Family Worker. Alison will spend time working with families in our parish and in St Aidan's and I'm sure it won't be long before she is a familiar face in the Pass. The Rector will introduce Alison to both parishes on Sunday 2nd December.

We assure Alison of a very warm welcome and we look forward to working alongside her in the coming months.

### Annual Gift Day

**G**ift day this year will be celebrated on Advent Sunday 2nd December – the anniversary of our church. You will have received your Gift Day envelope and we ask that you do your best in giving to this appeal. The much needed money collected from this special event goes towards maintaining and restoring our beautiful church.

Remember, if you are a tax payer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. This costs you nothing and the church can gain additional funds. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you—The Select Vestry

### House to House Collection

The annual House to House collection on behalf of the Institute of the Disabled took place a few weeks ago. The company raised £140.00. A big thank you to the people of Donegall Pass for their donations, also to the boys for knocking all those doors.

*William McMillan*  
 Captain

### Ladies' Guild



How we enjoyed our meeting last month, when Millie the trainee guide dog puppy, a beautiful black labrador, paid us a visit. She was accompanied by Ricky her trainer who explained all about the training programme these amazing dogs undertake. Fortunately for us, as Millie is still a young pup, she was able to do a bit of socialising at the end of the night, when Ricky permitted her to be stroked and played with.

This month will be our Christmas Crafts evening and I know we'll all enjoy that. It would be helpful if you could bring along a pair of scissors and a Pritt Stick (only if you have one) that night. See you then.

*Joan Rodgers—President*

### Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Rector, other clergy and parishioners for all the prayers, Get Well cards and good wishes I received during the period of my recent surgery and recovery. It has been greatly appreciated.

*Jim Garstang*

*Wasn't it great to see Jim looking so well at the 'Big Breakfast'. We pray he continues to make progress and that it won't be long before he's back with us on Sundays again.*

### Big Breakfast

We raised around £800 at our last 'Big Breakfast' - what an amazing success. We were at one stage run off our feet, when the bandsmen from the Remembrance Day parade descended on us! The fries were coming off the pans fast and furious. Perhaps the biggest compliment was when one satisfied customer exclaimed that her 'fry was magic' We can't get much better than that! Thanks to everyone who supported this event—the cooks, waitresses, washer-uppers and of course to everyone who came along and enjoyed what is still the 'best fry in Belfast'!

### Faith, Family & Friends

For many years, parishioners have been able to enjoy the poems and verses which have been published in our parish magazine and written by Jacqueline Stephenson.



Jacqueline has been requested on many occasions to collate these into a booklet and at last she has agreed to do this. The booklet, called, 'Faith, Family & Friends', is a collection of some of Jacqueline's work which I know you will enjoy reading and reflecting upon. The booklet is available at £3.99 a copy. Jacqueline is very kindly donating all proceeds to the church restoration fund.



So why not treat yourself to a copy or buy one as a present for Christmas. It'd make a lovely gift for someone special.