

Work off the Christmas pudding by having a go at these puzzles

# Puzzle Corner



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

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



## 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

# PASSWORDS



THE MAGAZINE FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE PARISH  
 DONEGALL PASS

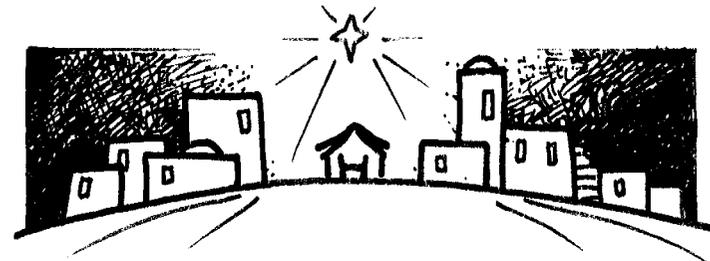
Rector: Rev Bob Cotter

tel: 07702495786 email: [bobcotter56@icloud.com](mailto:bobcotter56@icloud.com)

Family Worker: Mrs Alison Shaw Tel 07749172423 (Mon, Wed, Fri)

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

## Little Town of Bethlehem



December 2013



# CHURCH SERVICES



SERVICES	READER
<b>1st December—1st Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Holy Communion	David Stephenson <i>Romans 13 –v- 11-14</i>
<b>8th December—2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Morning Prayer	Ronnie Luney <i>Isaiah 11 –v- 1-10</i>
<b>15th December—3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Christingle Service	Jacqueline Stephenson <i>Isaiah 60 –v- 1-3, 17-20</i>
<b>22nd December—4th Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Morning Prayer 7.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols	Peter Ainley <i>Isaiah 7 –v- 10-16</i>
<b>24th December—Christmas Eve</b> 11.30 pm First Holy Communion of Christmas	Kate Irving <i>Titus 3 –v- 4-7</i>
<b>29th December—1st Sunday of Christmas</b> 11.00 am The Boys' Brigade Enrolment and 125th Anniversary Service	The Boys' Brigade Members

## Thursday Lunchtime Services

These continue to take place in the Chapel of the Holy Sprit at 12.30 pm—followed by lunch in the church hall. Dates for the Christmas break will be announced.

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



## Flower Rota—December



Dec 1st	.....	Mrs A Crawford—in memory of her grandson Paul Mr & Mrs H Rodgers
Dec 8th	.....	Mr & Mrs P Copley Mr & Mrs J Taylor—in memory of loved ones
Dec 15th	.....	The Irvine Family—in memory of James & Agnes McCullough Mr & Mrs C Dunwoody —in memory of loved ones
Dec 22nd	.....	Miss E Ross—in memory of loved ones
Dec 29th	.....	The Irvine Family—in memory of Charles & Agnes Irvine



## Christian Burial



**Dorothy McClenaghan**

29 Elm Court

28th November 2013 (died 25th November 2013)

Dorothy passed away peacefully in the early hours of 25 November. She will be greatly missed by her family - son Clifford, daughters Kim and Vivian, grandchildren Penny, Gavin, Jenny, Christian and Georgia and great grandchildren Adam, Amy, Joe, Ide and Scarlet.

Dorothy was born on 5 February 1922 on the Lisburn Road. She lived for many years also on the Donegall Road and also in Maryville Street. She worked as a seamstress in the Albion Factory on Sandy Row. She lived in Elm Court for the last 19 years. Her husband George died when he was just 61 but Dorothy lived well into her 92nd year.

In her prime she was fond of sequence and ballroom dancing and enjoyed travelling. Gentle and self-effacing by nature, she remained cheerful and positive despite failing health in recent years. Her great friend Hugh McCullough looked after her with devotion for the past four years. We will all miss her greatly but entrust her now to the care of her Heavenly Father, as she rests now from all her pain in God's nearer presence.

*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the heart of man conceived  
What God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Cor 2 -v- 9)*

~ Parish Prayer List ~



You are asked to include the following in your daily prayers. Take 4 or 5 names per day and ask for God's blessing on each one. Some of our parishioners will remain on the list permanently, especially those who are in homes of one kind or another, housebound or suffering from chronic and ongoing conditions. If you know of someone whose name should be added, please inform the Rector or one of the church wardens. No name has been omitted intentionally.

**[NH = Nursing Home; CH = Care Home; RH = residential home]**

Martha Armstrong, *Masserene Nursing Home*  
 David Baird, *Fairhaven RH, North Road*  
 Ena Belton, *Malone RH*  
 Edith Booth, *Carryduff NH*  
 Warren Crawford, *Musgrave Park Hospital*  
 Mina Henry, *Arlington House, North Parade*  
 Mary Leslie, *Arlington House, North Parade*  
 Annie McCully, *Belmont CH*  
 Sadie Parker, *Belmont CH*  
 David Sampson, *Park Manor NH, Dunmurry*  
 Desmond Spratt, *Park Manor NH, Dunmurry*

John Burns  
 George and Margaret Clarke  
 Barbara Drysdale  
 Martha Fitzsimmons  
 Jim Garstang  
 Victor Gourley  
 Gloria Graham  
 Annie Jenkins  
 Edna King  
 Jean McCurrie  
 Elizabeth Mark  
 David and Emily Mason  
 Brian and Jean Matthews  
 Tom Reilly  
 Jim Shields  
 Doreen Smyth  
 Laura Smyth  
 David Stephenson  
 Roy and Ena Taylor  
 Greta Wilson

We also remember the McClenaghan Family, recently bereaved by the death of Dorothy .

**Mothers and Toddlers Group**  
**Thursdays**  
**in the church hall from 10 am to 12 noon.**

If you have any questions/enquiries please contact Alison on 07749172423 or Elaine on 07713383943

**Big Breakfast**

Thank you to everyone who supported this ~ to the cooks, washer-uppers, waiters and waitresses - and of course to those who came along to enjoy the best fry in Belfast! It was another great effort, raising £800 towards much needed funds. Well done to all 😊



*The Rector writes . . .*

*Dear Parishioners*

I can hardly believe that I am on the threshold of celebrating my first Christmas with you here at St Mary Magdalene. It seems ages ago since I was calling in with people in the wonderfully warm weather of July. Now we have the BB 125th Anniversary Radio Ulster Broadcast, the Harvest, Trafalgar Day, Remembrance Sunday and our first WOW service behind us and are hurtling towards new challenges.

Advent Sunday on 1 December marks the beginning of the Church Year. This will be reflected in the change of the liturgical colours to purple and in the replacement of Luke's Gospel [Year C] by Matthew's Gospel [Year A] So begins not only the Church Year, but the three-year lectionary cycle. In a sense that could be seen as my 'proper' start with you in St Mary Magdalene. I hope and trust that not only will I still be with you when we come back again to Matthew in 2016, but that with the help of the Holy Spirit we will have been enabled to advance God's Kingdom in Donegall Pass during that time.

Advent is too readily engulfed by the voracious spirit of Christmas. It is ideally an opportunity not to think too much about the incarnation – God coming amongst us as a vulnerable baby to begin the work of salvation which culminates in the events of Easter – but to look to the future return of this same Jesus as Lord of all, when the Kingdom of God will reign supreme. The Second Coming is of course a different prospect than the arrival of Jesus as a baby. But before we look back at the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry, we need to ensure that we have put our lives in order to welcome his return as King and judge. If Christmas is to have its proper impact in our lives, we need to ensure that our faith has moved on from the commercialism and the sentimentality to an adult faith, secure in its understanding of why Jesus was sent into the world in the first place and why we should anticipate his return with even greater joy, but also suitably prepared for the challenge it represents. *(Read Jacqueline's poem on Page 5)*

December brings me more 'Firsts'. On December 15 we are planning to have a Christingle Service and I hope that we will have as many people as possible in attendance to share this very special way of thinking about the meaning of Christmas. The Children's Society first introduced Christingle to the Church of England in 1968 and it has since become one of the most popular events for families and communities in the church calendar. It stems from the Moravian custom of distributing lighted candles to children on Christmas Eve. In Britain the distribution of candles has been replaced by the distribution of Christingles.

A Christingle is a decorated orange with a candle inserted. The word 'Christingle'

means 'Christ-Light'. The orange is said to represent the world, the candle points us to Jesus as the light of the world. Red tape or ribbon is wrapped round the orange and this reminds us of God's love wrapped round the world. It is red to remind us of Jesus' blood, shed for us on the cross. In addition four cocktail sticks containing sweets are inserted into the orange at regular intervals. These remind us of God's good gifts to us.

In the busy Christmas season, a Christingle celebration offers a chance to reflect on everything Jesus came to accomplish during his earthly ministry. A Christingle is a powerful symbol of God's love for the world. It also offers an opportunity to take the symbolic light of the Christingle candles and turn it into real hope for children who are living in darkness today.

The Children's Society has chosen child poverty as its focus this year. Every day, poverty affects a child's wellbeing as well as their chances in life. Growing up in poverty has an impact on a child's physical, mental and social development and can mean they do less well at school and in employment later in life. Some 3.6 million children live in poverty in the UK today – one of the worst rates in the industrialised world. These children need our prayers and our practical support.

Some examples of the impact of the money we donate to the Children's Society: £12 could buy emergency food vouchers to feed a family of four for three days; £25 could buy a pack of baby essentials – including nappies, clothes, and blankets for a new-born baby. There will be an opportunity during the Christingle Service for us to make a contribution to the vital work of the Children's Society. Incidentally, they provide many of the key Christingle resources free – including the posters, the candles, the red tape!

We will be making our Christingles during the service on December 15. If you haven't made them before, see page 8 for a set of instructions to help you:

December also brings my first service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 7 pm on the evening of 22 December. I would encourage as many of you as possible to join with us in this highlight of the year. It would be a great encouragement to Valerie and the Choir to have a good 'audience' for the pieces they have been preparing, but also a great opportunity for all of us to join in the singing of many of the great Christmas carols we have sung since our childhood.

Finally, the last Sunday in December brings me to my first BB Enrolment Service and our chance as a Parish to celebrate the work of the BB in the 1st Irish Company since the first group of boys was enrolled in 1888. It would be a great encouragement to Bill and his colleagues, as well as the boys, if we could have as many people as possible in attendance on 29 December. It would be a great way to mark the end of the calendar year and – incidentally – my first six months in St Mary Magdalene. Sally and I wish everyone all the joy of the Christmas season and a healthy and happy New Year.

*Rev Bob Cotter*



### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air*

W T Ellis

### Why the Advent Candle?

*Candles are lit to symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ.*



*On the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of Advent, a purple candle is lit. The colour purple as used during the period of Lent, reminds us to prepare a welcome for Jesus during the Advent season.*

*On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, a pink candle is lit. Pink is the colour of joy to remind us that we should be ready to welcome Christ at Christmas.*

*On Christmas Eve, the white candle is lit to celebrate the birth of Christ—The Light of the World.*



For your diary

Select Vestry	Mon 9th Dec	7.30 pm
Ladies' Guild	Wed 11th Dec	7.30 pm
Christingle Service	Sun 15th Dec	11.00 am
Nine Lessons and Carols	Sun 22nd Dec	7.00 pm
BB Enrolment and 125th Anniversary Service	Sun 29th Dec	11.00 am
Snooker Club	Tuesdays	7.00 pm
Midweek Services	Thursdays	12.30 pm
Mothers and Toddlers	Thursdays	10-12 noon
BB	Thursdays	6.30 onwards



"Lose some weight, quit smoking, move around more and eat the carrot."

Stuck for that last  
minute Christmas Gift?

Copies of Jacqueline's  
poems, 'Faith, Family  
and Friends' are still available. See  
Jacqueline or David if you would  
like a copy. Still a bargain at only  
£3.99 and all monies going to  
church funds.



## How to make a Christingle

1. Take an orange and fasten a piece of red sticky tape round the middle.
2. Cut a small cross in the top of the orange and push a candle into the hole.
3. Load four cocktail sticks with sweets and stick them into the orange.



(The candles will be lit later in the service and all the lit  
Christingles placed together)

HO HO HO!



Q What is the most popular wine at  
Christmas?

A *Do I have to eat my Brussel Sprouts*

Q What did Jack Frost say to Frosty the  
snowman?

A *Have an ice day*

Q What do you call a gigantic polar bear

A *Nothing you just run away!*

## The List

I've written out my Christmas List  
And checked it more than twice  
But I know there's somethin' missin'  
So I might need some advice.  
If I run the whole list by you  
Will you check I've not left out  
Any thing that's real important -  
But there's somethin' I've no doubt.

I've written all the Christmas cards  
And left them out to post.  
The turkey has been ordered  
And the ham which I will roast.  
The presents have been bought and wrapped  
And the children jumped with glee  
As we put the decorations  
On our lovely Christmas tree.

The letters that they've written  
Have been sent to Santa Claus  
But I know there's somethin' missin'  
I'll just take a breath and pause.  
What's that you say's forgotten?  
I've left out the very thing  
That Christmas time is all about -  
The birth of Christ the King!

How could His name slip by me?  
I suppose I'll need to think  
My priorities will have to change  
'Cause He's the missin' link.  
What point is there to Christmas  
If we forget the Holy One  
Born in the town of Bethlehem  
For us - God's own dear Son!

JS

## FLOWER LIST FOR 2014

Can you believe the time has come round again to organise the flower rota for another year? We continue to be very grateful to everyone who contributes to this fund, in order that the church can be decorated so beautifully each week. In no small measure, are our thanks due to Mrs Joan Rodgers who faithfully arranges the flowers week in and week out.

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.

We will continue the practice started last year, that where there is more than one request for a particular date, the option of a pedestal arrangement will be available. Duplicates will alternate on a yearly basis between flowers for the Holy Table and a Pedestal display. This has worked well this year and thank you to everyone who accommodated this arrangement.



for our  
younger readers ....

Here's a Christmas  
drawing for you to  
colour in.

Can you name  
everyone in this  
picture?



## Annual Gift Day

Gift day this year will be celebrated on Advent Sunday 1st 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



The annual BB enrolment service will take place on

Sunday the 29th December  
at 11.00 am

in the church. It will be 125 years on that date since the 1st Irish Company of The Boys' Brigade was formed. As this is a very special anniversary for the company, church and also the Belfast Battalion of The Boys' Brigade, I would ask you to make every effort to attend this service. If you know of any 'old boys' of the company I would appreciate it if you would let them know.

We will stop for Christmas on Thursday 12th December and start back again on Thursday 9th January 2014.

Happy Christmas!

William McMillan  
Captain 1st Irish Company



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

## Ladies' Guild



Hopefully the new-found fitness of the Ladies Guild members will not go unnoticed after our armchair aerobics at last month's meeting. It was most enjoyable and great fun. And we also made time for our cuppa!

This month we are having our Christmas Crafts evening and are looking forward to seeing what our craftswoman Kate has in store for us.

We are always open to new members, so if you enjoy good fun and fellowship you will be made most welcome. We wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas.

Members are reminded about the New Year Lunch on Saturday 11th January. The cost of this is £20 and it would be appreciated if this could be paid at the December meeting.

Jacqueline Stephenson