

saints

Kettering All Saints
Monthly Update

Alive!

**“The Church in the Park – Growing
in Faith, Hope and Love”**



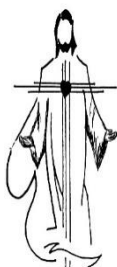
December 2022

kettallsaintschurch@gmail.com

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

2 nd DEC	7.30pm	Make your own Snowman Pizza evening with games £3.50
3 rd	10 & 1.30pm	2x Wreath making workshops £30 pp (contact Angela)
Sun 4th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist – Advent 2
5 th	7.30-8pm	Holy Eucharist
9 th	7.30-9.30pm	Fun Quiz evening £2 each includes tea/coffee. Max 4 in a team. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Raffle.
10 th	2.30-4.30pm	Tea Dance - £3
Sun 11th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist – Advent 3
	4pm	Memorial Tree Service with tea/coffee
12 th	7.30-8pm	Holy Eucharist
17 th	10.30-12.30	Listening to God Jubilee Room – speak to Jennie
Sun 18th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist – Advent 4
19 th	7.30-8pm	Holy Eucharist with Healing
21 st	9am start	Church Cleaning
Sat 24 th	3pm	Christingle Service
	5pm	Christingle Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass (with incense)
Sun 25th	9.30am	Christmas Day Mass
26th	7.30-8pm	Holy Eucharist No service BH

Listening to God



Christian meditation group meeting
17th December
10.30 – 12.30

Ring Jennie Loasby on 07990 588135
for details



Looking Forwards

This is my final "parish magazine" letter as your bishop. I've been writing such pieces since I became a vicar almost forty years ago, and I'll miss that joyful task. I'll miss the people I write to even more. Over forty-six and a half years of ordained ministry, almost thirteen of them here in Peterborough, I have worked with many people in many contexts, and made many friends. I am grateful to this diocese for making me welcome and letting me have a part in the great ministry here. I will take a lot of good memories with me.

But (and I expect you could feel a "but" coming) my leaving should not be about looking back, but we should all be looking forwards to what is next in God's plan for us. Whenever I write a December letter, I get some flack for giving more space to Advent than to Christmas, so (not wishing to disappoint the critics) I am doing the same again now. Advent, at the start of the Church's year, and setting the tone for the whole year, points us forwards rather than backwards. That is the Christian direction of travel.

As I write, we are getting ready for our three-yearly ministers' conference (the last one was five years ago, but covid caused two postponements). It will be over before you read this. I will certainly miss those wonderful gatherings of around three hundred clergy and lay ministers sharing together for the best part of a week.

The previous three which I have led for this diocese have had as their themes, ***Joy in Ministry, Building the Church, and Sent by Jesus***. This time, avoiding any backwards look, I have chosen ***Rejoice in Hope*** as the title, with studies and talks on the great Bible theme of Hope.

Hope is about putting our trust in Jesus for the future: looking joyfully to him, his wonderful promises, and his perfect plan. It is about his coming, his kingdom, the fullness of his salvation. It is about living for him, rising with him, being glorified in him.

Dear friends: my prayer is that we all rejoice in hope, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, this Advent, into Christmas, the New Year, and beyond.

God bless you



+Donald
Bishop of Peterborough



Diocese of Peterborough - Magazine Resource - December 2022

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GIVE US HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS

Give us hope for Christmas
Give us joy to share
Give us smiles that stretch for miles
In the whole world everywhere

Give us hope for Christmas
Give us peace and love
Give us smiles that stretch for miles
And big blue skies above

People fighting crazy wars
In a world gone mad
But wouldn't it be nice to share paradise
With nobody dying or sad

Give us hope for Christmas
Give us harmony
Give us smiles that stretch for miles
For the whole wide world to see

Give us hope for Christmas
If only for a day
Give us smiles that stretch for miles
For Santa and his sleigh

Let's make this world a better world
For each and every one
Let's stop the fights and share the light
Of one life-giving sun

Give us hope for Christmas
Give us joy to share
Give us smiles that stretch for miles
In the whole world everywhere

The Christian Chronicle

Army, War and Peace

We've only moved forward 17 years (to 1880 to be precise) but the period seems to be riddled with war and unrest, yet there is some peace and agreement too. This doesn't just apply to the political, secular world but crosses into religion and different avenues of Christianity as well.

Starting first with the Roman Catholic church, there's been concern over the growing influence of social and philosophical trends: rationalism, anarchism, communism, socialism, liberalism, and materialism. After 5 years of preparations, Pope Pius IX convoked the first Vatican Council, the first such council to meet within St Peter's Basilica. Opening in December 1869, the church was defensive towards these new ideologies and the council passed two declarations – first to condemn these new 19th century ideas, and second, to declare the primacy and infallibility of the Pope. That was as far as the council got before being forced to adjourn in 1870 when Italy declared war on the Papal States and seized Rome. Even then, this second declaration of Papal infallibility was not universally accepted, indeed, it was formally rejected by the Swiss Christian Catholic church.

Elsewhere in Europe, there's been war between France and Prussia. Although it was France who declared war on Prussia in July 1870, by January 1871 the French had suffered numerous defeats, Paris was under siege and the Prussian army were advancing north and westwards, threatening to overrun the entire country. As the Prussian army approached the city of Laval, the gateway to Brittany, the advance suddenly halted; at the same time a vision was seen in Pontmain, a nearby small hamlet. The apparition was only fully visibly to children, but each independently described a woman wearing a blue gown covered in golden stars, a black veil, and a golden crown whilst adults could only see 3 stars forming a triangle. A large crowd gathered, and the vision was present for nearly 3 hours. Titled 'Our Lady of Pontmain' or 'Our Lady of Hope' the Catholic church has recognised this as an appearance of the Virgin Mary. Following the vision, the Prussian advance stopped and, a few days later,

an armistice was signed. All 38 men and boys who'd been conscripted into the French army returned home to Pontmain unscathed.

This is not the only recent apparition. In 1879, in the village of Knock, County Mayo, Ireland, villagers reported seeing a large golden globe of light above and around the gable of the church: for about 2 hours, 25 villagers reported seeing an altar surrounded by the Blessed Virgin, St Joseph, and St John the Evangelist. A lamb is said to have been stood on the altar with a cross behind it. In this case, however, the Catholic Church has only declared the witness testimony as trustworthy and satisfactory.

Back in Prussia, a "Kulturkampf" (or culture struggle) has been on-going between state leader Otto Von Bismarck and the Catholic church over the church's influence/ control of education and ecclesiastical appointments.

Continuing the theme of war and conflict, Britain has also lurched into further war. Shortly after the end of the Crimean war, there was an Indian mutiny in Meerut and Delhi in 1857. Since then, Britain has established rule in the Indian subcontinent known as the British Raj; indeed, Queen Victoria has been declared Empress of India. However, it's required a significant presence from Britain to maintain this rule. Elsewhere Britain sought to strengthen its position in southern Africa by establishing a single, united, British Confederation. However, the neighbouring Zulu tribes under King Cetshwayo posed a significant threat. A conflict lasting just 7 months followed with significant loss of life on both sides. The Zulu war was short-lived but there's still tension in the area.

That's enough of war; besides the various agreements that ended the wars, there's been some other peace, too. In America, the various Lutheran groups have come together into Synods and together formed a General Lutheran Council; even holding a Synodical Conference - it makes a change from all the different church factions that have emerged in America. That's not to say that there haven't been any new groups; in the mid 1870's Mary Baker-Eddy published a book entitled 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' looking at the healing work in Christianity; Christian Science has arrived. In 1879 Baker-Eddy formally founded 'The Church of Christ, Scientist' in Boston, Massachusetts.

Bringing together these 2 themes so far, a Russian author named Leo Tolstoy has written a novel entitled 'War and Peace'. Initially serialised over 2 years, it was published in full in 1869. It was so popular in its serialised form that the full novel sold out almost immediately and has since been translated into many other languages. With over 1200 pages, it's not a simple or short read, but it's receiving widespread acclaim.

There's also 'army' in the title of this report: going back to 1865, Methodist preacher William Booth set out to bring "Salvation to the poor, destitute and hungry by meeting both their physical and spiritual needs". Assisted by his wife Catherine, Booth established the East London Christian Mission from the Blind Beggar Inn on Whitechapel Road. The formation of the Salvation Army followed. It holds to a strong Methodist theology but does not celebrate rites of Baptism or Holy Communion. As its name suggests, its leaders are titled using military-style ranks.

In Britain there's been further reform of the electoral system with the number of voters (still just men) being doubled by the 1867 Reform Act, compared to the earlier 1832 Act. The period 1865–8 saw 5 different Prime Ministers in Britain, but since then it seems to be a flip-flop battle between Conservative Benjamin Disraeli and Liberal William Ewart Gladstone. Under Gladstone, Robert Lowe has featured prominently serving both as Chancellor and Home Secretary, but Lowe's most significant contribution has come in education as he is recognised for the comment, following the electoral reform, that "we must educate our masters". Universal education was introduced for all children between 5 and 12 years under the Education Act 1870 and now, 10 years later, Primary education is compulsory and, for the first time, extended to girls.

On a final note, there's been a number of other significant points recently. In America, Thomas Edison has patented an electric light bulb and Wabash in Indiana is claiming to be the first town to be completely illuminated with electric lighting. After over 600 years in building Cologne Cathedral has finally been completed; work began in 1248 and it's now the largest gothic Cathedral in Europe. When that building started, and indeed, even until recently, there was little concept of exact time but with greater need for accurate navigation and the advent of swifter travel via the railways the

importance of synchronised time has become more relevant. For a while there's been Greenwich Mean Time that's had widespread maritime use. It became the standard on the British rail network in the 1850's, yet Parliament has taken its time on this one. But now, as of August 1880, Greenwich Mean Time is finally the official time of Britain.

Spreading the Word

We've reached a milestone, in more ways than one, as we get to the end of the 19th century and pause to take stock. The Hanoverians dominated 18th Century Britain with successive Georges on the throne. The 19th Century, however, has been focused by a single monarch - a Victorian era. Queen Victoria has already been the British monarch for over 63 years - the first ever to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee. It's been a reign of 2 halves, 2 tones: the early years were vibrant - a young Queen and her Prince Consort over-seeing a developing British Empire; but following the death of Prince Albert, in 1861, the Queen has been in an extended period of mourning. British influence around the world has continued to expand and this century has seen European extension into many other previously un-developed areas of the world. Christianity is no longer centred on Europe and the Mediterranean as the Word spreads.

The emigration of Europeans to America has taken Christianity westwards, even though this has brought many factions and narrow groups within the broader church. But Christianity is spreading in all directions: to China, Korea, New Guinea, Africa and South America. As a result, the bible is being translated into an ever-increasing range of languages. But as this century closes, there are other considerations related to the Bible and the spread of the Word: besides considering how far the Bible has spread and been distributed, there are questions as to the accuracy of the translation, and then debate as to the messages and meaning within the Scriptures.

The English translation of the Bible commissioned by King James I in 1611, now known as the Authorised Version, has prominently supported the spread of Christianity in the Americas and other areas where English, in particular, is being introduced. There's been concern, however, that the 'AV' is not an entirely accurate translation, and the Church of England, in particular, has called for revisions. So, now we have the 'Revised Version'

(a New Testament published in 1881, followed by Old Testament in 1885 and the addition of the Apocrypha in 1894). The revision is based more closely on the original Septuagint and Hebrew Masoretic texts with closer attention paid to the Greek language structure. Previous versions had relied on Latin translations of Greek translations. This version is a major development and is proving popular in North America, in particular, to the delight of bible scholars who appreciate the improved accuracy.

There's renewed interest in studying bible detail and some students have taken to linking biblical prophecy to modern times. We've encountered the Seventh Day Adventists that look to the second coming of Christ, and we now also have a Christian Zionist movement that looks to restoration of the Jews to the Holy Land as part of that process. Charles Taze Russell is one such early Christian Zionist minister; from 1879 he's been publishing a magazine entitled 'Zion's Watchtower and Herald of Christ's Presence', a bible study movement is developing, and the long-winded title of Russell's publication is now unofficially shortened to just 'The Watchtower'.

On the bible study theme, Chicago also now has a college, dedicated to bible study – the Moody Bible Institute. But more of a challenge is the latest book from Leo Tolstoy; remember his War and Peace, well he's now written "The Kingdom of God is within you" a philosophical treatise of Christian anarchy – in other words the political theology that identifies anarchism to be inherent in Christianity, denouncing the role of state as violent, deceitful and ideologist. Christian anarchists see the 'Sermon on the Mount' as a road map for their beliefs. It seems bible interpretation is once again in the spotlight.

Finally, on the topic of spreading the Word, as a neat conclusion to the century, there's been a new organisation founded calling itself 'The Gideons International'. Two salesman, John Nicholson and Samuel Hill, met in Wisconsin in 1898; the pair decided that there's a need to literally spread the Word by making bibles free and accessible everywhere. By the summer of 1899, with the help of Will Knights they'd established the Gideons. It will be interesting to see how this aim plays out and it will also be interesting to see what the 20th Century has in store for us. _____



Soup Kitchen

Traditionally at All Saints we donate our cash collections from Midnight Mass and Christmas morning to a charity, in more recent years choosing a local charity. It was decided at our PCC meeting in November to support the St Peter & St Paul soup kitchen, which also offers support to their clients with food packages. The soup kitchen has always been extremely grateful for our donations. As we are aware, not everyone can attend these services, if you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause, please bring it to church over the next month, in an envelope labelled "soup kitchen donation" and leave in the usual collection place. However, if you would prefer to donate a food item, we shall have a box in church to put all items in, which we shall then pass onto them after Advent. Many thanks - Marie Morrison

DID YOU KNOW?

In a bible in 1702, one line in Psalm 119 reads: "Printers have persecuted me without cause." It should have said "Princes".

Items of note discussed at November PCC meeting:

Church location sign - In hand with contractors and this will be erected as soon as possible.

Clearing of brambles and branches – Work has been ordered to do this.

Christmas Service Collections - Christingle to Children's Society, other Christmas Service collections and Alan Ridley's Christmas Quiz monies to go St Peter and Paul Soup Kitchen and foodbank.

Foodbank provisions donations - A box will be located at the rear of the Church during December for the donation of non-perishable provisions for a foodbank.

Church Development Wish List / To Do List – This was updated for the meeting please speak to Angela if you wish to know more.

All Saints' Community Events – The core programme for the year ahead will be Table Top Sales, Quiz Nights and Tea Dances. These are thought to be the best financial and community outreach events. Other events will be added on merit. There will be a Hartley exhibition on 23rd and 24th September. Derrick Smith is the lead on this. Note this in your 2023 diary please as help will be required with this including setting up on the 22nd September.

Correspondence – **HomeStart** have written to thank the Church for its generosity with the Harvest donations. The toys from the Toy Service will also go to them.

The Diocese – An energy grant of £755 has been allocated to the Church.

Church Energy Supplier - The Treasurer has been informed that we do qualify for an Energy Relief Scheme no details available yet.

Hall Matters - Zumba class still suspended due to instructor's injury. Various other bookings remain in place. Due to increases in energy costs hourly rates are to be reviewed forthwith. With the cessation of the Frances Lunch Club on 22nd December the Church has been given their kitchen equipment.

Health and Safety - The Risk Assessment for Home Visiting/Pastoral Support is still outstanding but will be addressed as soon as possible.

Fabric - A leak in the newly repaired roof has been repaired by the contractors along with the faulty guttering.

Any other Business – The provision of a play corner in Church for younger children was discussed and it was agreed that this provision would be made available in the Jubilee Room (the room at the back of Church). A parent or guardian would be required to be present with any child. The availability of this facility would be announced at the Christingle and also in Saints Alive, hoping to encourage those wishing to attend Church with young children to feel comfortable in doing so.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 9th January 2023

Submitted by Jane Bouchier

MARIE & JUNE'S TRIP TO LONDON

On Friday 29th October I joined my mum & Jill on a bus trip to St Paul's cathedral, London. The day started early as our pickup was just after 7.30 am! After an hour on the bus picking up elsewhere locally we were then on our way to London. The bus trip was also doing two other drop offs in London, with St Paul's being the last drop off, we arrived just after 11.30am, the downside of being the first pick up and the last drop off!!

We started by having a walk around the cathedral, it really is stunning, the dome ceiling has to be seen to be believed. I don't think I've ever seen in such a beautiful building inside. The high altar is stunning with a magnificent cross upon it. On the hour, every hour, the priest announces a time of short prayer and asks everyone to pause. A short prayer was said and the Lords prayer recited. We then continued our walk along, looking at all the memorials around the cathedral. At 12.30 you are



invited to a short communion Mass under the dome. The three of us found a seat to join in. This was quite a surreal experience, the acoustic in the cathedral meant the reading of the Mass echoes all around, quite hauntingly. It was quite strange attending Mass whilst tourists continue to wander around you! But somehow it seemed to work. After Mass we thanked the celebrant and continued our walk about. Jill then left us to meet up with her daughter and grandchildren, who live in London, for the afternoon.

The whispering gallery was closed, and we both did not want to walk up to the high viewing area, both not being very good with heights!! We then made our way down to the crypt. In the crypt are many memorials and the tombs of Christopher Wren, Nelson & Wellington. The Crypt was very different to what I was expecting, more like a church under the cathedral! We spent some time reading all the plaques and dedications.



After making our way out we took a walk all around the outside of the cathedral, it really is a magnificent building. By this time we was quite hungry so went to find some mid- afternoon lunch!

We had about an hour and a half left until our bus pick up, so decided to just walk around the local area, this was where we stumbled across St Bartholomew Church. This was a very unique find. A very old church, I've since learned it is the oldest surviving Church in London, surviving the great fire and the blitz. It was stunning inside, but in a very different way to St Paul's! I wish we had more time to explore this church, and I hope to return one day.

After a really lovely day, we then found Jill again and waited for the bus. It was a long journey home, due to the various pick ups in London, during rush hour, not helped by having to go back for someone who had missed their pickup!! But despite all this a great day was had by us all.

Marie & June

TRADITIONS AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Bells: The next time you open a Christmas card with a picture of bells upon it, and after reading this post you will recognise their significance to Christmas. Bells, especially Church Bells, have traditionally been associated with Christmas for a long time. In the Anglican and

Catholic churches, the church day starts at sunset, so any service after that is the first service of the day. A service on Christmas Eve after sunset is traditionally the first service of Christmas day! In churches that have a Bell or Bells, They are often rung to signal the start of this service.

In some churches in the UK, it is traditional that the largest bell in the church is rung four times in the hour before midnight and then at midnight all the bells are rung in celebration.

In the Catholic Church, Christmas and Easter are the only times that Mass is allowed to be held at Midnight. It's traditional that at both midnight Masses, the church and altar bells too in many cases are rung while the Priest says the "Gloria" (Gloria in excelsis Deo.)

Having a Mass at Midnight at Christmas dates back to the early church, when it was believed that Jesus was born at midnight, although there has never been any proof of this! A lot of Churches have midnight services on Christmas Eve, although not every church will have a mass or communion as part of the service.



In Victorian times, it was very fashionable to go carol singing with small handbells to play the tune of the carol. Sometimes there would only be the bells and no singing! Handbell ringing is still popular today.

Perhaps the most famous bells at Christmas now are the ones in the song 'Jingle Bells'. However, the song was first called "One Horse Open Sleigh" and was originally published, in the USA, in September 1857 as a Thanksgiving song and NOT a Christmas one! But it soon became associated with Christmas because of the 'snowy' lyrics and many choirs were singing it at Christmas in the 1860s and 1870s. It was first recorded in 1889. Often only the first verse (and chorus) are now sung. The other verses are about driving the 'one horse open sleigh' rather fast and crashing it!

Jingle Bells was also the first song to be broadcast from space in December 1965 when the astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra said they had spotted a sleigh in space! They then took out a harmonica and sleigh bells which they had smuggled onto the Gemini 6 space craft and played and sang the song to mission control.

Mistletoe: Mistletoe is a common plant found in many homes in the UK around Christmas. It is a symbol of romance – but did you know it's also semi-parasitic and poisonous? Not only is mistletoe a parasitic plant that comes from bird droppings, but the origins of the name itself are fairly unattractive as well. It's derived from two Anglo Saxon words “Mistel” meaning dung, and “Tan” meaning stick or branch.

The tradition of hanging mistletoe dates back to the ancient Druids who believed the plant brought good luck and helped protect against evil spirits. In Norse mythology, mistletoe symbolised love, which is where the custom of kissing under the mistletoe originates from. The ancient Greeks used mistletoe for medicine as a pain reliever and for conditions such as ulcers.

It all began in the 1st century A.D. with an ancient civilization. The consensus among experts is that the use of Mistletoe in ritual form started with the Celtic Druids. This ancient civilization of people lived on the British Isles in what is now Ireland and Scotland. The Mistletoe became a sacred symbol of vivacity and fertility to the Druids after they saw it blooming in the trees during the harsh winters. It would later become a central focus of the Ritual of Oak and Mistletoe, a ceremony that led the Romans to call the Druids ‘barbarians.’

Another piece of the mistletoe puzzle comes from Norse mythology. In the Norse culture, the Mistletoe plant was a sign of love and peace. The story goes that the goddess, Figg lost her son, the god Baldur, to an arrow made of mistletoe. After his death, she vowed that Mistletoe would kiss anyone who passed beneath so long as it was never again used as a weapon.

The kissing tradition as we know it appears to have started in 18th century England where it first became widely used as a Christmas

decoration. The tradition spread quickly throughout the world. Beginning as a custom among the lower classes, it made its way to all classes, becoming a universal holiday ritual.

In the UK, the tradition of kissing underneath the mistletoe dates back to the 1700s but the Victorians continued the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe as it was thought to symbolise fertility and romance.

(taken from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-25419506>)

DON'T FORGET

If you are buying things on-line please don't forget to go through EasyFundraising first and select All Saints Church Kettering. This costs you nothing extra as the customer, but we at All Saints get a small amount of commission every time you use it. Most on-line retailers are listed. You need to go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> create an account and choose All Saints Church Kettering as your cause, then simply go through the web site when you start on-line shopping.



Christmas Crackers

Who says oh, oh, oh? Father Christmas walking backwards!
What do you get if Fr Christmas goes down a chimney with a fire alight at the bottom? Crisp Chringle
How do snowmen travel? on an icicle
How does a snowman lose weight? by standing next to a radiator
What did the farmer get for Christmas? A cow-culator
What did the dog get for Christmas? a mobile bone!
Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas? Santa Jaws!
What do wizards use to wrap their Christmas presents? spell-o-tape
Why didn't anyone bid for Rudolph & Blitzen on eBay? they were too deer

Now includes Corby!

Be Prepared for Christmas with

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<http://glendonscouts.org.uk/scoutpost-2022>

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GRETTON
Isham
Kettering
Little Cransley

Little Oakley
Little Stanion
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Newton
Orlingbury
Orton
Pipewell
Pytchley
Rothwell
Rushton
Stanion
Warkton
Weekley
Weldon

Please do not post cards for other places as we will be unable to deliver them. We DO NOT deliver to Finedon or Wellingborough

Address cards with:

**Recipients name
Number of house / Name of street
Town
Postcode (if known)**

COPY - Please send in your snippets, news, prayers etc to Angela. The deadline for the January edition of Saints Alive! is 28th December. It will be available from Sunday 1st January.



NewsLetter

DEADline



A gift of
love
this Christmas

Fyness Tembo
tends to her garden.

In Malawi, most families depend on farming, making them extremely vulnerable to the climate crisis.
Our church's Christmas gift could help more mums like Fyness Tembo lift their families out of hunger.
This Christmas, share the greatest gift of all – love.

Give, act and pray with us this Christmas.
Without gifts of love, it wouldn't be Christmas.
Visit caid.org.uk/christmas

christian aid

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Story of the Three Trees

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.
The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold & filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world." Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest. I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell.

"Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feedbox for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail on an ocean or even a river; instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many, many days and night passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one-night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her new-born baby in the feedbox.

"I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. Suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake.

Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. Suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

The next time you feel down because you didn't get what you want, sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you.

Source unknown

Community Highlights for December 2022

2nd – Snowman Pizza Drive – good fun for young and old. You're your own pizza. 7.30pm start. Contact Angela with numbers £3.50 each.	3rd – Wreath making Workshop 10am or 1.30pm. £30 per person. Contact Angela to book.
9th – Fun Quiz evening £2 each includes tea/coffee. Max 4 in a team. Bring your own drink and nibbles. Raffle. 7.30pm start.	10th – Christmas Tea Dance starts 2-30pm-4.30pm. Raffle available. Entry £3 includes tea/coffee and cake.

CHURCHES AROUND OUR AREA THIS MONTH

(Photographs by permission of Caroline Bantock-Brown of churches, porches, spires, grotesques, stained-glass windows etc.)

St Andrews, Old Most of the current church building was erected in the 13th and 14th centuries. Grade I listed.



Floor tiles

Repaired piscina (for draining water used during the Mass.)

Christmas Services:

From December 1st our Memorial tree will be up. We think of Christmas past. You can write a message and place it on our memorial tree in church. Donations welcome.

Sunday 11th December Memorial Tree service 4pm. Tea coffee afterwards.	Saturday 24th December Christingle services at 3pm and 5pm can be booked via Angela or kettallsaintschurch@gmail.com
Saturday 24 th December Midnight Mass 11.30pm with incense.	Sunday 25 th December Christmas Day Mass at 9.30am.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Fr. Brian wishes you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyous New Year. May the light of Christ shine on our dark and troubled world and bring us all into the all-embracing love of God.



Angela and Richard would like to thank you all for your support over the past twelve months and take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very peaceful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Jennie Loasby and Poppy Holmes wish everyone at All Saints a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Pam Chandler wishes everyone at All Saints a peaceful and Happy Christmas and all Gods' blessings for 2023.

Sue & John Owen would like to thank everyone for the prayers and good wishes over the last few months. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Wishing all of our friends a joyful Christmas and peaceful new year. Sue Waite, Emma, Greg & Elliot xx

Phil & Mary Mason wish everyone at All Saints a happy Christmas and new year.

Merry Christmas to all my church family at All Saints. Many thanks for all your support over the last year as your treasurer. I wish you all a blessed Happy New Year. Marie Morrison

To All Saints and friends: Christmas greetings and best wishes for the new year. Wendy Woolley and family x

To everyone at All Saints – I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas. May you enjoy time with your family and friends. Let us not forget the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas. May the birth of Jesus into the world continue to give us hope and joy in these troubled times. In 2023 I wish you all good health and strength in all you strive to do next year. Love from Ruth Inyon.

Pat and Derrick Smith wish you all a joyful Christmas and good health for the new Year.

Warmest Christmas wishes to everyone at All Saints and a Peaceful New Year. From Anne and John Sockett.

Jill & John Stapleton wish everyone at All Saints a Happy & Peaceful Christmas, and special thanks to those who continue to support our altar serving team.



We have 438 people checking our events page on:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Ketteringallsaintsevents>

Email: kettallsaintschurch@gmail.com

Website Address: <https://kettallsaintschurch.chessck.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsparishchurchkettering/>

Or follow us on **Twitter @[AllSaintsKett](#)**

WHO'S WHO AT ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH

Priest-in-charge	Rev. David Walsh	
Reader	John Stapleton	520342
Reader	Alan Ridley	529426
Churchwardens:	Richard Lewis	513703
	Angela Brett	522158
Safeguarding:	Julie Loake	07743400812
Hall Manager:	Lyn Ridley	529426
Secretary:	John Sockett	501851
Treasurer:	Marie Morrison	725219
Saints Alive!	Angela Brett	522158

**This edition of Saints Alive is
 "In loving Memory of Anne Wall,
 Always in our hearts"
 Nina and all her family x**

