



CHRIST CHURCH PARBOLD CHRISTMAS 2024 PRAYER NEWSLETTER



ENCOURAGEMENT

**Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God evermore
Good news, great joy for all
Melody breaks through the silence
Christ, the Savior is born!
Jesus, the love song of God!**



The above lyrics come from Chris Tomlin's Christmas song Midnight Clear ([Chris Tomlin - Midnight Clear \(Love Song\) \(Live\) \(Tomlin Christmas\) - YouTube](#))

and to me it reflects the wonder of the Christmas story.

Our God is the great Creator of song and music. I was watching a documentary from David Attenborough in which he showed the songs of nature and how the smallest of songbirds produce such incredibly complex songs that we as humans cannot hear all the notes!

And he played the song of whales which can cover many miles underwater. But when they speeded up the low song notes they sounded just like a bird singing!

Thinking about the wonder of music, then the lyric above makes perfect sense. God our Father loved us so much that he sent His Son to be born and die for us – as a Love Song showing how much God loves and cares for each one of us.

So when we sing our Christmas carols then think also that the angels are singing and God is rejoicing over us with His song:

The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah ch 3 v 17)

May the Lord bless you this Christmas as we rejoice and give you a peaceful and inspiring New Year as we grow in fellowship with each other.

God bless,

Lin



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Some of the messages for all at Christ Church Parbold. (also from Brian and Branwen Harding later in the newsletter)



On the hillside that first Christmas night the angel proclaimed, 'good news of great joy for all the people'.

May we hear that message of great Joy today and may we share it with everyone we know, God bless you this Christmas time

Sue x

To all my Church family and friends,

May God Bless you this Christmas and through the coming year.

Love and best wishes

Barbara

Christmas greetings to the church family at Parbold from **Brian and Frances**.

To all my church family at Christ Church, God bless you at this Christmas time and thanks for all your kind thoughts and wishes.

God bless,

Ron Mills

To my church family and friends. Thank you for your prayers over the past year. Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. With love to you all, **Sylvia Hunter**.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- As the nights draw in, please pray for those who live alone that the Lord will be close and give them peace.
- Remembering those who are ill, especially those awaiting hospital appointments or treatment.
- Pray for our Doctors and nurses facing the extra pressures of winter emergencies.
- Pray that all our teachers and staff may have a restful time this Christmas and be ready for the New Year.
- Please pray that our church services will touch many hearts and bring God's light at the end of a difficult year.
- We pray for all those who are suffering this Christmas time especially the vulnerable and homeless.



PARISH TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN.

If you would like special prayer, the first point of contact is **Lin 01257 463523** or **John Mountain 01257 463919**. The requests go out to the chain at 6.30pm but in emergencies will be sent out as soon as the request is received.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

See the notices for all the services this Christmas.

- Making Christingles on Monday 23rd 2pm in church.
- **New Year's Eve evening.** Party at 327 Preston Road Standish, all welcome.
- If anyone would like more details about any of the above please see Joanna Ashcroft



NEWS FROM EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST

Our partner Caritas Jerusalem works in Gaza and the West Bank. They sent this Christmas message:

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, we are reminded of the profound message of peace, hope, and light that He brings to the world. This is our second Christmas in the midst of war, yet our hearts remain steadfast in faith, trusting that the righteousness of Christ will prevail over all darkness. In this season of reflection and joy, we turn to the words of Scripture: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

These words remind us that even in the darkest of times, the light of Christ shines brightly, and in Him, we find the peace that the world cannot offer. We stand together in hope for a future where oppression ends, where tyranny is no more, and where justice reigns.

This Christmas, we wish you all the peace, joy, and love that the birth of our Saviour brings. Though we are surrounded by the challenges of war, we are united in the hope that with Christ, a new reality is being born—a reality where there is no more injustice, no more suffering, and no more darkness.

May this Christmas be a time of renewed faith and hope and may the light of Christ guide us all to a brighter, more just future."

(sent from Brian and Frances)



MERCY RESCUE TRUST NEWS

The official Newsletter from Mercy Rescue Trust is attached to your email.



THANKS

Many thanks to all our contributors to the newsletter. May the news from all our links encourage everyone to keep praying for their needs.

The next newsletter will be on Sunday 2nd February 2025. Any items for inclusion to Lin Milne by Friday 31st January please.



NEWS FROM ANDREW FANSTONE IN BRAZIL

Below are the images of how our church building, which is situated on one of the main corners where they sell drugs in the slum has changed. The first two pictures are when we moved in and the other two were taken last week during our 12 hours of prayer we had for the community, Brazil and the nations.



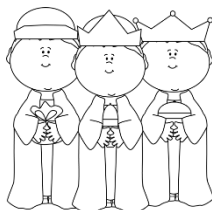
The building is a beautiful physical illustration of the inner transformation that God is doing and wants to do in many people's lives. Below is a photo of Igor praying at the event. Igor is another boy who used to come to our kids club but was swallowed up by a life of drugs and gangs and ended up in prison. Once again, whilst in prison he remembered the seeds that were planted and gave his life to Jesus. A short time after he gave his life to Jesus his mum was killed, and the murderer was caught and placed in the same wing of the prison he was in.

The law of the Slum and human nature was that he had to get revenge on the man that killed his mum, but one day during one of the recreation times in the yard of the prison, Igor walked over to the man who killed his mum, extended his hand and said Jesus has forgiven me of all my sins, I will also forgive you. Igor is now free from prison, lives over the road from the church, has a family and in his spare time is part of a group called 'preachers on the pavements', where he goes around preaching and telling people on the streets about the saving power of Jesus.
Andrew and Claudia



(The full newsletter is pinned to the notice board,)

JUST A THOUGHT!



You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable nappies as gifts!



*Christmas Greetings to everyone
at Christ Church Parbold
from EducAid*



It's Christmas here in Sierra Leone,
And for everyone in Parbold too.
So, although we don't have any snow,
Every day, we think of you.

We appreciate and value your support,
Provided throughout the year,
As we work at our tasks and studies,
We hold your friendship dear.



Thank you to everyone at Christ Church Parbold from us all in EducAid in Sierra Leone.

*We wish you A Very Happy Christmas
and
A Peaceful and Contented 2025 with Good Health for everyone*

Further details of the work of EducAid in Sierra Leone are available from
Pat Horn - 07941 577 436

Dear Lin and all at Christ Church Parbold,

I wanted to thank you again for your generous donations to EducAid during the Big Give Christmas Challenge which closed at noon on Tuesday. Thanks to your support, we reached our target, raising an incredible **£30,475!**

Your donations will make a big difference in the lives of our students across EducAid's schools, helping to improve connectivity, upgrade infrastructure, and create inspiring learning environments. This was truly an investment in potential, dreams, and the future. Thank you so much for your support of EducAid and making our work possible

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND NEWS FROM Rev. BRIAN AND BRANWEN HARDING.

(our vicar until 2007)

After 3 very busy years, whilst working full time, **David** recently heard he has got his Master's degree and his girlfriend, **Jane**, has gained her M.Phil. They have been a tremendous support to one another. We went out to celebrate with them and **Sharon** at the weekend and had the most wonderful meal and family time together.

Richard, sadly, has moved further away – to Nottingham. He has a lovely bungalow in Beeston which he is busy bringing up to scratch. It's near, of course, to the croquet club! We look forward to visiting him before too long.

Sadly, **Sharon's** romance came to an end, but I'm pleased to say that all three children are well.

Our boiler failed last month so we were without hot water and heating for 16 days during the coldest weather this season. Happily, we now have a new boiler and hoping soon to get to proper grips with the, yes, you've guessed it, digital Hive thermostat. Anyone got any tips???

Healthwise, we plod on. **Brian** had first knee replaced 3rd May – now waiting for the other to be done. **Branwen** still has long covid and on list for hip op but has to lose some weight first – not easy when painful to walk and with NO energy - she's just picking up after being very anaemic too since at least last Dec.

We are still thrilled that our church congregation is slowly growing. So many of them get actively involved with our monthly All Age Worship. However, we would love to have young families join us in 2025. We didn't get away on holiday this year – hopefully we will next year but managed a day out for **Brian's** birthday – piccy below.

Please keep us up to date with your news. So sorry we don't get to see most of you. Keep well, keep praising and have a joyful Christmas. **Richard** will come up and stay at Dave's for Christmas, Diana will join us at Sharon's. We're all at Sharon's for Christmas day then David and Jane will be entertaining us all on Boxing Day at Dave's.



With our very best wishes for Christmas and for 2025.

Love from Brian & Branwen.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE QUIZ.



1. What did John the Baptist's father want to name him instead of John?
2. Which emperor of Rome ordered that all inhabitants of the Roman Empire return to their home city?
3. Where did the Magi meet Mary and Jesus?
4. Who did King Herod ask about where the Messiah was going to be born?
5. What happened directly after Jesus got out of the river after being baptised?
6. What was the name of the prophetess that the Holy Family met when presenting Jesus at the temple?
7. Which of the 12 Tribes of Israel was Jesus descended from?
8. Which Christmas carol is a retelling of Luke 2:8-14?
9. The Massacre of the Innocents targeted boys below what age?
10. What does 'Immanuel' mean?
11. In what town was Jesus baptised?



(answers from Lin Milne)

