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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

12th December	10.30 Nativity Service in Church
19th December	4.30pm Open Air Carol Service
24th December	3.30pm Open Air Christingle Service
24th December	11.30pm Midnight Service
25th December	10am Christmas Day Service

Comments and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, The PCC or the clergy of St Thomas' or St Peter's.

A Christmas Letter

Bill Galloway

Many years ago I had the privilege of being present at the birth of our youngest son at a hospital in East Kilbride in Scotland. I wanted to be present at the birth of our eldest son but at that time we were living in New Plymouth on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand and the hospital there had stopped allowing fathers to be present at births. The reason for this decision was that staff were spending more time helping distressed fathers than in actually delivering the babies!!

Even though it happened over fifty years ago I still vividly remember the birth of our youngest son. I stood there feeling a deep sense of awe and wonder as this little (well not so little as he weighed over 9 lbs) pink and purple being entered the world and took his first breath. For me it was a deeply religious experience and I felt like I was standing on holy ground.

At this time of the year our thoughts, as Christians, turn to the birth of the baby Jesus. Here is the dialogue from a church nativity play, written and directed by a class of nine-year olds and it opens with the scene at the inn. Mary and Joseph asked for a room overlooking Bethlehem:

Innkeeper Can't you see the 'No Vacancy' sign.

Joseph Yes, but can't you see that my wife is expecting a baby any minute?

Innkeeper Well that's not my fault.

Joseph Well it's not mine either.

That there was no room at the Inn for Jesus is symbolic of what was to happen all through His earthly life. William Barclay said that the only room for Jesus was on the cross. Even today, and at this Christmas period, in very many human hearts there is no room for Jesus.

The birth of the baby Jesus was no different in essence from the birth of any other human baby but of course this baby was God in human form – God Incarnate. For me and I think for many Christians this birth

is, the single greatest event in all of human history. Without this birth and all that followed from it we would have no Saviour and little real knowledge of the true nature of God and his plans for us and His creation.

Jesus' birth and his death on the cross mark the times in human history that the awesome and profound depth of God's love for each one of us was completely revealed. Holding fast to the knowledge of that love in our hearts can sustain us through all of life's challenges including the present terrible pandemic.

A wise man once gave me the following advice which I pass on to you as something to take to heart, not only into this Christmas and the New Year, but always:

Concentrate on Jesus Christ. Make Him the pre-eminent One in your life. For you have all things **in** Him, **with** Him, and **through** Him – and nothing is greater than that.

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THE LIGHT TRAIL 31 OCTOBER

Huge thanks to all those who helped at the Light Trail - and for those praying at home too! It was a fantastic event with around 200 people from the community coming along to join in the fun, and hearing about the light that Jesus brings

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Ask God to help
Do more for others
View others as God sees them
Encourage each other
Notice God at work
Thank God daily

The Knife Angel

Marie Witham

The photo on the front cover is of the Knife Angel when it was in Chesterfield in October. I had hoped to see it in Derby two years ago but didn't manage it so I was delighted when it came to Chesterfield. It is also known as The National Monument Against Violence and Aggression. The sculpture also serves as a memorial to families affected by violent crime and carries hundreds of inscriptions and blessings.

Designed and created by The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry, The Knife Angel has been sculpted using over 100,000 seized knives collected from all 43 British Police Force Constabularies. Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Police have committed themselves to host workshops and to increase community and educational youth engagement on anti-violence during its hosting period. Along with community engagement, Chesterfield Police will also have a knife bank alongside The Knife Angel, supplied by The British Ironwork Centre, for knives and weapons to be surrendered.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO MILLIE GUTHRIE ON BEING AWARDED THE BISHOP'S BADGE.

Millie's citation read, "The Bishop's Badge is awarded for producing the Parish Profile and all the extra work being done by Millie during interregnum."



Chesterfield's Climate Change March

I will start with a question! Why is it that when I was within a few days of my 74th birthday I decided that now was the time to take part in my 1st ever demonstration march? Saturday 6th November '21 was designated as the day that we would be invited to march to express our concern about the crisis that is Climate Change and the damage we are causing to our environment



and God's creation. Everyone must, by now, be aware of the COP26 summit in Glasgow and have been following the news highlighting the rapid deterioration to the world's climate and the impact on the lives of so many. Over the past few years the

world has experienced drought and flooding, heat and torrential rainfall, forest fires and failure of harvest. The meteorologists are telling us that the temperature is rising and that unless we slow and reverse the process the consequences will be even more disasters and irreversible damage to



creation.

The problems have resulted from the extensive use of fossil fuels, industrialisation and a lifestyle that is out of balance with nature. This is not a new issue, scientist have been warning of acid rain and unpredictable weather for many years. The problem is that the damage to

the environment is accelerating and soon will be out of control.

We at St Thomas' have recently focused on the impact of climate change with inputs during services highlighting the issues and teaching and prayers about our responsibility towards God's creation.



Mankind was told by God to care for the world and work in harmony with nature. We are also told that creation teaches us about God and his care for all and that it joins with us in worshipping Him, it's maker. However, we know, only too well, that we have a habit of focusing on our needs, wants and desires and find it easy to turn a

blind eye to the impact we may have on others and the world. I think that it is clear that the poor and disenfranchised are always the 1st to suffer and the impact on our comfortable situation has, to date, been limited.

Now is the time to take action, to make changes and follow the teaching of

scripture requiring us to “act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6v 8)

The national day of action on 6th November '21 included a march through Chesterfield town center organized by “Climate Action North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield Climate Alliance” .The rally and march included some 2,000 people from many different political positions. There were also many



individuals concerned about the climate change and representatives from a number of different churches in the town. There were some 15 of us from St Thomas’ who wanted to make it clear that, whist any resolution to climate change requires a political will, it also requires individuals to change in their values and for all to be

aware of the needs of the vulnerable and also those whose lives are at risk from the climate changes. It requires action and compassion, to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are required to prefer the needs of others before our wants and desires for all things modern and our appetite for cheap goods at the expense of the lives of others. Some of the group made banners to declare that the Earth is the Lords and everything in it. The Gates Art Group made a colourful banner requiring us to care for the world and after brief time of prayer we joined to march to show that the church is alive and well and serves others by our prayers and actions.

So why go on a march in a small provincial town like Chesterfield and why start protesting when over the age of 70. Well, for me it is a case of being open and public about following Gods teaching and valuing his gifts to us, it is about caring for the those who are experiencing the impact of Climate Change and caring for those who will be affected, in the future, by the growing problems. It is also a statement by me that, at last, I have woken up to the dire consequences of Climate Change to all mankind and I am now recognising the uncomfortable fact that I have contributed to the problem and am therefore partially responsible for the harm to our world. It is also marking a time of change and reevaluation of my lifestyle, do I need so much? Can I find a balance between what I want, what I need and what I can reasonably have?

We at St Thomas’ will continue to be active in reducing our “carbon footprint” and to care for the beauty of this world and all who live in it.

The question for you is;

Will you join with me in reviewing your life



choices and making small but important changes to way you live? You may not have to go on a town centre march but you may want to make sure you... act justly, love mercy and walk humbly, hand in hand, with our God the maker and provider of all that we have. The one who we love and serve and is part of all aspects of our lives.

This is not an issue that will just go away but one that requires all of us to act now. The Mission Committee at St Thomas' are continuing to consider what changes can be made and will be sharing their thoughts and proposals with all soon. In the mean time we can all start by reducing our reliance on plastic and prioritising what will help slow the pace of Climate Change.



John Small

Transition Chesterfield repair cafe

People get together to chat, learn and take part in repair jobs at the Repair Café. Visitors received advice and help with a range of repairs, from sewing jobs to broken garden chairs to a 1960's Kenwood food mixer.

We have a delicious selection of hot drinks and home-made cakes on offer, for visitors to enjoy while they got into the spirit of Repair Café and the joy of mending objects rather than sending them to landfill.

We also promoting the ongoing Right to Repair campaign from Restart: details can be found here: www.therestartproject.org/right-to-repair/

We get together on the third Saturday of the month, our next events being on **Saturday 18 December, 10am - 1pm, 'last orders' are at 12.30pm.**

Venue: Chesterfield Baptist Church, Cross St, S40 4ST.

Parking available at the school next door or on the street. Any questions, please say hello at repairs@transitionchesterfield.org.uk or get in touch with us on Twitter or Facebook @TransitionChez

We are also planning an event on waste and repair for Spring 2022. It would be great to have some help with this; if you have some time or expertise to share, please get in touch via the email address above.

Update on Hope House Chesterfield

Hope House has now been operational for 6 months, and so far has survived the challenges that Covid has brought us all. In total, 19 residents have been through the doors and received support since we opened, and at the time of writing we have ten residents at home. The staff team are doing well, although we have had some changes and still some vacancies to fill, as the national recruitment challenge is affecting us as it is the entire care sector. The project certainly needs surrounding with prayer and always will.

Addiction issues continue to be the toughest problem to deal with, as well as the ongoing financial assistance needed to keep the project going.

The highlights have been the worship evenings and daily devotionals taking place, the birthday meals, the bike maintenance and allotment work going on, and the cooking and cleaning skills that the guys are picking up.

Over the next 6 months we pray that more people will donate regularly to the project, as it is these small amounts given regularly that really make the difference and will sustain the project. We also pray for another two members of staff to join our team.

Thank you to all those who already support us - if you don't and would like to find out more, please email us at contact@hopehousechesterfield.co.uk or ring us on 07307 201718.

Many thanks, God bless.

Hope House Trustees

Masoyi Trust (UK) News, November 2021

We exist to support a charity in a rural backwater of South Africa, which cares for 1,100 orphaned and vulnerable children and 400 patients, in their homes; at care centres and health clinics; with skills training; through peer education; and through support groups. The Masoyi people are a sub-tribe of the Swazis; their name means “soil”, and our partner’s name, eMasoyi, means “turn the soil”.

Income/House building

Well, you must have prayed in response to our July news: we asked for £1,500 to enable us to finish our latest house for a family of six orphans. God knew better, so we actually received £2,500 because the site proved difficult to build on, and here it is, just waiting for electricity to be connected. It also meant we could provide a separate long-drop toilet [not pictured].



What we have achieved

The money we raised last year for emergency food parcels – to cope with the extra needs created by the Covid-19 pandemic – was not spent all at once, and should last to the end of this year.



Receiving food parcels in October 2021

We told you in July about the challenge of meeting infrastructure costs (overheads) faced by our partner in South Africa. (A fair proportion of our donations already go towards this.) This continues to be a problem, but we have been able to help. When we receive a donation designated for something specific like housebuilding, we deduct 11% for these costs – and we have received a number of these donations! Emasoyi had decided to terminate their landline to reduce costs, but faced a large final bill; we were able to pay it. We have also been able to enable them to renew their vehicle licences – rather vital to their work!

Please pray:

Thanks: for the money to finance the current house build; and to pay off several large bills.

For a long-term solution to eMasoyi's infrastructure cost funding.
For our Christmas fund-raising campaign [not finalized as I write].
For God's guidance as we plan for 2022.

Thank you for your continuing support in interest, prayer and donating.

Dale Aitken, Treasurer and Trustee.

RENDEZVOUS for Faith, Fun, Food and Friendship

The seed for Rendezvous was actually sown at an Alpha course held at St John's Church Hall at a time when they were part of our parish. At the Alpha meeting held on the 3rd July 1997, those attending from all three churches, all seniors, suggested that it would be a great idea if they could continue to meet socially and the result was that a team representing all the churches was set up and met regularly to plan and launch Wednesday Lunch Plus and to make sure it appealed to all members of the community as well as church members. The first Wednesday Lunch Plus was on 14th January 1998 with the ladies of St John's providing lunches and with interesting speakers participating. The monthly get-togethers continued until the St John caterers decided to call it a day and the last meeting was on 13th July 2005.

The need for this sort of activity had been proved and a Summer Rendezvous was arranged at and by St Thomas'. This was a wonderful three day event on 7th to 9th September 2005 and followed by monthly Rendezvous events.

On several occasions our links with the community were strengthened through our contact with Old Hall School who came with their 'Assembly' and chatted with our members.

FOOD – For the 6 years or so from October 2005 the lunch menu, on most days, included very tasty soups and desserts made at home by the Holdens. Our team member collecting the soup from Moorland View Road recalls how spillages in his car boot would whet the appetite for days afterwards.



Sometimes we would order fish and chips from the local chippie and on one occasion there was a delay causing the assembled expectant and hungry members to sing 'Why are we waiting?!' David Holden produced a recipe book entitled '*Rendezvous and other soups and puds recipes*' which was sold at £1 each for Rendezvous funds.

When the Church Centre came into use in 2011 it was decided to use those facilities and we have been well served with two course meals ever since and tea/coffee on arrival.

FAITH – At every Rendezvous meeting we have included a 5 or 10 minute Christian based ‘slot’ which became known as ‘Time for Reflection’. In the early days we would have a recurring theme such as ‘Sentences from the Lord’s Prayer’. The speakers have included our own members giving their testimonies, the clergy, lay readers and other church members.



Near Christmas we always decorated and filled shoeboxes with useful gifts for the babushkas (grandmothers and grandfathers) of Rumania which are sent at the same time as the Samaritan’s Purse boxes for the children

Whenever practical, on our occasional outings, we have visited the local Church and had a short devotional time at them. Springing to mind are Southwell Minster, and the churches at

Winster, Clumber and Cromford.

Occasionally we have



been able to arrange speakers who have their own Christian message to relay. Sometimes the team turned into actors and presented short plays depicting a biblical/spiritual theme.



FUN – We have certainly had a lot of fun! On many occasions, rather than having a speaker, we



have played board games such as scrabble, dominoes etc. We have enjoyed floor games such as bowls and skittles and a favourite has been quizzes. We have enjoyed helping a conjuror with his act and followed the antics of puppets.



Another favourite has been musical presentations by folk singers and local choirs.

In December we have enjoyed Christmas lunches and even a visit from Santa Claus!

Our trips out have always been popular, particularly short canal boat journeys, heritage train outings and visits to garden centres.

David Oldale



RENDEZVOUS 16 YEAR JOURNEY FROM 2005–2021

As we go down memory lane over the 16 years of Rendezvous there has been much to make us smile as we celebrated the contribution that older people make to life.

In the year of 2005 St Thomas' church had a year of mission when special events were organised for all ages so Rendezvous began with a team of eight seniors selected from St Thomas' congregation and together we studied a selection of



information from different sources and then planned a three day 'Holiday at Home' event for seniors to start in September 2005. The church was decorated and many different activities were planned using the talents and gifts of people already a part of St Thomas' church. The event was backed by prayer and hard work



by the organising team and other volunteers and a holiday atmosphere was generated. It was publicised in a number of ways with an attractive publicity leaflet. Members of the planning group delivered the programme to flats, bungalows and houses

where we knew a number of elderly people lived also church members were encouraged to bring friends.

After the event many thank you letters were received and to quote from one of them ' A very big thank you for the marvellous and exciting three days. I enjoyed every minute, and each day I felt I did not want things to end – it was great. Do hope you have another one next year!'

This was followed in November by a special thanksgiving service on the Sunday afternoon which was attended by nearly all of the 57 seniors who had come to September Rendezvous.

We had as our motto and aim four important points: Faith, Fun, Food, and Friendship. This motto has been used as we continued planning Rendezvous on the first Thursday of each month from 2006



onwards which included a yearly August 'Holiday at Home'. At our monthly meetings we have had a varied programme of activities and speakers plus a 2 course meal. We have also taken Rendezvous to various places of interest on coach tours



which included train and boat trips plus meals.

A longer time together of 2 or 3 days happened in August and each year we had a different theme. One year we were on board of an

imaginary cruise ship where there were many activities for the folk on holiday to enjoy. Our chef, David Holden and his galley slaves provided nutritious meals which were served on board and we had a great fun time together.

On another year we became St Thomas' Holiday Camp when the team adorned in red shirts entertained the holiday makers. At each Summer Rendezvous we included a coach outing to various places of interest.



Over the years at Rendezvous we have met many older people who have been a joy to know. We hope and pray that what has been achieved in the last 16 years of Rendezvous has not only

brought joy to the lives of people but have over the year walked closer to our God.



Now the time has come for New Rendezvous to be formed and our thoughts and prayers are with the new team as they plan for Rendezvous in the future.

Nanette Sanderson



Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia – giving hope, transforming lives

As the war in Ethiopia escalates with thousands killed and millions in the grip of famine we are getting on with the job providing food, shelter, healthcare and education for the families we support. In the heart of the turmoil and threat we are well-placed to help and at time of writing we have increased the number of children in our care to 84.



Children are flooding into the capital to escape the fighting in the north and we are able to support three of these families. Widowed Mums Letay, Kasu and Bertekan lost their husbands in the battles and made their way with their children to Addis Ababa, a journey of nearly 300 miles through treacherous territory. Not knowing what they would find they found us and we are privileged to be able to help. Letay has two children, Abraha and Filimon, Kasu has five children, Abeba, Hewit, Ftaw, Mulu and Addis and Bertekan has four children – Elias, Kedfe, Kdun and Merat. Food, clothes and housing sorted – looking at school next.

With armed divisions closing in on the city no one can give guarantees about security but all our children are in a better place than on the street and we are speaking everyday with Tsege, Mahraig, Ambes, Tlahun, Dibaba and Lemlem to make sure that everything that can be done to keep children safe is being done. As the situation unfolds over the coming weeks the work will continue no matter what government is in power



Over the years we have taken in many children who have been born and lived on the rubbish tips. Street children scavenging for food among the garbage is a common sight in Addis Ababa. Last month Pastor Mikael took our Mahraig to the tip and showed him twin boys playing there. 'Can your people in England help Temesgen and Besamalak?' After a call to us we asked Mahraig to take the boys to Tsege and get them some clothes and something to eat. Tonight they will have a proper bed to sleep in and a roof over their heads. Bit young for school yet but it won't be long. Given the state of their country they have no reason to look so happy. Given the loving care that surrounds them they have every reason. Temesgen and Besamalak - showing what Brothers in Arms should really mean.



Education, particularly girls' education, scares some world leaders. We think it's great. All our over-5s are in school and ... we had three little graduates from kindergarten this year. Frei, Beselot and Habtom look a picture in their caps and gowns. Completing their first year in school after starting life begging at the roadside is as good a reason to celebrate as any. Gets the right message across – 'go to school, work hard, do your best.' Looking forward to these little stars shining even brighter next year.

And the big girls have graduated too – from Admas University



Four years ago Delina's grandma carried her in to see us. Delina's parents had died after contracting AIDS and Delina is HIV+ Antiretrovirals sorted out at the Bill and Melinda Gates clinic Delina was on her feet in a few weeks and we got her back in the classroom where she did really well. After that we supported her ambition to go to university and in September she graduated and donned a cap and gown. We are talking with Delina about next steps – don't want her resting on her laurels – and a career, income and independence are on the cards. Granny Mana is very proud of her granddaughter and Delina got dressed up for the graduation party – belle of the ball.



Danait and her two younger brothers Abel and Melkyas lost their Dad in 2016 and with no income were on the point of eviction and a life on the streets when we stepped in. Danait also made the most of the chance she had been given and did well at school before moving on to university and graduating in marketing this year. Abel and Melkyas are at secondary school and while they have not yet shown the same level of academic ability as their big sister we will be working with them to secure their future independence. Not being able to do sums doesn't make them bad boys. The 'before' picture was taken just after Dad died. The 'after' picture is a happy Danait with a proud Mum. We can't bring her father back but we can help this young woman to a rewarding life.



And – we opened our first chip shop in Ethiopia. We already have young widowed Mums and Dads earning an income to help support their children selling vegetables on market stalls, making dresses on sewing machines and driving taxis. Now Asmeret is frying tonight after we bought her a chip fryer and little daughter Sharon was first in the queue. Just needed a chance to get on the ladder to self-sufficiency. No mushy peas yet but we're working on it.



Our London Marathon champion Jo Heath would have finished in under four hours if she had not stopped on Tower Bridge to hug her children. Memorable day and she got a lot of support from her Ethiopian Fan Club on the way round with Soliyana and Hananiya leading the cheering. They think the world of Jo – so do we.

**I will keep you in touch with progress.
On behalf of the trustees, volunteers and the children we care for
many thanks for your support and encouragement.**



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Tools with a Mission (T.W.A.M.) Chesterfield

It is that time of year when you look back on the year.

We still miss the infectious enthusiasm of David Sanderson who started the Chesterfield branch. We carry on collecting the tools (including computers) from our area, sorting and holding them in our cabin before sending them off to Coventry for refurbishment before going to Ipswich for kitting and packing in containers for shipment to Africa.

This year we have sent five full van loads as we did last year in between lockdowns. The picture shows some of the volunteers and Charlie the van



driver ready to take another full van load to Coventry.

We would like to say a big thank you to the congregation at St Thomas's for continuing to look out for tools and sewing/knitting machines to donate. Thanks to the knit and natters for our appeal for knitting wool and needles in the summer that was shipped on our first container to the Democratic Republic of Congo. (D.R.C.) And a big thank you for the continuing support of the Mission Committee at St Thomas's.

This year our promotional focus has had to change as the many church and community fairs have been postponed due to you know what. Therefore we have advertised in the S40 and a few other magazines in Chesterfield which I has brought in a good response. We also have a poster campaign in the community.

The tools of course have a life changing effect on their recipients. The kits go to partner organisations in Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe the D.R.C. and now Malawi. They train the young people to use the toolkits, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, motor mechanics, groundworkers, (spades, forks, hoes etc) Tailoring courses are given so that the sewing and knitting machines can be utilised. They also train the young people in business and computers and continue to provide the mentoring, friendship and support for the young people to make a success of their newfound trade.

The demand for tools is as great as ever and TWAM have decided that in order to increase the number of containers shipped to transform the Coventry depot into a second base from where containers can be packed and shipped.

In the year of COP26, recycling is good but re using must be better. If you want further information visit the website www.twam.uk or talk to one of the St Thomas's congregations involved in TWAM. Alan Sheldon, Brian Commons, Tim Leteve or Bryn Garland

Your donated tools empowering young people to create livelihoods and transform lives in Malawi (left) and Uganda (right)



MESSY CHURCH DATES FOR 2022



February 5th

March 5th

April 2nd

May 7th

June 4th

July 2nd

October 1^s

November 5th

December 3rd

All Messy Church sessions will be in the centre from 3.30-5.30pm. Families are welcome to come to spend time doing crafts, listening to Bible stories, joining in songs and eating together. Please note there are no meetings in January, August or September.

If you are interested in helping with preparation for crafts, helping on the day with crafts or food, or can offer some time from 5pm to help with clearing up please contact mariewitham@gmail.com

A message to the church family

As we are all aware, our church finances – along with those of many individuals and institutions – have been tight for some time. The TRIO campaign, launched last Autumn, did not result in a significant increase in the number of donors, nor has our regular income increased to cover our outgoings. In addition, we have not been successful in finding external funding for the role of 0-18 Director.

To address our financial situation and make the running of St Thomas' Church sustainable based on our current level of income, we have had to take some difficult decisions. We will not be recruiting to the positions of Worship Pastor or Communications Officer and the role of Community Worker will be made redundant from 31st October 2021.

Further information about our finances will be circulated following the next PCC meeting on 8th November 2021.

Please continue to pray for this situation.

St Thomas' PCC

The Voices of Advent

4 opportunities to spend time with God, reflecting on Advent and what it means for us

Advent is a great church season – full of wonder and mystery – as excitement builds in anticipation of celebrating Christmas and the coming of God into our world as the Bethlehem baby, Jesus.

Many Advent voices call to us from our church readings, hymns and songs at this time of year and you are warmly invited to any or all of 4 quiet evenings, listening to some Advent music, reflecting on some of these Advent voices and prayerfully thinking about what their words might mean for us.

In church, 7.30pm Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20. Each session will last about 45 minutes.

An outline of the material for each evening will also be available on the St Thomas website.

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Baby Basics Chesterfield would like to thank Ploughshare readers for their continued support and wish you a very ‘Happy and Peaceful Christmas’. 2021 has been a particularly busy year – in addition to supporting refugees from Afghanistan, we are sadly finding more and more vulnerable mums unable to support their growing families.

For the first time in Chesterfield, we are offering an ‘**Honorary Gift**’ scheme this Christmas, where Moses Basket starter pack items can be bought as honorary gifts on behalf of someone. If you would like to purchase a gift we will send you a card to write and pass on as/or as part of your Christmas gift.

Suggested honorary items and amounts include:

- £1 would buy a toiletry item
 - £2 would buy a sanitary product or wet wipes
 - £4 would buy a pack of nappies
 - £8 would buy a new mattress, or
 - £8 would buy a Christmas gift and box of chocolates for mum
- *Any amount of your choosing

If you choose to donate an honorary gift, please pop a note with your selected item, name and address [for us to send you a card to pass on] including your donation, in an envelope marked for the attention of Jane Simmonds [Baby Basics], and pop it through the church office letter box [St Thomas']. If you prefer to pay by BACS payment, please email the above details to babybasics.chesterfield@gmail.com and we'll forward our payment details.

Many thanks from the Baby Basics team.

Pop-Up Charity Café - Monday 6th December - 10am to 1pm

Raising funds for Baby Basics Chesterfield

Free admission

Refreshments (donations welcome though not obligatory)

Stained glass Christmas Crafts

Honorary Gifts for Baby Basics starter packs (with a free prize draw)

Please join us for tea, coffee & cake and an opportunity to meet your local Baby Basics Team



COVID safety measures will be in place, and we ask you to wear masks to this event, thank you.

@ The Community Hub: 61-63 Low Pavements Inset to the Mobility Shop



Farewell

I've edited the magazine for 7 years, initially with Millie Guthrie and Paula Simons. Mostly it's been enjoyable – computer crashes excepted!!! Now, however, I have finally decided to hang up my lap top! Hopefully we have a new editor. The deadline for the next issue 2022 is 23 January. Please send any articles to mariewitham@gmail.com for me to pass on. A HUGE thank you to all the people who have contributed ideas, articles and moral support! A special thank you to Tony who has stopped me launching my lap top out of the window when it was all going wrong!

Marie Witham

It was in the hour...

It was in the hour just after midnight,
That the garbage collector was on his rounds
When it was quiet, and he could get on with his work
Without any hindrances and interruptions,
But recently things had been less than normal-
So many unfamiliar faces were in town
And every hotel was full to bursting point.
The Romans had called for a census to be taken,
Which had meant that many travellers
Had returned to the place of their birthplace
To meet the requirements of the regulations.
The garbage collector was beginning to get grumpy and frustrated
At the amount of litter that had to be collected,
But on that night, there was something special in the air.
Just after he had come on duty,
He had directed a young couple
Towards the only inn in town that might have room.
Then a little later on, maybe a couple of hours,
He was nearly taken out by a bunch of shepherds
At a rate of knots, leaving him no option
But to take immediate evasive action.
He then took time out to contemplate the events so far-
First there was the young couple.
Then there was the star (he had nearly forgotten that!)-
Next it was that wild bunch of shepherds-
It dawned on him that something significant was happening.
So, he altered his route to take in that inn,
As he turned the corner into the street.
He sensed that whatever was going on was momentous.
He quickened his step being drawn ever closer
To the barn at the back of the Inn,
Where there was a commotion so magnetic
It drew you in to see the little baby,
Who in 2021 is still changing lives-
And to know that He is Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

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THE POLAR EXPRESS

Saturday 11th December
2:30pm
6:30pm

Join us this christmas
for a viewing of the The Polar Express,
a hot chocolate & cookie
plus a vist from santa.
Don't forget your PJ's!

£5 per child (11 and under)
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Under 1s free

Booking is esstental - 01246 279916 - enquiries@stthomascentre.com

