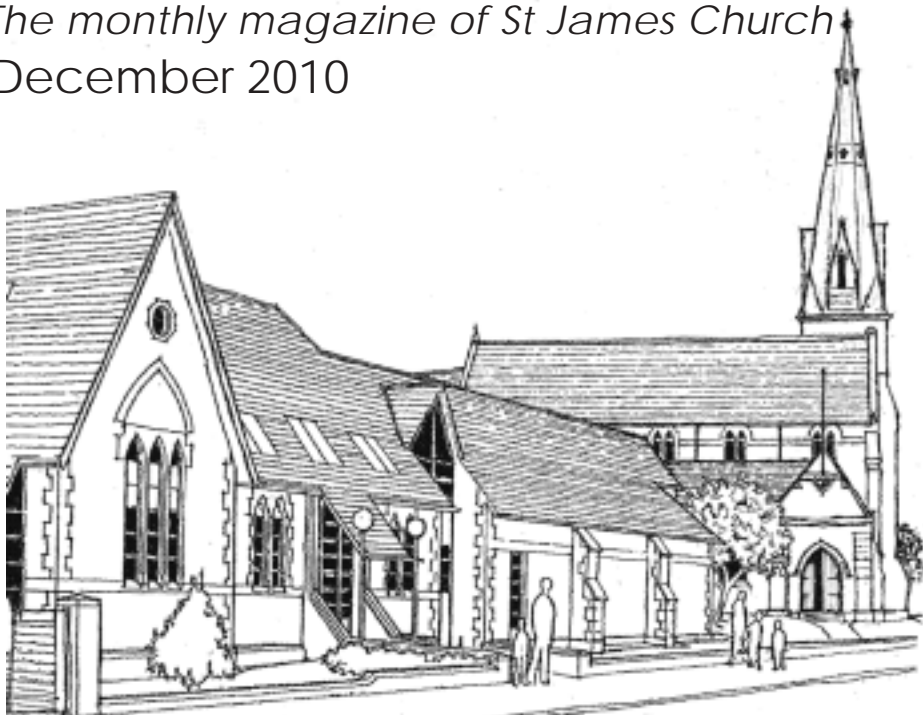


CONNECT

The monthly magazine of St James Church
December 2010



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WELCOME to St James Christmas magazine, with details of all our regular and special services over the Christmas season.

Carols by Candlelight is always a bit special and this year we will have friends from around the world on video to read the traditional Bible stories. Read more about their Christmas in this magazine, then come along and see them at 6.30pm on Sunday 19th December. Come early to get a seat!



All at St James in Denton Holme and Cummersdale wish each of you a good Christmas and a great New Year!

In **CONNECT** this December

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This Christmas we're tracking the Wise Men on their journey - you might like to follow them... Matthew 2 (from Matthew chapter 2, New International Version, ©2010)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

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December Diary



Particular dates to note:

Wed 1	7.30pm	Prayer and Praise
Thur 2	7.00pm	Bereavement Support
Tues 7	7.00pm	Men's Curry Night
Sat 11	10am - 4pm	Book and Craft Fair
14/15	6.00pm	Carol Singing around the parish
Wed 15	10.00am	Toddlers' Christmas Service and Party
Thurs 16	11.30am	Midweek Carol Service
	12.30pm	Christmas Leisurely Lunch in the Parish Centre

Our regular groups meet in the Parish Centre, as follows:

Toddlers meet every **Wednesday** at **10.00am & 1.30pm** (last meeting 15th December for Service and Party 10.00-11.30am)

Sticky Fingers (craft for toddlers) meet on **Thursdays** at **10.30am** (last meeting 16th December)

Parent & Toddler Bible Study meeting **Mondays** at **10.00am** (last meeting 20th December)

Boys' Club Mondays **6.45-8.15pm** **Ages 6-10** (last meeting 6th December)

Rainbows/Brownies/Guides Fridays **6.00 - 9.15pm** Contact leaders for more info (see p22)

The Big Chill (TBC) (School year 6-9) meet every **Tuesday 5.00-6.00pm**, followed by **TBC Xtra** from **6.00-6.30pm** (last meeting 7th December)

Music Group meet at **7.30pm** every Thursday in Church (last meeting 16th December)

Badminton & Table Tennis Group meet **Fridays** at **7.45pm** (last meeting 17th December)

Women's Fellowship meet **Mondays** at **2.45 pm** (last meeting 6th December with a Christmas meal out on the 13th December)

Bereavement Support Group will meet on **Thursday 2nd December** from **7.00-8.30pm** and on **Thursday 20th January**.

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 24th December until Tuesday 4th January 2011

A different sort of Christmas Day?

At this year's Carol Service the traditional Bible stories will be read on camera by friends who are working all over the world. We asked some of them how they will be spending Christmas Day.

Lucy Goldie used to help run the children's work at St James. Now she runs the nursery on board the ship Logos Hope, a "floating book fair" and exhibition centre that visits ports all round the world. This will be Lucy's first Christmas on board.

On Christmas day we will be in Beirut, Lebanon. The Ship will be closed to the public and I will be with the rest of Ships Company.

Activities for Christmas start on the Eve. We have our proper Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve! Then on Christmas day we get up for a late brunch. Then we have our 'meeting' at 12.00 noon. During the meeting the School Children perform their Christmas play to the full Ships Company. I am told it's one of the highlights of the day. On the afternoon we will have 'open cabins'. This is when we can visit any cabins that we want to and share sweets, cakes, drinks etc. Other than that I think it's a pretty relaxed day.



Tim Cottingham is training with the Church Army young people's Xplore programme based in Sheffield.

I'm back home for Christmas to spend time with my family before flying out to Romania for 6 months work with local churches. So I'll be pigging out on vast quantities of roast goose and potatoes; catching up with family and friends; and packing for the -25 C temperatures that await me in east Europe.

Ana Bonow is a Brazilian student who spent the last year volunteering at St James Op Shop on Denton Street. Now she is back in Brazil to finish her studies.

I will spend Christmas with my family in Pelotas, my hometown in the south of Brazil. (Here in Brazil we celebrate both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)

On Christmas Eve I will first have a good time with my family over coffee, cakes and sweets. We will exchange gifts then all together we'll go to the service at my church at 8pm. After the service, because it is nice and warm, all the congregation stands outside the church, and we hug each other and wish a "Happy Christmas, Christ is about to be born!" to all.



After that my family and I will go to my grandma's house, with all my uncles and cousins. Sometimes the younger ones end the night with a swim, really refreshing! On Christmas day we'll visit my other grandma, she lives outside the town. We'll have a nice dinner there, and have a great time as a family.

(Now there's a thought! Anyone for a nice "refreshing" swim in Holme Head on Christmas Day? Ed.)



When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

*"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

Changes on the way for Denton St premises

What are we talking about?

The St James Opportunity Shop on the corner of Denton Street and Nelson Street. For some years now it has been a great place to drop in for a chat and maybe find a bargain, but it's getting a bit cramped in there.



What kind of changes?

St James church now owns three shop fronts instead of just the one. The plan is to convert the whole block into a modern, flexible building with a modernised shop, a comfortable area for people to chat, and space where we can develop new ideas. There will be a lift so we can use the upstairs space, too.

The proposed "new look"



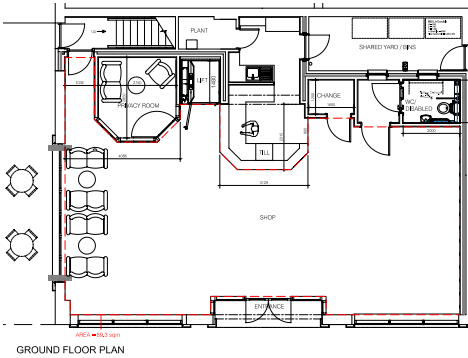
NELSON ST ELEVATION



DENTON ST ELEVATION

How will it be used?

The suggestions for new uses range from "silver surfer" internet training to non-alcoholic social events. But this is a long-term project and we don't yet know how it will be used in years to come; we just want to create top quality facilities to help us serve the local community.



What will it mean for local people?

A brighter and more attractive building to complement the neighbourhood; a more convenient location for some of St James programmes and more people around the place in the evening.

When will it all happen?

We hope to get planning permission in the next few weeks. Work could start in mid-2011 and would take a few months to complete.

Meanwhile, the Op Shop is still open so why not get down there and see if you can find a Christmas bargain? Our willing group of volunteers are always happy to help.



Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”



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Go the distance!

How much stamina, motivation and resolve do you have? Many years ago I found myself facing the last uphill bit at about mile 11 on the Great North Run. Just as I started up the incline my nostrils caught the whiff of burgers with fried onions. I was just about “running on empty” and my ambition and resolve, which was simply to finish, was threatened. We can be easily distracted or disillusioned, even from goals we know are important, if only to us.

The “Wise Men” (Magi) would have been criticised and condemned at any other point in scripture. The weird form of astronomy/astrology that was practised before science really took root would most likely have drawn them into areas condemned by God. But somehow, in contrast to King Herod and the Jewish priests and scribes, the Magi made the big switch from being textbook Bible Baddies to Goodies. Why, or How even?

Somehow they noticed something unusual, suspected that there was something or someone deliberately behind it, and so they made the effort to find out. They went the distance, a great distance (from Persia or maybe Sheba? Probably over 1,000 miles in each case) and found the answer to their enquiry that inspired their devotion and their gifts.

We’re focusing on Distance this Christmas: how far will you go? Our carol service Readers will be making their contributions from Burundi, Brazil, Camp Bastion... far away, but close! Distance did not deter the Wise Men. We can be put off so easily from asking the question, making the enquiry, taking the risk. Maybe we assume that it’s not important or doesn’t matter; it makes no difference to what happens to us in this life or the next. Or maybe we assume that there is no God and ignore the surprising signs that split scientists between those who find, believe and commit to the Christian purpose and hope, and those who don’t.

It is so worth looking at again, deeper, further... as someone put it, “Wise men left everything to find Jesus and wise people still do...” Go the distance this Christmas and the coming year?

Happy Christmas and Christian greetings, as ever,

John Libby



Christmas

Pantomime	2m
Office Party	4m
Grandparents	56m
Parents	178m



3m

How far will you go this Christmas?

“We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” The Bible

Dec 19th	10.30am	Family Nativity
	3.00pm	Cummersdale Carols
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Dec 24th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Dec 25th	9.00am	Cummersdale Communion
	10.30am	All age Christmas Celebration



St James Church Carlisle & Cummersdale



Services - December 2010

	Denton Holme (10.30am)	Cummersdale (10.30 am)	Denton Holme (6.30pm)
5 Dec	Why must Jesus come again? Acts 1:6-11 Frank Tebbutt	Songs of Praise Peter Bye	Don't wait to get to heaven to sing! Psalm 95 Kim Hoelterhoff
12 Dec 	Why did Jesus come this way? Galatians 4:4-7 Eddie Scrase-Field	Frank Tebbutt	Cross-centred Worship Luke 22:7-23 Peter Bye
19 Dec 	Children's Nativity Why as a baby? Luke 2 John Libby	Carols 3.00pm Eddie Scrase-Field	Carol Service Eddie Scrase-Field
24 Dec			Midnight Communion (11.30pm) John Libby 
25 Dec 	Christmas Celebration Eddie Scrase-Field	 9.00am Wendy Downey	
26 Dec	Where's your resolution? Love one another John Libby 	All Ages Together	 Holy Communion

Full details of services and passages can be found on the Term Card - available from the office, at the rear of the church, or from our Website www.stjamescarlisle.org.uk





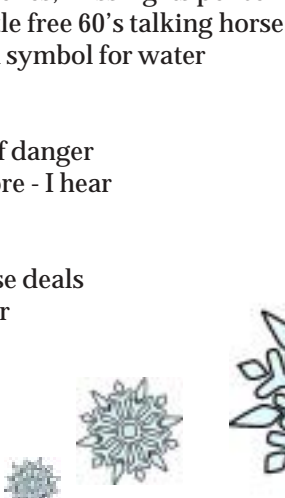
FUN CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Need an excuse to sit down for 5 mins with a cuppa and a piece of shortbread, then why not grab a pen and try our Christmas Quiz. (Answers will be available in next months magazine) Have Fun and Happy Christmas. Wendy x

The first 4 questions are just to get you warmed up!

1. What would you do with MARSH WHORTS?
 - a. Scrape them off your vegetable
 - b. Make them into a sauce
 - c. Consult your doctor
2. Who was RUDOLPH'S FATHER?
3. In which ocean would you find CHRISTMAS ISLAND?
4. Who decided the date for Christmas would be December 25th?

The next ones are a bit more tricky. Hidden amongst the clues are words from 4 lines from four different carols. Can you solve the clues, sort the lines, and work out what the carols are? Happy carolling x

1. Reverse first name of the Inter Milan Chief
 2. Mix up desperate cartoon characters name
 3. Buzzy pest around the honey - I hear
 4. Sounds like a circle of teddies
 5. Caring kind of fabric softener
 6. Not up
 7. Reversed short street follows backward pink fleshy fruit
 8. Sounds like the first half of a donkey conversation
 9. Slang for a pleasure trip or excursion
 10. Sing this 'to the World' at Christmas time
 11. Theatrical entertainment with scenes, missing its pence
 12. Water closet, potassium and a title free 60's talking horse
 13. Only one of these in the chemical symbol for water
 14. Not on, missing it's fahrenheit
 15. Add salt and pepper
 16. Take vermin away from source of danger
 17. Lots of surging waves on the shore - I hear
 18. To be seated backwards
 19. Sounds like one plus one
 20. Expedia pride themselves in these deals
 21. Home video game console - I hear
 22. Not his, amongst us
 23. CAROL NUMBER 1
 24. CAROL NUMBER 2
 25. CAROL NUMBER 3
 26. CAROL NUMBER 4
- 

John Tremble (Dip. F.D.)

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HUGH McDEVITT

Denton Holme County Councillor

If any constituent wishes to speak to me on any issue regarding Council matters, they can contact me on the number shown below or visit me at my Surgery which will be held in the Denton Holme Community Centre on 30th December 2010.

My City Council colleagues, Paul Atkinson (545026) and Joan Southward (520183), will also be in attendance.

56 Colville Street, Carlisle. Tel: 01228 530223.

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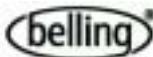


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Meet Nick



Tell us a bit about yourself

Hi I'm Nick. I was born and raised in the Lancashire countryside near Preston, before going to Lancaster University to study Business Studies, so I'm very much a northern lad. I ventured further north to Carlisle to do a PGCE (primary school teacher training) and taught around Carlisle for a year before becoming youth worker for St James.

I like to spend my time off doing anything football related – especially supporting the mighty Blackburn Rovers – spending lots of time with my friends, reading, computer games and generally relaxing.

So, how did you come to get the job of youth worker at St James?

Last summer term whilst working as a teacher I felt challenged by God that perhaps I should consider church work sooner rather than later. I gave the issue lots of prayer and talked to close friends about it. I was especially inspired by stories from the Bible where Christians took a step of faith trusting God with big decisions and following where He leads, so I applied for the post.

What sort of things will you be doing, and who can join in?

We're still figuring it out! At the moment I'm helping with several clubs – Boys Club on a Monday for boys aged 6 to 10 and TBC on Tuesdays for boys and girls from school years 6 to 9. So if you fall into either of those categories it'd be great to see you there. I also take assemblies fortnightly at several schools, help run a Sunday school group, as well as help with the older youth CYFA, leading the boys bible study on a Wednesday and helping with the Sunday night group.

What are your hopes for young people in Denton Holme, Longsowerby and Cummersdale?

My hope is to see young people of the area enter into a relationship with Jesus and those that have continue to grow in that relationship and grow in living lives that are honouring to God and reflect Jesus.

Finally, is there any way the rest of us can support you?

Prayer for the youth and children's work is massive and cannot be underestimated. It would be lovely to get to know people within the congregation and area so please come and introduce yourself; it'd be great to get to know you and to build up some strong friendships within the church.

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From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Oct 21 Jake Ian Bell, Joshua Lewis Ord
Nov 21 Arthur Cottingham, Jeremy Cottingham,
Elisha Mills, Freya Wood, Paul Storrow,
Eyvonne Campbell, Jacqueline Harris, Nora Klein



Funerals

Oct 27 Daniel Molloy
Nov 12 Edith Wilson
Nov 29 Margaret Allan



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Walking with God and the Dog

Headless Chickens!

I don't know how many (if any) headless chickens you have seen running around recently?! Maybe this month it is more likely to be turkeys or geese! However, this is one of Raymond's favourite phrases, and it is often a good way to describe Dougal.



Today was a case in point. I threw the ball for him, but he wasn't concentrating, and was running around 'like a headless chicken', looking for the ball in the wrong place.



Unfortunately, it is also a phrase Raymond uses for me! I can wear myself out running around in circles, because I have taken my eye off the ball.

There is so much out there to distract us from the importance of Christmas – buying presents, sending cards, shopping for and preparing food.

This Christmas, let us ask God to help us to keep focused on what is important, the celebration of the birth of Jesus – the Son of God coming to earth for us.

Rosie Thwaites



After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



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MAGAZINE SECRETARY:

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Nightingale 017684 84279

Guides: (11-14)
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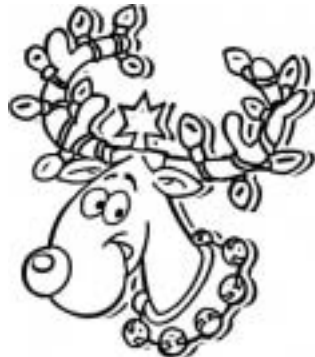
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Youth Worker

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General Enquiries

To find out anything about St. James,
please ring the Parish Office or drop in for a chat.
We are open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4.30 pm.
parish.office@stjamescarlisle.org.uk

Parish Office

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