

Easingwold & Raskelf Parish Magazine

DECEMBER 2022



**Every Blessing
for Christmas**

50p

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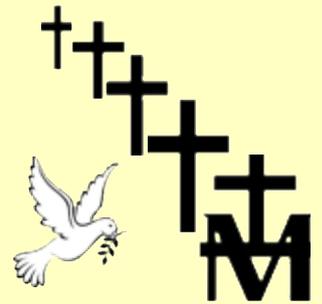
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Associate Minister	Rev'd Charlotte Cranfield	☎ 07807 941528
		☎ 01347 824399
Churchwardens	Alizon Leese	☎ 01347 823806
	Pat Allen	☎ 01347 821139
Retired Clergy assisting in the parish	Rev'd Chris Peel	
	Rev'd Robin Davill	
	Rev'd John Hetherington	
	Rev'd David Senior	

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www.easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

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“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:6-7

“No room for Jesus”! How often is this the case over Christmas? There is so much commercialism and it comes to be all about the decorations, tree and presents. I heard of one person who used to spend around £1000 on each of her children each year, (she no longer does that). It made me think about what impact of spending so much money had. For the child, as long as they realise that this is special and the reason behind the gift, there is no problem, but what about the child’s friends? When it comes to going back to school, there is always the child who has everything and there are those who have very little. It causes resentment and embarrassment. What if the child who has received all the gifts starts to bully the child who has nothing? How much does that tell the poor child that they are loved by Father Christmas?

Thankfully the real meaning of Christ is not about Father Christmas. As we all know, Christmas is about Christ – there is a clue in the word. But, how often do we get caught up in the preparations (the shopping, the baking and the decorating) that we forget what Christmas is about and don’t make room for Christ in our hearts? Christ came into our lives to show us how to love one another. He died to save us from our sins.

There was no room for Mary and Joseph at the inn but thankfully the innkeeper was able to find somewhere special for them where Jesus was born. The innkeeper had compassion for Mary and found somewhere for her rather than sending her away. He acted out of love.

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, not just the food and presents, but a time to prepare for Christ and to make room for Christ in our lives. As there was no room in the inn, something different had to do. The innkeeper was prepared for something special, even though he never knew that he would have to be.

We know that we have to be ready for Christmas, as well as the food and presents, we need to stop and think exactly why we are celebrating, thank God for the gift of his Son and follow the example that His Son set us.

Every blessing for Advent and Christmas

Margaret



CHURCH DECORATION

We will decorate the church for Christmas on
Saturday 24th December at 10.00 am
All help will be appreciated

Advent Courses 2022

This year we will be looking at how various characters in the Bible were prepared for Jesus' first coming.

29th November: Zechariah

6th December: Elizabeth

13th December: Mary

20th December: John the Baptist

The courses begin at 4.00 pm and refreshments will be available from 3.45 pm.

These are "stand-alone" sessions so just come along to any that you are able to.



EVENTS DURING DECEMBER FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Saturday 2nd, 3.00 pm	Easingwold Singers Concert
Tuesday 6th, 4.00 pm	Advent Course
Tuesday 6th, 6.15pm	Easingwold Tiddlywinks Christmas Service
Friday 9th, 11.00am	Crib Service in the Market Place
Sunday 11th, 3.00pm	Springhill Court Carol Service—all welcome
Monday 12th, 7.30pm	Raskelf Carol Service with Easingwold Town Band
Tuesday 13th, 4.00 pm	Advent Course
Thursday 15th, 11.00am	Boot Shop Carol Service—Easingwold Church
Saturday 17th, 5.30pm	Easingwold Lions Carols in the Square
Sunday 18th, 6.30pm	Easingwold Carol Service with Easingwold Town Band
Tuesday 20th, 4.00 pm	Advent Course
Saturday 24th, 3.00pm	Raskelf Christingle and Crib Service
Saturday 24th, 4.30pm	Easingwold Christingle Service
Saturday 24th, 11.30pm	Raskelf Midnight Eucharist
Saturday 24th, 11.30pm	Easingwold Midnight Eucharist (<i>Also available on Zoom—TBC</i>)
Sunday 25th, 10.30am	Family Service at Easingwold (<i>Also available on Zoom—TBC</i>)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Many thanks to all who produced, stitched and helped in any other way to put together the magnificent display of poppies for Remembrance Sunday

(Photograph by Michael Wansbrough)

INCREASE IN MAGAZINE COST FROM JANUARY 2023

At the PCC meeting on Wednesday 21st September, a request was made to increase the number of Parish Magazines printed each month. The PCC agreed to this increase in the number produced per month, even though the magazine is also available online, because some people prefer the printed version.

From January therefore the suggested donation per copy will be raised from **50p to 60p** to cover the cost of printing the extra copies.

Thanks are given to the team of volunteers who manage the annual subscriptions and deliver the magazine to subscribers.



THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18TH – 25TH JANUARY 2023

For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. Through this resource, the CTBI writers' group has also focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.



Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2022



A huge "Thank you" to all who have filled boxes, donated towards costs, and assisted in filling, checking and loading into the car and trailer. A total of 110 boxes were delivered to Stoneacre in Thirsk - the first part of their journey to children in great need around the world.

Is there anyone who would like to lead the team next year?

Deacon Chris Peel (Tel: 01347 823548)

Christians Together Men's Group

(formerly St John the Baptist Men's Group)

In November, after an update on the Men In Sheds project, Jim Hasnip led a Bible study on male and female roles, and we reflected on the implications of this for our own lives.

The next Men's Group meeting is at **10am on Saturday 10th December** after the Christians Together prayer meeting. Dr Phil Hasnip (Jim's son), Research Fellow in Theoretical Physics at York University will speak on '**Science and The Bible**' (particularly Genesis). The meeting will be in: '**Morning Coffee Afternoon Tea**', Long Street, Easingwold. Anyone is welcome to join us for a bit of breakfast and time of fellowship. We meet in the restaurant area [turn right through the front door and continue to the far end of the restaurant].

If you would like to join us then please just come along or, if you would like further details, please contact me, **David Brown**, at david@dkbassociates.co.uk or on **07789 900 939**.

Christian Meditation

Most Fridays at 2.30 pm to 3.15 pm at the Galtres Centre Function Room

It includes periods of music and silent meditation



In today's culture this is an opportunity of being together in a reflective mood including silence. After a brief period of spoken reflection we experience some reflective music. We then enter a period of silent meditation for about 20-25 minutes. Some people use a mantra such as "Maranatha" (Come Lord Jesus). This has 4 beats and fits a breathing in and out (said twice). Others, or no mantras, are used - but not spoken. After this, another period of music precedes a final prayer. It doesn't suit everyone but it is something worth trying. Sometimes we have a few comments, even laughter, afterwards!

In today's busy-ness people often find this simple and yet cathartic. Even children in school use silence as a restful experience!

Perhaps, give it a try? Join us, you are most welcome.

Contact Marko Jakic 01347 469049

SERVICES AND EVENTS: DECEMBER 2022

To contact Rev'd Margaret Young, tel: 01347 821394

or email: vicar@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org

The Vicar's day off is Monday

Children are welcome at all our services



Services at Easingwold Parish Church

Sunday and Wednesday 9.00 am—Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30 am—Holy Communion

(This service is also accessible on Zoom on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month)

Tuesday 6th December: Tiddlywinks Christmas Service at 6.15 pm

Sunday 11th December: Family Service at 4.30 pm

Thursday 15th December: Boot Shop Carol Service at 11.00 am

Sunday 18th December: Carol Service at 6.30 pm

Tuesday 20th December: Café Church at 7.00 pm

Saturday 24th December: Christingle service at 4.30 pm

Saturday 24th December: Midnight Eucharist at 11.30 pm

Sunday 25th December: Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30 am

***Please note: no 9.00 am Holy Communion service
on Christmas Day or Wednesday 28th December***

***See separate notice at the beginning of the magazine for full list of
services and events during Advent and Christmas***



Mothers' Union

Please note that there is no Communion service this month



WOMEN'S GROUP

A very informal group looking at ways to help one another and the community

Meeting in the Parish Church, Easingwold

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month 7.00-9.00pm

December dates: 1st and 15th

ST MARY'S CHURCH, RASKELF

Sunday 4th December: Holy Communion at 10.30 am

Wednesday 7th December:

Lite Bite Lunch at the Old Black Bull at 12 noon

Monday 12th December: Carol Service at 7.30 pm

Sunday 18th December: Holy Communion at 10.30 am

Saturday 24th December: Christingle and Crib Service at 3.00 pm

Saturday 24th December: Midnight Eucharist at 11.30 pm



Please note that from January 2023, the Sunday Holy Communion services will be at 9.30 am

CHILDREN ALWAYS WELCOME



Raskelf Carol Service

with Easingwold Town Band

Monday 12th December at 7.30 pm

Mulled wine and mince pies to be served after the service

CHURCH SERVICES



1st Sunday:	<i>Easingwold</i>	<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>4.00 pm</i>	<i>Evening Prayer/Evensong</i>
2nd Sunday:	<i>Raskelf</i>	<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>Easingwold</i>	<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>4.30 pm</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
3rd Sunday:	<i>Easingwold</i>	<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
4th Sunday:	<i>Raskelf</i>	<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>Easingwold</i>	<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
5th Sunday:	<i>Easingwold</i>	<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
		<i>10.30 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>

Weekdays in Easingwold:

<i>3rd Tuesday</i>	<i>7.00 pm</i>	<i>Café Church—a relaxed informal service</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>9.00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<i>1st & 3rd Thursdays:</i>	<i>7.00-9.00pm</i>	<i>Women's Group in the Parish Church</i>
<i>3rd Thursday</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>	<i>Mothers' Union Holy Communion</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>3.45 pm</i>	<i>in church—Little Seeds for 4-9 year olds (term time)</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>3.45 pm</i>	<i>at the Vicarage —Ignite for 10 years + (term time)</i>

Readings

Evening Prayer in Easingwold is on the 1st Sunday in the month at 4pm

4th December

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Advent 2

Evensong

1 Kings 18:17-39
John 1:19-28

11th December

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Advent 3

Isaiah 5:8-end
Act 13:13-41

18th December

Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Advent 4

Isaiah 5:8-30
Acts 13:13-41

24th December

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12)
John 1:1-14

Christmas Eve

25th December

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day

Isaiah 65:17-25
Philippians 2:5-11



From the Registers

Baptism

27th November: William Ashurst

Funerals

1st September: Julia Nicholson

1st November: Janis Connell

4th November: Albert Sanderson

18th November: Reby Wilma Stephenson

BIBLE CONVERSATIONS

All are most welcome to join us at 4 Stonefield Garth (the home of Nancy and John Kilburn) for Bible Conversations on **Tuesday 6th December**. We are looking at Paul's letter to the Romans at present. We will start promptly at **10.00am** and finish with a time of prayer by 11.15am.

If you wish to know more, ask Deacon Chris (01347 823548) or just turn up.

Christians Together around Easingwold (CTaE)

(formerly Churches Together in Easingwold)

United in prayer for the Community of Easingwold

Prayer is always important and is something we can all do daily. We pray for ourselves and our family, for the troubled world, for our church and community. Every month - the second Saturday - you have the opportunity to join with others from the churches in Easingwold to pray.

We meet at The New Inn (Morning Coffee—Afternoon Tea) on Long Street.

Arrive from 8.45am for coffee/tea

Prayer begins at 9.00am for approximately 30 minutes

We would love you to come and join us on Saturday 10th December from 8.45am

Please contact Rev'd Lottie Cranfield on 07807 941528 if you have any questions or would like to find out more information about Christians Together.

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer is at the heart of what the church offers to the community, and the prayer corner in St John the Baptist and All Saints' is used regularly. It is a space where you are able to write the names of people you would like to have remembered in the book there. At St John the Baptist and All Saints', we join with you in your prayers for family, friends and all for whom you care. If you would like prayers for yourself or another, or for those who, at this time, are struggling with anxiety, loneliness and isolation, our small, confidential and dedicated circle of people will pray for you/them.



If you would like prayers, please contact Rev'd Lottie Cranfield on 07807 941528.

Please include in your prayers this month:

- ◆ All Christmas planning and activities; that all may think of others less fortunate than themselves
- ◆ Those who will be alone this Christmas - the poor; the homeless; refugees; all those who feel forgotten and unloved
- ◆ Easingwold and District Churches Together – shared worship and activities
- ◆ Charities and individuals who support not only those especially in need at this time, but also throughout the year

Open The Book at Easingwold Primary School

Open the Book (OtB) offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship. Each presentation takes around 10–15 minutes and can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or can be stand-alone.



Our team at Easingwold is looking for more volunteers to join them and present at the local primary school over one or two sessions per month during term time.

Forthcoming dates are

1st and 15th December

If you would like to become involved, please contact
Andrew Neville-Smith at a.nevillesmith@btinternet.com

THE INNKEEPER'S TALE?

There is one character who plays a pivotal role in the Nativity Story, but only gets a couple of lines in his one appearance. And he doesn't get a mention in the Gospels.

He was probably not very well-educated, though had a certain commercial acumen. He may have been somewhat coarse and callous, since, for most people of that time, life, if not solitary, was surely "nasty, poor, brutish and short". So this could be the innkeeper's tale:

"You'll never believe who I had in my pub a few months ago! Well, to be honest, I'm not sure myself, but it was obviously someone a bit special.

I remember it well - it was a very busy time; the Roman emperor had called some sort of census and hordes of people had descended on Bethlehem to register. So my place was absolutely chokka - every room was full, I'd even had to put extra mattresses on the floor in some rooms and me and the wife gave up our bed, so we had to sleep on the floor in the kitchen! Not that we got much sleep - with the house full, there was always somebody wanting something. Still, it made very good business - I suppose the Romans aren't all bad. They do tax us of course, but they usually pay their bills and they do keep order. We don't get much crime now - they soon sort out any thieves with a quick flogging or crucifixion. Yes, they whip you off so fast your feet won't touch the ground - well they wouldn't touch the ground if you were being crucified, now would they? I wouldn't want to get on the wrong side of them myself, apart from it being bad for business.

Anyway, where was I? Ah yes, there we were full to bursting, when one awful night, blowing a gale and snowing hard it was, a couple turned up - a bloke walking, with his very young - and pregnant - wife riding on a donkey. They said they wanted a room - I ask you! Well, I suppose I didn't have the heart to turn them away, but all I could suggest was that they could shelter in my old stable - it was a bit smelly with the animals, but at least it was warm and dry, and they seemed grateful enough.

When I told the wife about the girl expecting, she went out to see if she could help. We lost our own little one at birth some years ago, so she has a specially soft spot for babies. She'd not been gone long when she came back in to say the girl had produced a baby boy, and she took out some cloths to wrap him in. We had no cot, so they laid him on some straw in the manger that we sometimes use to feed the cows.

When she came back, she said the girl had told her that an angel had come to her one night and said that her baby would be the son of God! I ask you! Just women's talk, I thought. But then some strange things happened. A few nights later, some scruffy-looking shepherds arrived, asking to see the baby; and they said a group of angels had told them about it! And then some funny-looking foreign gentlemen also turned up, bringing presents for the baby, saying that a star had led them there! So I began to wonder. And when I went out myself to have a look, the manger seemed to be sort of shining and there was a funny feeling of 'goodness' - I felt I ought to kneel down and started to think that the Romans were alright, and to feel guilty about putting little 'extras' on my bills... ! Probably just my imagination.



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The pass is valid for one person for one visit only and it is no longer necessary to make a reservation for a specific date or time.

Visiting and closure times are on the York Minster website:

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Thursday 8.00am to 7.30pm

Friday & Saturday 8.00am to 8.30pm

Sunday—Closed

We are a coffee shop and licenced restaurant in the community of Easingwold.

Driven by our Christian faith we support the community in offering voluntary placements and funding to local organisations.

They have included overseas placements, local school football kits, the local cricket club and local charities.

The restaurant is a development of the business within the community.

The building allows us to facilitate local groups for events.

Tel: 01347 821692

Email: info@mc-at.co.uk

Website: www.mc-at.co.uk