

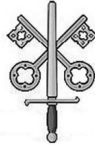
Parish Magazine for
Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle

December 2022 and January 2023



Luke 2:14

St Peter & St Paul's, Wem
St Peter's, Lee Brockhurst
St Luke's, Weston-under-Redcastle



The Rectory
Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU

During the Vacancy please contact us via
www.wemcofe.co.uk

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

Retired Clergy:

The Revd Mike Cotterell, Preb Rob Haarhoff,
Canon Dr William Price

Readers Emeriti:

Celia Camplin, Cathy Dibben

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WEM

Churchwardens:	Chris Mellings	809521
	Cathy Dibben	236178
	David Murray	236134
PCC Lay Chair:	Sybil Farmer	232568
PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Sinclair	232626
Organist:	Glyn Williams	234954
Sacristans:	June Powell	234412
	& Kath Ridgway	290162
Church Flowers:	Sybil Farmer	232568
Church Hall Bookings:	Via website/Facebook	
Baby and Toddler Group:	Alison Hope	07526 757492

Further details are available on our website:
www.wemcofe.co.uk

Find us on 

@Wemparishchurch

From the Registers of St Peter and St Paul's Wem

At Rest

7th October Christopher Hayward
12th October Valeria "Rosina" Ratcliff
17th October Kerry Foster
24th October Caroline Ellison

3rd November Allen Evans
4th November John Luce
28th November Rosemary Brisbourne

Book of Remembrance for November

With our sincere apologies, the following should have been in last month's Book of Remembrance:

20th November Herbert Brian Watkins

Book of Remembrance for December

1 st	William Prendergast	20 th	Roy William Parkhurst
1 st	Walter Henry Brisbane	20 th	Mary Elizabeth Sherwood
1 st	Ronald Ivor Watkins	21 st	Sylvia Margaret Dowley
3 rd	John Henry Payne	21 st	Jim Jones
3 rd	Edith Annie O'Rahilly	22 nd	Cicely Beryl Jenkins
4 th	Wilfred Roy Smith	22 nd	Doreen Greaves
4 th	Peter Jones	23 rd	Cyril Shufflebottom, Priest
4 th	Sidney Vincent Didlick	24 th	Neil Wallace
4 th	Elsie Primrose Griffiths	25 th	Angela Marion Watkins
7 th	Brian Harrington	25 th	Theodore Clarence 'Tim' Griffiths
7 th	Edna Bayliss	26 th	Thomas William 'Tony' Powell
8 th	William James Woodcock	26 th	Joyce Brisbane
12 th	Gerald George William Chidlow	27 th	Eric Pierce
13 th	George Christopher Sage	27 th	Anthony Johnson
13 th	Leslie John Bailey	27 th	Claudine Myrtle Mackenzie- Kennedy
13 th	Doris Grocott	28 th	Keith Wilkinson
13 th	Norman Henry Michael Rogers	29 th	Christine Faith Huxley
13 th	Elizabeth Wheatly	31 st	Doris Ena Sullivan
14 th	George Henry Loveday	31 st	Freda May
14 th	Olive Westbrook Loveday		
15 th	Herbert Keeling Roberts		
19 th	Kenneth Walker Horton		

Book of Remembrance for January

2 nd	David Aubrey Barber	16 th	Ernest Frederick Quelch
2 nd	Brian Roger Perks	17 th	Esther Vivian Martin Fothergill
3 rd	John Freshwater	18 th	Geoffrey Ashton
4 th	Sean Barnes	18 th	Richard Henry Bartle
5 th	Douglas Firth Sinclair	18 th	George Evans
5 th	Wilfred Thomas Smith	18 th	Nora Eileen Ashton
5 th	Tara Mattee Lear Jones	19 th	Jack Ashley
6 th	Harry Saywell	21 st	Thomas Ernest Hughes OBE
7 th	Wilfred Jones	21 st	Peter Donald Anthony Lacy
7 th	George Henry Ridgway	23 rd	Alexander Llewellyn Williams
8 th	Ian George Ridgway	24 th	John 'Jack' Peate
8 th	Kathleen Taylor	24 th	William Alastair MacEachan
9 th	Charles William Bayliss	24 th	Elizabeth Carolyn Templeman

9 th	Leslie Ann Boulcott	25 th	Ernest Lafford
9 th	Irene Margaret Cartwright	26 th	Douglas Michael Cooley
10 th	Emma Vera Nelms	27 th	Margaret Keeling Roberts
10 th	Frank Alfred Stokes	27 th	John Beverley Styles
11 th	Gillian Patricia Edwards	27 th	Violet Wilkinson
12 th	Eva Phyllis Duffy	29 th	Judith Ann Ashton
12 th	Thomas William Boulcott	29 th	Edgar Higgins
12 th	Hilda Alice Thomas	29 th	Bryan Whittaker
14 th	Hugh Broomhall	30 th	Maud Mary Coles
15 th	Olive May 'Peggy' Healey	30 th	Cecil Walter Jones
15 th	Grace Kathleen Walford Morson	30 th	Bill Witherspoon

ST PETER'S, LEE BROCKHURST

Church Warden:	Val Lusby	235610
Church Warden and Treasurer:	Roger Ashton	232425
PCC Secretary:	Phoebe Ashton	232425
PCC Lay Chairman:	Tim Wilton-Morgan	07802 735769
Church Warden Emeritus:	Robert Marsh	200641

ST LUKE'S, WESTON-UNDER-REDCASTLE

Church Warden:	Frank Hosie-Kingham	01939 200618
Church Warden:	Helen O'Neill	01939 200663
Church Warden (Deputy):	Sylvia Griffiths	01630 685204
Treasurer:	Colin Holloway	01939 200682
Church Warden Emeritus	Arthur Fox	01630 685180

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER ACROSS THE BENEFICE

DATE		WEM	WESTON	LEE
4 December	Advent 2	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	With Wem or Weston
11 December	Advent 3	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am
18 December	Advent 4	8.00 am 9.45 am	9.30 am	6.30 pm*
25 December	Christmas Day	9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am

* Carol Service

Archdeacon Paul Thomas has kindly agreed to celebrate the Eucharist at SS Peter and Paul's Church Wem at 9:45 am on Sunday 8th January 2023 and at St Luke's, Weston in February (details in February magazine); other services in January will be confirmed during December.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES ACROSS THE BENEFICE

DATE		WEM	WESTON	LEE
18 December	Carol Service	4.00 pm		6.30 pm
24 December	Crib Service	4.00 pm		
24 December	Carol Service		5.00 pm	
24 December	Midnight Mass	11.30 pm		
25 December	Christmas Day	9.45 am	9.30 am	11.15 am

Please remember that you are welcome to join services at any of our three churches in the Benefice. We are grateful to our retired clergy and laity for all their work during the Vacancy – sometimes changes may need to be made to the details above.

Hello from Reverend John

It is with enormous pleasure that I write these words “hello everyone”.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and my wife Denise. I was born in Liverpool, but we didn't stay more than a few years in any one place mainly due to my father's work.

At the age of 16 I discovered dance, I left school and went to Stage School. Then on to work as a Ballet Dancer with London Festival Ballet for some years, which is now called the English National Ballet. When I retired aged 26! I worked for a few different companies until I joined Anglo Beef Processors Ltd (ABP). A multinational company. I was based in Ellesmere and Shrewsbury where I worked for the next 18 years or so, leaving ABP as Head of Group IT to go to Cornwall. I worked for Cornwall Council in a number of roles including IT Account Manager for the Cornwall Fire Brigade, Information Services Group, and the Treasurer's Department. My last role in Cornwall Council before ordination was to be responsible for Children Schools and Families Software including Early Years and the records of all children educated in Cornwall.

Denise was born in Manchester but brought up in Clive. Whilst we lived in Cornwall Denise spent 10 years as a Teaching Assistant in Illogan Primary School, Redruth. She was the *Open the Book* coordinator for a number of years and took *Open the Book* into four Cornish Primary Schools. Our house is often filled with music as Denise is a keen singer. Having spent nine years singing in our Church Worship Band she started a couple of Singing for Fun groups while we lived in Cornwall, and again two groups in the Diocese of Lichfield.

It was in Cornwall when I finally responded to the call to ordination which I had first felt in Rome aged 22, but that is another story. I gained a BTh (Hons) and served my title post in Saltash. We moved to the Lichfield Diocese where I served as Team Vicar in the Central Telford Parish before serving in the Uttoxeter Area of Parishes. It was whilst here that I completed an MA in Liberation Theology. Until I join you in Wem, Lee Brockhurst and Weston-under-Redcastle I remain the Vicar of Todmorden with Cornholme and Walsden in the Leeds Diocese.

We have five adult children, eight grandchildren and two dogs. We enjoy caravanning, walking in the countryside and socialising.



Both Denise and I are extremely excited to be joining you in this beautiful part of God's world.

Yours in Christ,

John.

Reverend John Christopher Jukes BTh (Hons) MA

We look forward to welcoming Rev John and Denise Jukes amongst us.

Wem Christmas Festival

Friday 2nd December 17:00-21:00
on the Church Lawn

The church will be open and Glyn Williams,
our organist, will play seasonal music

All Souls Service - November 2nd 7.30pm

"It was good to see so many people turn up for this service despite the inclement weather."

"Many wrote down loved ones names to be read out and lit candles for them; it was both moving and comforting and showed a real need for this beautiful Service"

"There was a lovely calm atmosphere - this was the most special All Souls service I have been to"

"The service felt so personal, only reading out names requested by those present"

"The candles were lit early on which helped embrace our loved ones throughout the service."

These comments following the service, capture something of the impact and appreciation of the evening. Thanks to Rev Rob Haarhoff for preparing, leading and preaching; and to Glyn Williams, for his sensitive musical contribution on the organ.

Thelma Pugh and contributors



The next issue is scheduled to be prepared on Thursday 19 January.
It will be available in an electronic version. If you are not currently on our email list and wish to be please contact the address below.

Items for the magazine can be left in the drawer at the back of the church in Wem (by 9 am Thursday) or sent to: [**pamedgmond@hotmail.com**](mailto:pamedgmond@hotmail.com)

St. Peter's Autumn Fayre

Saturday 19th November dawned sunny but cold, a great relief to the organisers of the first Autumn Fayre to be held in the refurbished Village Hall. Much of the basic preparation had been undertaken the previous day which meant that we were very ready for the arrival of our customers.

Many thanks go to Judith and Pam who manned the kitchen serving up warm homemade mince pies, courtesy of Margaret and Kim, and mugs of coffee or tea plus leaving the kitchen spotless after a big wash-up.

Margaret, with Cousin Ann, looked after the Produce Stall which once again was virtually sold out by the end of the morning and daughter Christine spent a happy morning watching people scoop marbles into the top of an upturned flower pot. Ian Wilson won the adult's prize with 60 marbles in 30 seconds and Georgina won the children's prize with 34 marbles: congratulations to both.

An enormous display of Bric-a-Brac was under the control of Kim Archer (a Wemian inveigled into helping out). Much of this was new or as good as new items which commanded great interest and not a few purchases. Val and Alex spent the morning selling good quality clothing of various sorts and a few Christmas items as well.

A guest appearance by Rosemary Foster and Wendy Lewis who sold calendars, cards and pictures produced by the Wem Arts Society and they were kind enough to give us a donation to church funds from their takings.

Georgina tempted the customers with her Pick-a-Pocket items and Jackie Clarke made sure that everybody bought raffle tickets. Pots of spring bulbs were also on sale and many were bought to enhance folks' gardens next spring.

It would be unfair not to mention Roger who manned the door and Robert who helped out wherever this was needed.

The social interaction was a pleasure to see and the facilities at the Village Hall meant that we had a very comfortable and lucrative morning with £555.40 being raised for church funds.

Thanks also go to those who provided items for the Bric-a-Brac Stall, the Produce Stall and the many Raffle Prizes. We look forward to repeating it all again next year!

Phoebe Ashton

Shropshire Hymn-writers, part iv.

Richard Baxter was born at Rowton, near High Erroll, in 1615. He was ordained in the Church of England, and served in Bridgnorth and Kidderminster. After the Protectorate he was offered the bishopric of Hereford by Charles II, but he refused to accept it. Later he left the Church of England, and as a Nonconformist minister he was tried for sedition by the infamous Judge Jeffreys of Wem, and imprisoned for 18 months. He died in 1691.

Baxter was a pioneer hymn-writer, believing that singing in church should not be limited to metrical psalms, and in 1672 he published a hymn based on psalm 148. It ran to 16 verses, and the two first verses were as follows

Ye holy angels bright,
Which stand before God's throne,
And dwell in glorious light,
Praise ye the Lord, each one!
You were so nigh,
Fitter than we
Dark sinners be,
For things so high.

You blessed Souls at rest,
Who see your Saviour's face,
Whose glory, ev'n the least,
Is far above our grace.
God's promise sound
As in his sight
With sweet delight
You do abound.

In 1838 JH Gurney took Baxter's verses as the basis of a new hymn of four verses, which begins:

Ye holy angels bright,
Who wait at God's right hand,
Or though the realms of light
Fly at your Lord's command...

The splendid tune was written by John Darwall, Vicar of Walsall, who composed tunes for every one of the 150 metrical psalms.

Gurney's version has become one of the most popular hymns in our hymn books. One scholarly friend of mine thought that 'Ye holy angels bright' was the finest hymn in the English language, and it is certainly one of my favourites.

William Price

Christmas Quiz 2022

- How did No Vac Novak become No Match Novak?
- 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. What did they choose?
- Which rock star who died in January would do anything for love, but not that?
- He would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote The Hippopotamus Song (Mud, mud, glorious mud). Who was he?
- What was the career of the President of Ukraine before he entered politics?
- At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock, What film did Smith go on to get an Oscar for?
- In May a footballer's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million. Whose was it?
- What were the two places outside the UK that gained city status?
- The actor who played the Revd Timothy Farthing passed away this year. What comedy series did he famously appear in?
- Which actress was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King?
- Where did Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge?
- At the age of nearly 90, he published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years Of Doing Absolutely Everything* – and its advice was simple. "Do your best and be grateful for every single job". He died in 2022, who was he?

Answers at the end of the magazine.

The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but ... reject it and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the history of our race is satisfactorily explained – *Napoleon Bonaparte*

In the bleak mid-winter

Rossetti's famous carol speaks of a winter scene with frozen earth and water, and snow falling upon snow. With snow or sleet falling an average 3.9 days in December, compared to 5.3 days in January, 5.6 days in February and 4.2 days in March, we are far more likely to have snow after Christmas in the UK than have a white Christmas.

However, white Christmases were more frequent in the 18th and 19th centuries, even more so before the change of calendar in 1752 which effectively brought Christmas Day back by 12 days, the old calendar date of December 25th now being January the 6th. The old Julian calendar is still kept by many Eastern Orthodox churches who celebrate Christmas on January 6th when in the west the Epiphany is celebrated. However, the idea that Christmas falls on December the 25th, unlike the date of Easter, has no apparent connection to the real dates of events in Jesus' life.

So why December the 25th? What we do know is that this was the date under the Roman Julian calendar that the mid-winter solstice, the shortest day, was celebrated. This was the date of the solstice in the 4th Century when we find the first records of Christmas being celebrated. What is less certain is why it was decided to celebrate Christmas on this day. There is evidence that the date of the Annunciation (the time when the angel Gabriel tells Mary she will deliver the virgin birth) was fixed first on March 25th, nine months earlier, thus also the date of the spring equinox in the Roman calendar.

In the early church this was also believed to be the date of the first Easter. It was common in the early church to believe that great saints died on the day that either they were born or conceived. This symbolically had the incarnation at the same date as the resurrection, Jesus returning to life on the date he was first given life. But also, in the northern hemisphere placing this on the spring equinox, the day when the days become longer than the nights, adding nature symbolism to this date for the annunciation.

If the date of the Annunciation at the spring equinox gave a nature symbolism to the celebration, so did placing Christ's birth at the mid-winter solstice. This was in northern countries always a time for feasting during the months one had to rely on the food harvested in autumn, taking greenery into the house to symbolise continuing life

when the earth was cold and barren. This festivity and symbolism adapted well to the celebration of Christ's birth.

A late fourth-century sermon by Saint Augustine explains why this was a fitting day to celebrate Christ's nativity: "Hence it is that He was born on the day which is the shortest in our earthly reckoning and from which subsequent days begin to increase in length. He, therefore, who bent low and lifted us up chose the shortest day, yet the one whence light begins to increase." Jesus, the Light of the World, enters into that world on the shortest, darkest day, in the 'bleak' mid-winter'. There may not be snow, but as John reminds us, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not put it out.

Revd Steve Hollinghurst is part of the diocese's Mission team with a focus on environmental issues

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written in 1863.

The story behind the carol Good King Wenceslas

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen, have you ever wondered who he was? This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia.

For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the *rex Justus* – or ‘righteous king’ – that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England some time before 1853, when Queen Victoria’s envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the ‘Duke’ into a ‘King’, as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king’s footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol – it goes back to Finland in 1582.

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

Any queries about searches in the Whitchurch Road Cemetery
or elsewhere

Please contact Mr Tom Edwards of 1 Eckford Park,
Wem, SY4 5HL or on 01939 233932

All in the month of DECEMBER

It was:

200 years ago, on 27th December 1822 that Louis Pasteur, French biologist, microbiologist, and chemist was born. One of the fathers of germ theory, he was best known for the pasteurisation process, which is named in his honour.

100 years ago, on 8th December 1922 that Lucian Freud, German-born British figurative artist and draughtsman was born. One of the leading portrait artists of the 20th century.

Also 100 years ago, on 14th December 1922 that John Reith (later Lord Reith) was appointed as General Manager of the BBC.

Also 100 years ago, on 30th December 1922 that the Soviet Union was founded. Officially known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), it was dissolved in 1991.

90 years ago, on 25th December 1932 that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham.

80 years ago, on 1st December 1942 that the British Government published the Beveridge Report, which formed the basis of the welfare state.

Also 80 years ago, on 17th December 1942 that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons about the mass executions of Jews by the Nazis in occupied Europe. Ministers and Members of Parliament condemned the massacres and held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the victims.

65 years ago, on 25th December 1957 that Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas message was televised for the first time.

50 years ago, on 22nd December 1972 that 14 people were found alive in the Andes more than two months after their plane crashed. They had survived by eating dead passengers.

40 years ago, on 12th December 1982 that 30,000 women joined hands around the Greenham Common RAF base in Berkshire to protest against the siting of US Cruise missiles there.

25 years ago, on 11th December 1997 that Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams met Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street – the first Irish Republican leader to do so since Michael Collins in 1921.

Also 25 years ago, on 11th December 1997 that the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and combating global warming, was adopted at a conference in Japan. More than 190 countries have signed the agreement, which came into effect in February 2005.

20 years ago, on 7th December 2002 that Iraq submitted a weapons declaration to the United Nations in which it said it had no weapons of mass destruction. This was part of the prelude to the March 2003 Invasion of Iraq.

10 years ago, on 9th December 2012 that Patrick Moore, British astronomer, television presenter and musician died. Best known for hosting the astronomy series The Sky at Night (1957-2013) the longest-running TV series with the same presenter.

WINTER

Winter has started in earnest
The first frost came last night
Very soon when we awaken
We shall find the ground quite white

But it has its compensations
For Christmas is drawing near
With all its fun and gaiety
Which is to children so dear

And when the snow has fallen
It's always a pretty sight
And robins perched on the window sills
And all so sparkling bright

The lovely winter berries come out
And many shrubs will bloom
We can gather holly along the way
If we take a country roam

When winter winds are blowing
And everywhere is drear
We know that spring is round the corner
And soon will be drawing near

Helen Hornsby's Great-Aunt Annie
Died aged 100 in 2001



Mistletoe

In Britain most mistletoe is found in the south and west midlands, with particularly good populations in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Gwent and Somerset. There is mistletoe elsewhere, but it is only regionally abundant in that core area of the south-west midlands.

Change may be happening though – new evidence from the last 20 years suggests that mistletoe is spreading faster than it used to. This is particularly noticeable in eastern areas, where established but seemingly static mistletoe populations are now spreading. Is this change due to climate or to birds? It could be subtle hints of climate change – computer modelling does suggest that mistletoe will head east with climate change. Or it could be something else. One possibility is better spread of the seeds by Blackcaps, a bird that is particularly efficient at spreading mistletoe. British Blackcaps migrate for the winter so they do not usually affect mistletoe here, but recently continental Blackcaps have started overwintering in Britain, with many thousands now spending their winters here and feeding on mistletoe and then spreading it.

Kissing beneath the mistletoe is a very old tradition indeed and although part of Christmas revels, mistletoe is rarely allowed inside a church because of its strong pagan associations. It is well known as the most sacred plant of the Druids, the priestly clan of the Celts.



If you have a young fruit tree in your churchyard, garden or elsewhere, how about encouraging mistletoe by smearing some berries onto the bark after Christmas is over. The thin bark of a young trees is easier for the mistletoe to penetrate and establish. Please let me know if you have mistletoe within your churchyard trees.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Antony Pucci

Antony Pucci (1819-92) came from nowhere – a peasant family in Tuscany. He went nowhere – he spent his life as a parish priest in the Tuscan city of Viareggio. He was unattractive to look at. He wasn't good with words – people found him awkward and shy.

So why do people still remember him today? Because Antony Pucci used the one gift he did have in the service of others. He was an excellent organiser, and he served his people brilliantly. His care for the sick in the epidemics of 1854 and 1866 was outstanding. He even set up the first seaside nursing homes for poorly children.

Antony Pucci used to say that organisation is the servant of charity, not its substitute. But he used his gift for organisation as a way of showing his charity, and for that he was loved.

So – if you wince when you look in the mirror in the morning, if you stand tongue-tied in most social situations, don't despair. Ask God to show you what gift He HAS given you, and use it in the service of others. And in giving to them, you will receive. It is when we lose our lives for His sake, in His service, that we truly find them.

The Virgin

Behold the Virgin approaching near,
And the Christ so young upon her breast,
Angels low-bowing before them here,
And the King of life saying, 'Tis best'.

Old Celtic prayer



The First Christmas



JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE VERY SPECIAL BABY



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE BY THE CENSUS.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL... THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...



...WHICH IS WHERE THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY. AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAS BEEN BORN.



THEY WERE THRILLED TO SEE THE MOST WONDERFUL GIFT IN THE WORLD!

Christmas Quiz 2022 answers

- Novak Djokovic was due to play at the Australian Open but prevented because he had declined a covid vaccination.
- Morse was the new series
- Meatloaf was the rock star who would do anything for love, but not that.
- Actor and singer Michael Flanders would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March.
- Before he entered politics the President of Ukraine was a comedian.
- At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock. Will Smith went on to get an Oscar for the film called *King Richard*
- In May footballer Diego Maradona's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million.
- The two places outside the UK that gained city status this year were Ramsey on the Isle of Man and Stanley in the Falklands.
- The actor who played Rev Timothy Farthing was Frank Williams in the BBC television sitcom Dad's Army. He became a prominent lay leader in the Church of England.
- Nichelle Nichols who played Uhura in the Star Trek franchise was ordered not to quit the series by Martin Luther King.
- Dan Snow reportedly urged tourists to visit Durham instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge.
- Bernard Cribbins published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018.

We hope you enjoyed the quiz and remembered some of these events and people from 2022

