



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey Dec 2016/Jan 2017
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear friends,

Father Christmas or Santa Claus, who was he? Is he the stuff of fairy tales and human hope or was this person real. All of us have grown up knowing about him and so I have tried to find out exactly who he was (and who's spirit lives on within every parent).

What name do you call the bearer of gifts in your household? And what does he look like ?

We all know that we must be asleep for him to deliver one's presents on Christmas Eve, but what you may not realise is that he has had a range of costumes over the years. Father Christmas is as old as Europe. Once, people believed that he was the god of magic, Woden, from Anglo Saxon and Germanic myth, lashing his eight legged, white steed through the darkness of northern midwinter – but it was not until later that he upgraded to a team of reindeer. Father Christmas was an enormous, imposing figure in this guise, swathed in dark furs, massively bearded, dropping from the sky into the midwinter revelries dispensing peace, goodwill and, of course, presents.

It turned out, though, that Father Christmas was not necessarily as fond of cold winters as we might imagine him to be. In fact, he seemed to like to holiday in sunnier climes - Turkey, to be precise - and his name was not Woden but Nicholas. While in Turkey in the early 4th century, Nicholas became Bishop of the city of Myra, a rough place and worse people by all accounts. He was much loved and well known for his care of the poor and dispossessed. He once revived some schoolboys cruelly killed by a cannibalistic butcher, who had placed their bodies in a barrel to cure. And he famously rescued three young women from a life on the streets by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold, which he used to pay their dowries. Nicholas wished to spare the father any humiliation, so he used his Santa skills to drop the three bags into the house secretly, under cover of night. Over the centuries many, including children, sailors, unmarried girls and moneylenders, have claimed Nicholas as their patron.

Unsurprisingly, the Church made him a saint, and after retirement

from his Episcopal duties, Saint Nicholas, or 'Santa Claus' as the Dutch pronounced it, has worked full time on Christmas gift-giving and returned to his old stomping ground in Lapland. Everyone knows that the ice at the North Pole moves around far too much for Father Christmas to base his headquarters there. As for his costume, in the Low Countries he is still depicted in red cope and mitre, as befits a Bishop. More commonly in the rest of the world, he is bedecked in the fur-cuffed, scarlet outfit first hinted at in the 19th century by the American writer Clement Clarke Moore in his poem *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and by the cartoonist Thomas Nash. Coca-Cola is sometimes, erroneously, given the credit for this change in Santa's look. The company did, however, make it popular worldwide. Back in the snowy north, Santa is probably glad of the fur but we are delighted that he will be taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us at St. John's for our Christmas Fair. Come along and say hello to receive a gift from this most famous of saints. And at this most blessed time of the year, a quote from the man himself: 'Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night'.

With every blessing for this time of joy and I hope that 2017 brings you much happiness.



*If you wish to read **Crux** the Diocese of Manchester newsletter, you will find a link to it on the newsletter page of our web site: st-john-hey.org*

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Day by Day Scheme

Thank you to all those who are helping to ensure the future fabric of our church by supporting the Day by Day Scheme.

9th Dec	A Special day
19th Dec	Remembering the anniversary of Doris Lord's passing
2nd Jan	In memory of Jessie & Ernest Whittaker
4th Jan	In loving memory of Brian Clegg
18th Jan	Remembering grandfather and grandchildren
22nd Jan	Remembering Doug's birthday

Recent Entries in our registers

Holy Matrimony

Congratulations to

Leighton Toms & Carla Loftus

on their marriage, we wish them every happiness

Please pray for those planning weddings at Hey in 2017

Sat 27 th May	Andrew Burgess & Jade Lees
Sat 17 th June	Alex Arundel & Sarah Hilton
Sat 5 th Aug	David Clarke & Laura Miller
Sat 26 th Aug	Tom Dransfield & Emma Shepard

The Faithful Departed

The under named who died on the date shown were laid to rest

19th October	Maureen Cragg
24th October	Brenda Bellis

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon them"

Street Prayers

Prayers for these streets will be offered in Church on the Sundays shown

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
4 Dec	Stamford Rd Higher
11	Stamford Rd Lower & St John's Crt
18	Taylor Green Way
25	Brighton Road, Whitegates Lane

2017

1 Jan	Rivington Lane
8	Den Lane Higher
15	Den Lane Lower, Whams, Pleasant View
22	Medlock Way & Further Hey Close
29	Belmont Ave Higher

Any requests for specific prayers
please ring the parish office 626 3630

Let us witness to the presence of the church to all in Hey Parish

Holy Baptism

6th November Olivia Doreen Revill
 Daughter of Mark & Christina Revill

Flower Donations Oct-Nov

In loving memory of Joy and Ray Evans

In loving memory of Dad, Nan, and Michael

Bible Readings

4 Dec Second Sunday of Advent Christmas Fair

Isaiah 11.1-10 or

Romans 15.4-13

Matthew 3.1-12

11 Dec Third Sunday of Advent

Canticle Luke 1.46b-55

Matthew 11.2-11

18 Dec Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16 or
Romans 1.1-7

Matthew 1.18-25

Word 9.30

24 Dec Eve Midnight Mass

Isaiah 52.7-10 and Hebrews 1.1-4

John 1.1-14

25 Dec Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7

Luke 2.1-20

1 Jan Naming of Our Lord

Numbers 6 22-end or
Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 2.15-21

or **First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 63.7-9 or
Hebrews 2.10-18

Matthew 2.13-23

8 Jan Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60.1-6 or
Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

15 Jan Second Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7 or
1 Corinthians 1.1-9

John 1.29-42

Word 9.30

22 Jan Third Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9.1-4 or
1 Corinthians 1.10-18

Matthew 4.12-23

29 Jan Candlemas

Malachi 3.1-5 or
Hebrews 2.14-18

Luke 2.22-40

5 Feb Fourth Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 58.1-9a or
1 Corinthians 2.1-12

Matthew 5.13-20

Diary Dates

Major events during World War 1 will be shown on their centenary date

Thu	1 Dec	7pm	Come & Praise!
Sun	4 Dec	The Second Sunday of Advent	
		8am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
		9.30am	Parish Communion
		10.30am	Christmas Fair
Wed	7 Dec	10am	Holy Communion - BCP
		11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene & School Choir
		7.30pm	PCC

WW1 - David Lloyd George elected British Prime Minister.

Thu	8 Dec	7pm	Come & Praise!
Fri	9 Dec	9am	School Choir at Oakdene
Sun	11 Dec	The Third Sunday of Advent	
		8am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Parish Communion
		11.30am	Seniors Meal

WW1 - Germany delivers Peace Note to Allies suggesting compromise.

Wed	14 Dec	10am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Choir practice
Thu	15 Dec	7pm	Come & Praise! with Holy Communion
Fri	16 Dec	9.15am	Hey with Zion School in Church for service
			Hey with Zion term ends
Sat	17 Dec		Dance group hall in evening
Sun	18 Dec	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	
		8am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Come & Praise!
		4pm	Carol Service

WW1 - The Battle of Verdun ends. It is the longest and costliest battle on the Western Front.

Wed	21 Dec	10am	Holy Communion
		11am	Holy Communion at Millfield
		from 4.30pm	Children's Christmas parties
Thu	22 Dec	7pm	Come & Praise!
Fri	23 Dec	11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene

Sat	24 Dec	Christmas Eve	6pm Christingle Nativity 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Sun	25 Dec	Christmas Day	9.30am Parish Communion
January 2017			
Sun	1 Jan	Naming & Circumcision of Jesus	8am Holy Communion - BCP 9.30am Parish Communion 7.30pm PCC
Tue	3 Jan		Hey with Zion term starts
Wed	4 Jan		10 am Holy Communion - BCP 11am Holy Communion at Oakdene
Thu	5 Jan		7pm Come & Praise !
Sun	8 Jan	The Epiphany	8am Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Communion
Wed	11 Jan		10 am Holy Communion
Thu	12 Jan		7pm Come & Praise! with Holy Communion
Sun	15 Jan	The Second Sunday of Epiphany	8am Holy Communion 9.30am Come & Praise!
Wed	18 Jan		10 am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion at Millfield
Thu	19 Jan		7pm Come & Praise!
Sun	22 Jan	The Third Sunday of Epiphany	8am Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Communion
Wed	25 Jan		10 am Holy Communion
Thu	26 Jan		7pm Come & Praise!
Sun	29 Jan	Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple / Candlemas	8am Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Communion

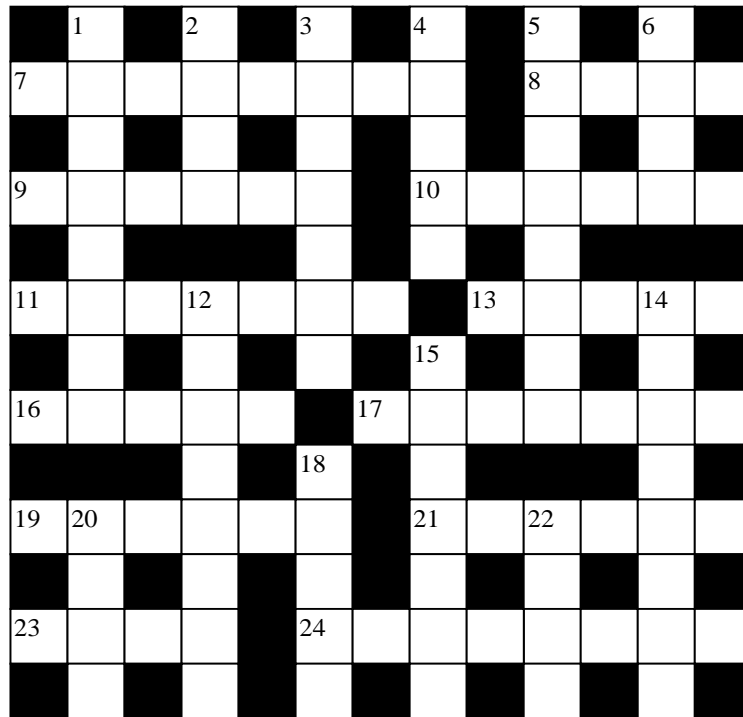
WW1 - Germany announces the continuation of unrestricted submarine warfare, hoping to starve Britain into submission.

Wed	1 Feb	10 am Holy Communion - BCP 11am Holy Communion at Oakdene
Thu	2 Feb	7pm Come & Praise !

WW1 - The United States severs diplomatic relations with Germany as U-Boats threaten US shipping. Intercepted messages reveal that Germany is provoking the Mexicans into war against the US.

Sun	5 Feb	The Fourth Sunday before Lent	8am Holy Communion - BCP 9.30am Parish Communion
Wed	8 Feb		10 am Holy Communion
Thu	9 Feb		7pm Come & Praise! 7.45pm PCC

DECEMBER CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS

- 7. Happiest in good spirits (8)
- 8. Summit (4)
- 9. Present for consideration (6)
- 10. Alcoholic drink (6)
- 11. Join together (7)
- 13. Elbow room (5)
- 16. Read in a room (5)
- 17. American whiskey (7)
- 19. Jacket worn by schoolchildren (6)
- 21. Gambling den (6)
- 23. Roll deep dish along the ground (4)
- 24. Furniture for storage (8)

DOWN

- 1. He invented the scale for wind speed (8)
- 2. Passenger vehicle on rails (4)
- 3. Navigation instrument (7)
- 4. Express condition (5)
- 5. Windbag player (8)
- 6. Healthy spring (4)
- 12. Overpower with magnificent show (8)
- 14. Romantic singers (8)
- 15. An abstract idea (7)
- 18. Find little remain (5)
- 20. Stolen goods (4)
- 22. Nip in the bud (4)

Solution to November crossword Across: 1.Aside, 4.Stick, 10.Penalty, 11.Ernie, 12.Needy, 13. Oatmeal, 15.Ends, 17.Spade, 19.Idyll, 22.Star, 25.Dispute, 27.Anvil, 29.Twill, 30.Regular, 31. Rests, 32.Study. Down:2.Sense, 3.Delayed, 5.Treat, 6.Conceal, 7.Spend, 8.Synod, 9.Bells,14.Asia 16.Nest, 18.Passive, 20.Draught, 21.Edits, 23.Tears, 24.Glare, 26.Unlit, 28.Valid.

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