



View from the Curate's House

Christmas is fast approaching and no doubt you, like me, have started to make preparations for that wonderful celebration. But before we rush towards Christmas we also take time to celebrate the season of Advent when we spend time in prayer and reflection on Christ's incarnation among us and on what this means for us personally in our own lives.

Our diocese has prepared a booklet to assist us in our reflections and its central theme is the lifelong journey that each of us is on as a disciple of Christ. Bishop Christopher has designated 2015 as a year of discipleship and we are invited to think about what discipleship means for each one of us during Advent. The four themes of the Advent booklet are: -

- God reveals himself
- God calls us
- God challenges us
- God accomplishes great things

If you would like to use the booklet during Advent please see Sonia or Mark.

Here at Deeping St James we are always looking at developing our understanding of our faith through our personal prayer life and Bible readings at home, as well as through our worship together in church. We also now have two home groups, which people can join. One very successful and long-established home group meets at Doris Warner's home every Wednesday and we now have a new home group, which meets at 7.30pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at 32 Bridge Street, Deeping St James. In December, as you might imagine, both groups are studying the stories of Christ's birth that we find in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. You are welcome to come along to either home group, which are there to help us grow in our faith and reflect more deeply on what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the 21st century.

As we go through Advent and then through our wonderful Christmas celebrations let us think and pray about our calling to be Disciples of Christ and reflect on how we can better engage in the Diocese's Year of Discipleship in 2015.

Every blessing

Revd Mark

Parish Directory

Vacancy - Please
contact either Revd
Sonia or Revd Mark

- See below -

Priest in Charge	Vacancy - Please contact either Revd Sonia or Revd Mark		
Curate	The Revd Sonia Marshall 135c Eastgate, DSJ	curate@dsj.org.uk	346420
Joint Curate with Market Deeping	The Revd Mark Thomson 16 Church Street, DSJ	revmarkthomson@stguthlacs.org.uk	348394
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Assistant Churchwardens	Caroline Herron, 6 Waterton Close, DSJ		344027
	Liz Spratley, 33 Park Road, DSJ		342401
	John Worthington, Cranmore Farmhouse, DSJ		343860
	Doris Bellairs, 119 Eastgate, DSJ		343201
Parochial Church Council			
Chairman	Canon Niccy Fisher	chair@dsj.org.uk	423959
Vice-Chairman	Caroline Herron, 6 Waterton Close, DSJ		344027
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Hon. Treasurer	Simon Marshall, 135c Eastgate, DSJ	treasurer@dsj.org.uk	346420
Covenant Secretary	Peter Wilde, 38 Burchnall Close, DSJ		344991
Electoral Roll Officer	Kim Hallam, 1 Swallow Walk, DSJ		348178
Synod Members			
Diocesan Synod	Canon Niccy Fisher, 7 Northorpe Lane, Thurlby		423959
Deanery Synod	The Revd Sonia Marshall, 135c Eastgate, DSJ		346420
<i>The above plus</i>	Simon Marshall, 135c Eastgate, DSJ		346420
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Organisations			
Bellringers	Hilary Gentle, 83 Hereward Way, DSJ	ringers@dsj.org.uk	345478
Church Hall Bookings	Jo-Anne Thomson, 16 Church Street, DSJ	churchhall@dsj.org.uk	07706 747521
Church Ladies' Fellowship	Margaret Flegg, 23 Locks Close, DSJ		347197
Church Coffee Group	Jane Thompson, 63 Hereward Way		341089
	Margaret Flegg, 23 Locks Close, DSJ		347197
Church Flowers	Pauline Brooksbank, 134 Eastgate, DSJ		343829
	Christine Masters, 1 DSJ Rd, Deeping Gate		345368
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In this Month's Priory News ...



Dear All,

We must apologise for using the same old 'seasonal' photograph at the top of the page, but neither of us really likes having our pictures taken and we aren't into 'selfies'. Anyway, we never look at it and more than likely you avoid looking too - the left thumb, carefully placed, covers it quite well!

Everyone must be extra busy this month as we have had fewer contributions than usual. Nevertheless we hope you will still find plenty to interest you as you thumb through the following pages and we enter the season of Advent. Amongst the preparations for Christmas we hope you may find time to try out Margaret's recipe.

Don't forget too our traditional Service of Nine Lessons and carols on Sunday the 21st. Can any of you beat my total of nearly fifty such services which for me started when as a teenager I started singing bass in the school choir? Even after all these years I still get excited to sing some old favourites and some new additions to the repertoire.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year

John

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Don't miss Margaret's recipe for this month - it certainly has a seasonal flavour.

Our thanks to John Marsh for this month's cover photograph - wonder if it's prophetic?

Thanks to those who have sent in articles for Priory News. Please keep them coming. ***Please note: pictures containing recognisable children must be accompanied by authorisation to publish from their parents or guardians. We will not publish the names of children pictured unless specifically requested to do so by their parents or guardians.***

John Worthington, Cranmore Farmhouse, DSJ - Tel: 343860 priorynews@dsj.org.uk
*In view of Christmas, please let us have your contributions for the January edition of Priory News **BEFORE** the earlier deadline of Wednesday 17th **December**. Thank you.*

Reports and News

• News from the Tower

What a busy end of October into November for the bell ringers.

On the 25th October we had a tower tour when we rang at Moulton and Whaplode, lunch at Holbeach, then on to Fleet and Long Sutton.

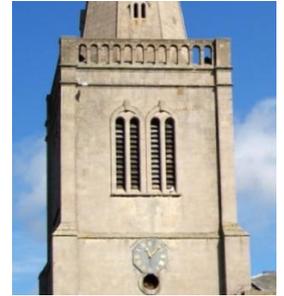
On the 26th October we had a band of visiting ringers from Tadcaster.

Then into November. The bells were rung for the Remembrance Concert on Saturday 8th. On Sunday morning of the 9th, one of the bell clapper pins snapped and left us with just 5 bells for the afternoon service.

On the 11th we rang for 10 minutes prior to 11.00am when we stood in silence for the Remembrance period then rang for a further 10 minutes. We hope the bells on the 11th were appreciated.

We hope you all have A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Now here is a little quiz for you to have a go. The answers can be changed to pre-decimal currency. For the benefit of those not around in the pre-decimal period this is how the currency worked. We had pennies, halfpennies and farthings. There were 12 pennies to 1 shilling and 20 shillings to 1 pound. Some of the coins had slang words which appear in some of the answers.



	£	s	d
1. A bicycle			
2. A singer			
3. Part of a monkey's leg			
4. A man's name			
5. A kind of pig			
6. Sun, moon and Pluto			
7. Leather worker			
8. 50% of panties			
9. Royal head dress			
10. Hit repeatedly			
11. Unwell sea creature			
12. Baby kangaroo			
13. A stone			
Total of the answers:	£32	17s	11½d

Answers will be published in the January Priory News.

Mike

Children's Church

- *Light Party 2014*

Jesus spoke to them, saying "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

We held our first ever Light Party on 31st October in a Church Hall lit with 1,000 lights!

25 children attended the Party, a celebration of light over dark, led by the Rev Mark. The theme, naturally, was based around Jesus as the light of the world, the bringer of kindness and joy.

We had some brilliant activities during the two hour party. Of particular note were the beautiful flower and light arrangements led by the very creative Jan Fisk and the clever stained glass window biscuits with thanks to Victoria Ludford, Victoria Worthington, Jill Ironside and

helpers. In addition the children all took home a bag of craft goodies, including decorated tea light holders in the shape of crosses, colourful bookmarks and cards.



Ted Fisk decorated the stage in lights and dazzled

with party games and glow in the dark jewellery for all. After a delicious party tea the children settled down to a performance



from the puppets Peggy and Micky (assisted by Father Mark and Bet Washbrooke). Micky was scared of the dark but Peggy (in training to be a witch in Macbeth) helped Micky not to be frightened. She explained in her story that Jesus is always with us, even when we are scared. It was a lovely story with laughs, jokes and reassurance.



We felt that the party was a fun and worthwhile event for the children and hope we can grow it further next year. As ever it was a great team effort and particular thanks go to members of the congregation who provided the delicious party food; all the teenagers and adults who helped on the day (over 20 in number) and once again to Russell from Deeping First Responders who provided first aid cover for us. Finally, thanks to Rev Mark, who brought the idea from his previous parish and led us in another successful outreach activity for the Children's Group.

Lisa Goodchild

- *More news from Children's Church*

We enjoyed meeting Neil, the new Market Deeping Curate, at our Family Service in November and it was lovely to share in Hattie Ironside's special baptism day - congratulations Hattie. We used this service to reflect (no pun intended) on the Light Party and share the experience with the congregation. You may have noticed some of our artwork is now on display in the children's corner in Church.

Also this month we read the story of the 10 bridesmaids Matthew 25:1-13. We acted out the story and then talked about what we have to wait for and how it makes us feel, (Christmas featured highly in what the children were waiting for!) we then moved on to making our own lamps. The following week we considered our own talents in our reading of Matthew 25 14-30. We recorded our thoughts and put them in a treasure chest, taking turns to thank God for our gifts. We then enjoyed eating the chocolate coins we had earned and making something wonderful with lego!

Everyone is highly excited about the lovely events ahead next month. By the time you read this we will have enjoyed our advent crafts on 30 November. Our 'don't leave Deeping' day is Sunday 14th December as we have the Children's Disco Party in the Hall at 10am and the Christingle in Church at 3pm (followed by a darkened room for the adults). Posters are already up advertising the Christingle; do consider attending to share the magic of this lovely service (and we would appreciate some more volunteers to help marshal the candlelit parade - please offer your services to Lisa).

We will be making up the 150 Christingles in the Church Hall from 6pm on Friday 12th December until the mulled wine runs dry and the last mince pie is eaten! Everyone is very welcome to come along as your help would be much appreciated. Any pledges of support or questions about this evening to Lisa, please.

On behalf of everyone in Children's Church, we wish you a happy and loving Christmas.

Lisa & Vicki

- *Children In Need Fundraising*

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in the event after Church on 16th November. It was lovely to see so many people in the Hall supporting the fundraising effort. 'Name the bear' was won by Erin Frisk and Margaret Flegg's beautiful Pudsey Bear Cake was taken home by Margery Hallam in the raffle. Thank you to everyone who baked for the cake stall, to Margaret for the lovely refreshments and to the Mission Committee for the book/card/candle stall. A grand total of £217.15 was raised for Children In Need - well done everyone.

Lisa

- *Remembrance Day Service*

As the parent of two members of the DSJ scouting organisation who paraded and attended the Remembrance Day Service, I'd like to say thank you to Sonia and everyone involved in the organisation of this Service. It was great to see the Church so full and the refreshments afterwards were very welcome.

Steve Goodchild

Mission Matters

- *Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Boxes)*

Thank you to all for the good response we have had once again this year for the children's shoe boxes. They are now on the next part of their journey to Kyrgyzstan which is on the borders of the following countries: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. Its capital and largest city is Bishkek.

Pat Feek

- *Knit and Natter.*

Please note that the next Knit and Natter will be held in February.



- *Njuro Project*

Thank you to those who have contributed to the NJORO project by sticking money on to the sunflower. Please keep sticking, and the money will be sent off as the sunflower becomes full.

(Reports and News continues on page 10)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014

1st	Monday	ANDREW THE APOSTLE 2:30 pm	W.I. Carol Service
4th	Thursday	9:30 am 10.30 am 7.45 pm	Holy Communion Home Communion Church Ladies' Fellowship Christmas Party
5th	Friday	Practice Night: 11:00 am 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Funeral of Katie Gray Choir Ringers
6th	Saturday	Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, 326	
7th	SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
		9:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Communion (said) Family Service with Holy Baptism
8th	Monday	The Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary 7:30 pm PCC meeting preceded by Holy Communion	
11th	Thursday	9:30 am	Holy Communion
12th	Friday	Practice Night: 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Choir: extended practice at Cranmore Farmhouse Ringers
13th	Saturday	Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304	
14th	SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
		10:00 am 3:00 pm	Sung Eucharist Junior Church Christmas Party Christingle Service
15th	Monday	3:00 pm?	Linchfield Community Primary School Carol Service
16th	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Deepings School Carol Service
17th	Wednesday	<i>O Sapientia (O Wisdom!)</i> 6:00 pm DSJ Community Primary School Carol Service	
18th	Thursday	<i>O Adonai!</i> 9:30 am Holy Communion 3:00 - 4:30 pm Church Ladies' Fellowship: Afternoon Tea	

19th Friday *O Root of Jesse!*
 5:00pm Christmas Pageant
 Practice Night:
 6:45 pm Choir
 7:30 pm Ringers

20th Saturday *O Key of David!*

21st SUNDAY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 am Sung Eucharist
 6:00 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

22nd Monday *O King of the nations!*

23rd Tuesday *O Emmanuel!*

24th WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS EVE

11:30 pm Midnight Mass

25th THURSDAY CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Family Eucharist

26th Friday STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR

27th Saturday JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

28th SUNDAY HOLY INNOCENTS

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

29th Monday Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170

JANUARY

1st Thursday The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
(No Communion Service)

2nd Friday Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, 379 & 389
 Practice Night:
(No Choir practice)
 7:30 pm Ringers

4th SUNDAY EPIPHANY (transferred from Jan. 6th.)

9:00 am Holy Communion (said)
 10:00 am Family Service with Holy Baptism

- *World Leprosy Day*

This falls on January 25th 2015 next year, and we have been fortunate to secure Jo-Anne Thomson, who works for the Leprosy Mission, to speak at our morning service at 10.00am. Many of you will remember Bernard Babb, who used to chair the Mission Committee, and was a great supporter of the Leprosy Mission. Since his death we have continued to regularly support this cause and we hope that you will make a note of this date.

Victoria

- *News about the vacancy*

As we go to press, this week is the week of the interviews for the position of Vicar of the Priory Church (November 27th). We shall publish further details as soon as we have any news and, of course, an announcement will be made in church as soon as possible. We pray for wisdom and God's guidance for those charged with making the appointment.

- *Deepings Men's Group Breakfast*

On Saturday 8th November thirty five men gathered for a good hearty English breakfast at the Deeping Stage. The guest speaker was Rich Waller who gave a frank account of his life, battling with drink and drug addiction from the age of seventeen, feeling lost, despite becoming a successful professional with a family. He described how with the help of various mentors and forty years on he has triumphed over adversity and is now fulfilled and living a meaningful happy life.

It is hoped that another event will be organised in the Spring of 2015 at a date to be arranged. If anyone has any ideas regarding speakers for future meetings please let it be known.

John Fisher

- *Fresh Ayre Concert – 23rd November 2014*

There was a good turnout for the Playful Pipes concert on Sunday 23rd November – there were over 90 in the audience – and we were treated to an enjoyable mix of unusual and interesting instruments played by talented and versatile musicians. A delightful Dawn 'chorus' opened the concert. The traditional instruments were demonstrated by the musicians and the quirks explained to great amusement by Philip Aistle. Delicious refreshments were served after the concert (thank you to Margaret Flegg) and a total of £592 was raised towards Church funds. The weather outside may have been damp and dull but the entertainment inside the Church was scintillating.

Caroline Herron

Have You ever visited the Lincoln Diocese website?

It may be found at www.lincoln.anglican.org/ We do regularly receive an e-bulletin which gives news, information and events from across the Diocese but we limit any details we publish to what we consider to be of local interest. If you are interested in subscribing to the complete e-bulletin please visit the above website and subscribe from there.

Rotas for December

Servers

	9:00 am	10:00 am	3:00 pm	Midnight Mass
7th	Geoff	Paul	-	-
14th	-	Simon and John	-	-
14th (3.00 pm)		-	Paul	-
21st	-	Simon and Paul	-	-
21st (6.00 pm)		-	Geoff	-
24th	-	-	-	Simon, John, Paul and Geoff
25th	-	Jo	-	-
28th	-	John and Paul	-	-
Jan 4th	Geoff	Paul	-	-

Sidesmen

7th	A	Jane Thompson and Adrian Hallam
14th	B	Ann Meekings and Shelagh Fisher
21st	C	Tim Hitchborn and Cled Bennett
21st (6.00 pm)	D	Trevor Harwood and Kim Hallam
24th	E	Liz Bridgeman, Bill and Margaret Flegg
25th	F	Val Wilde, Doris Bellairs and Christine Masters
28th	A	Jane Thompson and Adrian Hallam
Jan 4th	B	Ann Meekings and Shelagh Fisher

Intercessions

	9:00 am	10:00 am	11:30 pm
7th	Sonia Marshall	Jo-Anne Thomson	-
14th	-	Jo Astle	-
21st	-	Niccy Fisher	-
24th (11:30)	-	-	Martin Fisher
25th	-	Bet Washbrooke	-
28th	-	Tony Masters	-
Jan 4th	Sonia Marshall	TBA	-

Bread and Wine

Coffee

7th	Cled & Ann Bennett (9.00 am)	John & Sue Marsh
14th	Caroline Herron & Linda Sellars	Ann Bennett & Penny Hebblewhite
21st	Carole Mills & Joy Cunningham	Lin Witherington & Joan Dyke
24th (11.30)	Doris Bellairs & Christine Masters	-
25th	Martin & Niccy Fisher	-
28th	Christine Payne & Ann Meekings	Bill & Margaret Flegg
Jan 4th	John & Victoria Worthington (9.00 am)	Johanna Jones & Jill Ironside

Flowers		Cleaning	Brasses	
7th	Advent	8th- 21st		Liz Spratley & Sandra Jones
14th	Advent			
21st	Advent		21st	Janet Lill & Marion Stevens
24th	Christmas	22nd - 6th Jan		John & Linda Sellars
25th	Christmas			
28th	Christmas			
Jan 4th	TBA			

- *Season's Greetings*

Greetings to all who know me at the Priory Church. May you find much love, joy and happiness as you celebrate with family and friends at this special time when we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord. And may 2015 be a healthy and peaceful time for everyone. God bless, sincerely,

Jessie Turner

- *Flower Rota for 2015*

Just a gentle reminder that I will be preparing the Flower Rota for 2015 shortly and would be grateful if anyone wants to change, could you let me know as soon as possible please. We also have a few vacant weekends, and if any ladies or gents would like to fill these please do not hesitate to let either Pauline or me know. We don't mind doing small posies for the altar for you if you don't feel able to arrange them yourselves. I look forward to hearing from you.

Christine Masters

- *Christmas Day Service*

At the Family Eucharist on Christmas Day there will be a children's talk so please invite any families with children to come along. The children are also invited to bring a toy that they have received from Father Christmas to show the Church Family.

Revd Mark



House Group
7:30pm Wednesdays
at 45 Crowson Way, DSJ.
All welcome!

Readings and Readers for December

		1st Reading	1st Reader	2nd Reading	2nd Reader	Gospel
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT						
7th	9:00 am	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Trevor Harwood	2 Peter 3: 8-15	Victoria Worthington	Mark 1: 1-8
	10:00 am	Mark 1: 1-8	Liz Spratley			
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT						
14th	10:00 am	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11	Peter Wilde	1Thessalonians 5: 16-24	Nicky Fisher	John 1: 6-8, 19-28
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT						
21st	10:00 am	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16	Bill Flegg	Romans 16: 25-27	Adrian Hallam	Luke 1: 26-38
CHRISTMAS EVE (Midnight Mass)						
24th	11:30 pm	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Jill Ironside	Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12)	Jo Astle	John 1: 1-14
CHRISTMAS DAY						
25th	10:00 am	Isaiah 62: 6-12	Barry Fisher	Titus 3: 4-7	Joy Cunningham	Luke 2: 8-20
THE HOLY INNOCENTS (First Sunday of Christmas)						
28th	10:00 am	Jeremiah 31: 15-17	Tony Masters	1 Corinthians 1: 26-29	Jacob Boswall	Matthew 2: 13-18
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS						
Jan 4th	9:00 am	Jeremiah 31: 7-14	Nicky Fisher	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Martin Fisher	John 1: 1-9, (10-18)
	10:00 am	John 1: 1-9	TBA			

Registers for October

Baptisms: **We welcome into the Lord's family:**
5th George Samuel Donohoe

Weddings: **We congratulate:**
18th Mark Leech and Kirsty Walden

Cooking with Margaret

MINCEMEAT & APPLE CRUMBLE FLAN WITH ALMONDS



Ingredients:

400g Mincemeat (approx)
110g Cox's apples cored (no need to peel)
110g Bramley apples cored (no need to peel)
1 x 230g Fresh pastry flan case (frozen)
a little melted butter
1 Tablespoon brandy
1 rounded teaspoon semolina
Icing sugar for dusting.
NOTE: An 8" or 20cm pastry flan case, then frozen

For the Crumble

20g chilled butter cut into small dice
40g self-raising flour
25g Demerara sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
25g whole almonds (skin on is OK),

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C/gas mark 6 and place in a baking sheet to pre-heat.

First make the crumble. All you do is to place the butter, flour, sugar and cinnamon in a processor and give it a whiz until the mixture represents crumbs. Then add the almonds and process again – not too fast – until they are fairly finely chopped but with a few chunky bits left. If you don't have a processor, in a large bowl rub the butter into the sifted flour until it resembles crumbs, then stir in the sugar, cinnamon and almonds which you can chop by hand.

Now chop the apples into small pieces – a mini chopper will make light work of this. Now mix them in with the mincemeat in a bowl, along with the brandy. Then brush the inside of the pastry case with a little melted butter and sprinkle the semolina evenly over the base. Place on the hot baking sheet and spoon in the apple mixture, pressing it down well.

Then simply sprinkle the crumble all over the apple mixture. Using the flat of your hands press it down quite firmly; the more tightly it is packed together the crispier it will be.

Put the tart on the centre shelf of the oven, reduce the temperature down to 190°C/gas 5 and bake for 40 minutes by which time the apples will be soft and the topping golden brown and crisp. Leave it to rest for 10 – 15 minutes before serving, dusted with icing sugar. Can be served with cream or custard.



Letter from the Bishop

I write to you just after Remembrance Day this year, which was for many was particularly poignant in this year as we marked the outbreak of the First World War 100 years ago. Already, the symbols of remembrance that have been around us have given way to signs that Christmas is on its way. Even the television advertisements have started, designed to encourage us to dig deep in search of the perfect Christmas.



Christmas advertisements are fast becoming a television genre in their own right. Many have taken a familiar approach - 'tis the season to spoil yourself,' we're told in one - but one supermarket chain has, more controversially, used the trenches of the First World War as the setting for its Christmas advert. It is unsurprising that this has generated much comment in the media. Despite its endorsement by the Royal British Legion, the advert is seen by some as an unashamed (and inaccurate) romanticisation of the horrors of the grim and bloody battlefields of Northern France, with one commentator describing it as a “dangerous and disrespectful masterpiece”.

However, the advert does remind us of the remarkable moment when unofficial truces were spontaneously declared at Christmas in 1914. In the weeks leading up to Christmas Day, soldiers from both sides heard each other singing the same carols until, on the day itself, they laid down their weapons and climbed out of the trenches, met each other, exchanged gifts, buried their dead and, famously, played football together. Some stopped for worship together.

Those truces began with the singing of Christmas carols, songs that celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one who is the Prince of Peace. If you catch sight of that advert on television this Christmas, pause for a moment and give thanks for the birth of the Prince of Peace. The birth of Jesus is our ultimate hope and vision for a world founded on love, marked by compassion, and governed by the true and lasting peace of which the angels sang, and for which we long.

I wish you a happy and a holy Christmas.

+ Christopher