

The magazine of the Barnsley Group Pastorate



WINTER 2013





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Dear friends

Let's begin with a laugh!

Reverend Smith answers the phone.

'Hello, is this Reverend Smith?'

'It is!'

'This is the Inland Revenue. Can you help us?'

'I can!'

'Do you know a Ted Brown?'

'I do!'

'Is he a member of your congregation?'

'He is!'

'Did he donate £20,000 to the church?'

'He will.'

God loves a cheerful giver (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)

I wonder if Ted brown will give cheerfully?

So, here we are again. Advent is upon us, Christmas is not far away. People all over the country will be thinking about what to give to family and friends on Christmas Day. Of course, those of you who

are really organised will have completed your Christmas shopping already!

When I am asked what I want for Christmas I really struggle to think of something I want or need.

I doubt God struggled with what to give to the world when he saw the needs of His people.

And what a gift it was!

There are many in the world who don't want Jesus in their lives, but one thing is certain, They definitely NEED Him!

I pray that this Christmas the nativity story will touch the lives of non-Christians that they too may accept the baby, born in Bethlehem, as their Lord and Saviour. If they do their lives will never be the same again.



It's been a while since I put a riddle in the LINK. Exercise your *'little grey cells'* with this one:

All answers end in **sting** and the whole word is obtained in the clues below. eg: A sting that cures fatigue - answer: re**STING**
The answers will be in the Spring 2014 LINK magazine.

1. A sting that cures hunger
2. A sting that cleans your room
3. A sting that makes you laugh
4. A sting that cooks your meat
5. A sting that spoils your tools
6. A sting that holds your attention
7. A sting that some observe in Lent
8. A sting that cooks are always using
9. A sting that browns your bread

Items for the Spring 2014 LINK need to be with me by Sunday 2 February (I am away for a week after that date). Thanks.

Your friend and minister

Nick

(Cover photo - Yorkshire Dales, Nr Kettlewell)



Group Pastorate Services

We meet together for worship, fellowship and food three times a year. The next two services are:

TRINITY - 13th APRIL 2014

WEST MELTON - 1st JUNE 2014

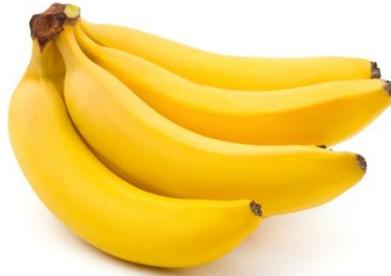
These services will start at 11.00am.

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME.



WEST MELTON'S GREEN TIPS CORNER

By Helen Owen



Number 16



The next time you finish eating a banana, here's something to try if your leather shoes or boots need a polish. Rub them with the inside of the banana skin, then wipe and buff with a cloth.

It sounds odd but see what a lovely shine you get!



Theatre Review

Mike Harding's 'NOT WITH A BANG'
reviewed by Les Peace (West Melton URC)



Trinity Players of Barnsley usually perform once a year at the Barnsley Lamproom Theatre with other productions staged in

Trinity URC's church hall. *Not with a Bang* was their second consecutive Mike Harding comedy to be presented at The Lamproom.



The show ran from 16th to the 19th October.

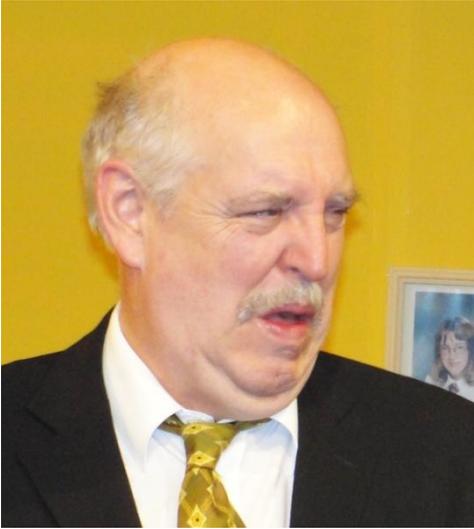


Set in 1983, The Cold War, CND, and Thatcher's Britain were very much in evidence. Greenham Common and cruise missiles were making media headlines. The Women's Liberation Movement was having an impact on gender roles in society at large,

and the main theme of the play centres around this, and its effect on the day to day living of two northern families inter twined by marriage.



Mike Harding's plays always reflect his "Rochdale Cowboy" days, with his bawdy sense of humour. He did not disappoint!



The two main characters played by Bob Willerton (above left), the domineering head of the family and Ann Prew (above right) his down to earth mother were excellent. The rest of the cast played their parts in maintaining the humour as the story unfolds.

An entertaining evening with plenty of laughs for the audience.

Finally, a plug for the Lamproom, a lovely little theatre. Ideal for amateur dramatic and professional groups to perform in. Have



a look at future events by visiting: www.barnsleylamproom.com.

Joyce Jones has submitted the poem below. It was written by folk at the Oaks Centre for the disabled. It was used in their 2011 Christmas service.

Christmas Throuout The Years

Bethlehem is where we are, above it shines a big bright star,
Mary, Joseph and the three kings, shepherds and Angels
bring,
Wondrous things on this day Jesus is born.

Trimming up the Christmas Tree,
Is something new for us to see,
An Apple, an orange and a piece of coal is what we get for
being good souls,
On the day Jesus was born.

Christmas carols we now all sing,
The Beatles and Elvis are music kings,
old St Nicholas to Santa Claus , from Green to red we now
applaud,
On the day Jesus was born.

Time for panto let's all cheer,
Turkey, mince pie and lots of beer,
Family gatherings, the Christmas film too,
We wish a Merry Christmas to all of you
On the day Jesus was born.



Throughout the years and journey of time,
Things have surely, surely changed,
BUT the day Our Lord Jesus Christ was born
Will always stay the same!

A picture for you to colour



Find and circle all of the Christmas words that are hidden in the grid.
 The remaining letters spell a secret message.

E N A C Y D N A C H T A E R W S S
 T H I S S N O I T A R O C E D H Y
 E G G N O G M E H E L H T E B E O
 G I F T S F R U I T C A K E T P T
 R E G N A M H F R I E N D S F H S
 S L T R E E I E C S C S R R S E E
 T S H N E G A S A A E A A A T R J
 H A R A S E N N T L N N R A T D E
 G I E G S E T I C L K D K O G S S
 I T E G L A K I K I E S L O L T U
 L T W O B E C A N C O T L E N S S
 F E I B E I I C L G O D O E S N J
 A S S O L L E R A F C T M E M O O
 M N E T L N B N B N W A S Y A W S
 I I M T S O G A B A N O R E R M E
 L O E E J E O L T R G R N D Y A P
 Y P N Y L L O H O S H L Y S S N H

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| ANGEL | FRUITCAKE | MANGER | SNOWFLAKES |
| BELLS | GABRIEL | MARY | SNOWMAN |
| BETHLEHEM | GIFTS | MISTLETOE | STABLE |
| CANDLES | GOLD | MYRRH | STAR |
| CANDY CANE | GREETING CARDS | ORNAMENTS | STOCKING |
| CAROLS | HOLLY | POINSETTIA | THREE WISE MEN |
| DECORATIONS | ICICLES | SANTA | TOBOGGAN |
| EGGNOG | JESUS | SHEPHERDS | TOYS |
| FAMILY | JOSEPH | SKATES | TREE |
| FRANKINCENSE | LIGHTS | SLEIGH | WREATH |
| FRIENDS | | | |

At Christmas many people eat far more chocolate than they do during the rest of the year. Here are some 'FACTS' about chocolate which may help them feel less guilty.



If you get melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it too slowly.

Chocolate covered raisins, cherries, orange slices and strawberries all count as fruit, so eat as many as you want.

Problem: How to get 2 pounds of chocolate home from the supermarket in a hot car.

Solution: Eat it in the car park.

Diet tip: Eat a chocolate bar before each meal. it'll take the edge off your appetite and you'll eat less.



A nice box of chocolates provide your total daily intake of calories in one place. Isn't that handy?

If you can't eat all your chocolate, it will keep in the freezer.
But if you can't eat all your chocolate, it may be a sign of a deeper
problem.



If calories are an issue, store your chocolate on top of the fridge.
Calories are afraid of heights and they will jump out of the chocolate to
protect themselves.

Equal amounts of dark chocolate and white chocolate is a balanced
diet.

Two phrases: Money talks. Chocolate sings.

The preservatives in chocolate make you look younger.

Q. Why is there no such organization as Chocoholics Anonymous?

A. Because no one wants to quit.

If it was not for chocolate, there
would be no need for control top
panty hose. An entire garment
industry would be devastated.



Put "eat chocolate" at the top of
your list of things to do today. That
way, at least you'll get one thing done!

NATURE WATCH-SPARROW HAWK

by Brian and Margaret Marchant



This Sparrow Hawk taken was in our garden at Elliot Close Wath at about 2:30pm on the afternoon of 5th November. It was sitting on the fence between us and our next door neighbour, can't make out if it's eating a small rodent or bird, it flew off just as I was going to take another picture, and it took it's prey with it.



It's the first time we have seen one in our garden.

Sparrowhawks are so-named because 98% of their diet consists of other birds. Although sparrowhawk numbers declined very badly as a result of pesticide use, the British population has now recovered almost everywhere and there may be as many sparrowhawks breeding as kestrels.

Sparrowhawks are small birds of prey. They're adapted for hunting birds in confined spaces like dense woodland, so gardens are ideal hunting grounds for them. Adult male sparrowhawks have bluish-grey back and wings and orangey-brown bars on their chest and belly. Females and young birds have brown back and wings, and brown bars

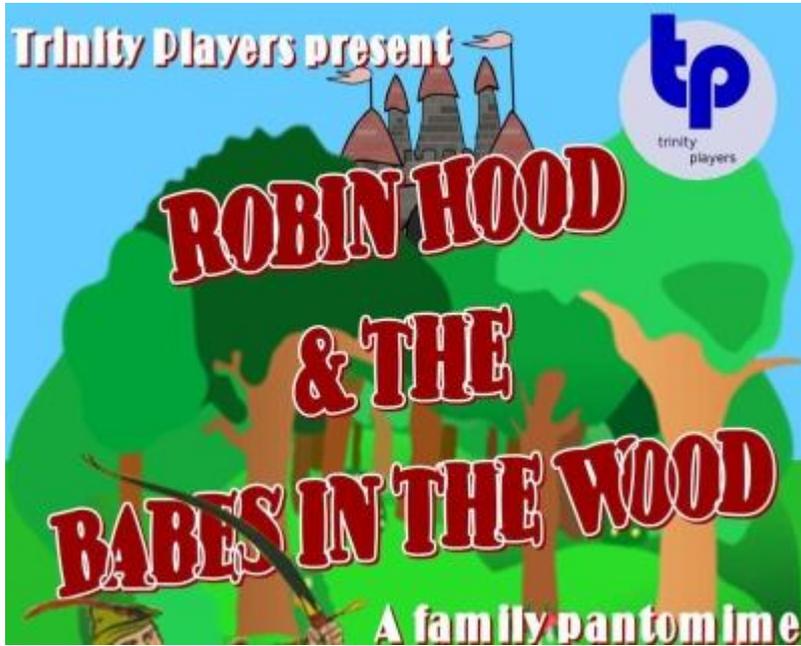


underneath. Sparrowhawks have bright yellow or orangey eyes, long, yellow legs and long talons. Females are larger than males, as with most birds of prey.

Sparrowhawks breed in woodland but also visit gardens and more open country. They can be seen in towns and cities, as well as rural areas. Listen for the alarm calls of smaller birds as they spot a sparrowhawk and will alert other birds in the area to the danger. In the UK sparrowhawks are found everywhere, except for parts of the Scottish Highlands, the Western Isles and Shetland.

URC Minister converts to Roman Catholicism and becomes a monk!

But only for the panto season!



Another excellent pantomime is in the offing from the Trinity Players. Performances are on **Friday 17 January 2014 at 7.00pm**, **Saturday 18 Jan at 1.00pm and 4.00pm**, **Sunday 19 Jan at 3.00pm**, **Friday 24 Jan at 7.00pm** and **Saturday 25 Jan at 1.00 and 4.00pm**.
(Performance times are correct at the time this magazine went to press)

Ticket prices: Adults £6.00 Concessions £5.00

Tickets available online at www.trinityplayersbarnsley.com
or by phone, 07760 735953

The Twelve Days of Christmas

(or the Everlasting Turkey)

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
'I'm glad we bought a turkey and a proper Christmas tree.'

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey — a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas we'd friends in from next door.
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

On the fourth day of Christmas, Gran came — she's rather old.
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes flurried,
But we were nice and warm inside — we ate the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas the turkey spirit died.
The children fought and bickered, and we had the turkey fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave a wince
When he sat down for dinner and was given turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog ran off for shelter.
I served up turkey pancakes and a glass of Alkaseltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto.
He knew that bird was back again — this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas, the air was rather blue
As everybody grumbled at eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting,
With chilli and spicy sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles upon our lips.
The guests had gone — the turkey too. We dined on fish and chips!

Recipe Page: EGG NOG

For many people Christmas isn't Christmas without enjoying a glass of Egg Nog. It is easy to make. Try it and enjoy this classic homemade Christmas tippie laced with brandy to keep out the winter cold.

Ingredients:

1140ml/2 pints

whole milk;

6 free-range eggs;

50g/2oz caster

sugar;

1 vanilla pod, split;

20 fresh cherries;

stones removed and halved;

200ml/7fl oz brandy;

cocoa powder, for dusting.



Preparation method:

Place the milk, eggs, sugar and vanilla pod in a medium pan and heat gently, without boiling, until the mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon.

The egg nog can be chilled at this stage or served hot.

To serve, scatter the cherries in the bottom of each serving glass. Divide the brandy between the glasses and pour the egg nog over. Dust with cocoa powder and serve.

West Melton URCs November 5th Bonfire Night



The annual Bonfire Night social was attended by around 200 people of all ages. Despite the food selling out (due to the unprecedented high turn-out) the evening was a great success and a brilliant time of fellowship. It wasn't even too cold! The fireworks were spectacular and the bonfire was fantastic.



REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCHES

Clayton West

Sunday	Worship every week at 3.00 pm. Communion is included in the service on the 1 st first Sunday of each month
Friday	Baby and Toddler Group 1.00pm - 3.00pm (<i>in term time</i>)
Saturday	Coffee Morning on the 4 th Saturday each month 10.00am

Trinity (Barnsley)

Sunday	Worship every week at 10.30 am. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd third Sunday of each month
Tuesday	Bible Study at 7.30 pm
Wednesday	Age-Well (<i>over 50s club</i>) every week 10.30am-1.00pm Trinity Players every week at 7.30pm

West Melton

Sunday	Worship on the 1 st (<i>inc. WHIZZ KIDS</i>) and 4 th Sundays at 10.30am and on the 2 nd & 3 rd Sundays at 3.00pm. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd Sunday of each month
Wednesday	Little Stars 9.30am every week (<i>in term time</i>) Praying Hands (<i>prayer group</i>) 7.30pm - 8.30pm on the 2 nd Wednesday of each month Fellowship evening (<i>varied programme</i>) 7.30pm on the 4 th Wednesday of each month
Saturday	Men's Breakfast at 8.00am on the 3rd Saturday each month



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