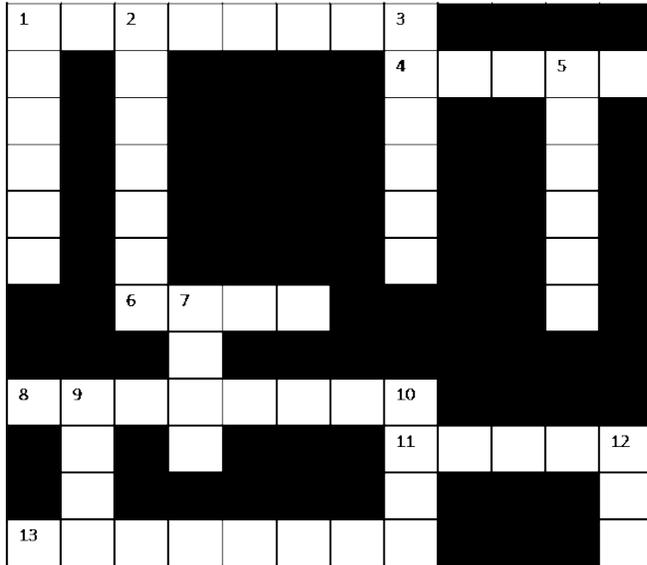


The Puzzle Page



Across

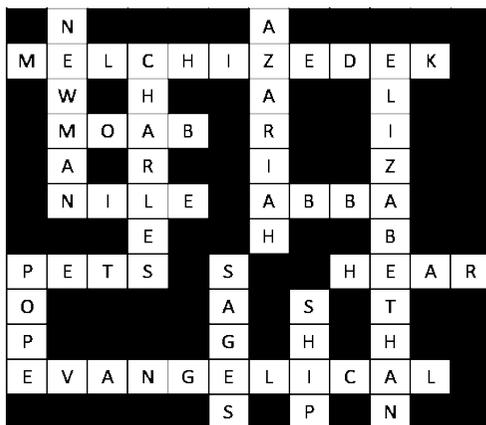
- 1 Encouraging son? (8)
- 4 Do not make a graven ___ (5)
- 6 Behold the ___ of God (4)

- 8 Paul sat at his feet (8)
- 11 Latin for 6 Across (5)
- 13 Jesus was ___ in the Jordan (8)

Down

- 1 Scribe sounds a bit like President? (6)
- 2 Colleague of Michael and Gabriel (8)
- 3 30 pieces of ___ (6)

Answers to last month's crossword



- 5 Water ___ out of a rock (6)
- 7 First man (4)
- 9 "Daddy" to Jesus (4)
- 10 Promised ___ (4)
- 12 2nd Person of the Trinity (3)

Answers in next month's issue.

Outlook

The magazine of St. Mark's Church, Longwood



From Fr Simon

Dear all

My letter for this magazine was inspired by something written by Fr Nicholas, one of the monks at Mirfield.

Matthew the Poor was a Coptic monk of great holiness who died in 2006. When he followed the Call of God into a monastery in 1946 he found himself with a community of 19 monks who were all very unhappy and constantly at each other's throats. He thought he should leave, but God told him to stay. So he stayed. And he resolved to pray for his fellow monks by name every day; to base his monastic life on a daily reading of Scripture; and never to speak evil of any brother. When he died there were about 150 monks in his monastery and many other monasteries changed by his example.

- Pray that all of us will be faithful to God's Call and stay where he has called us
- Pray for each other with love and compassion
- Never speak evil of each other

When Abbot Robert of Ampleforth met Matthew the Poor he asked him about the right formation of young monks. Matthew replied: "Look into their hearts and see if they will let themselves be loved."

- Pray for all of us in The Church, that we will let ourselves be loved.

Jesus said: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matt. 6: 33)

- Pray that as a church, we may seek God first before all things so that those who come to us will know that is where our heart is set.

"Receive me, O Lord, according to your promise, that I may live." (Ps 119: 116)

- Pray for those who are considering joining our churches, or any other, that they will know they are seeking a deeper, fuller, more demanding life in Christ.

As we approach advent and then Christmas, you may wish to focus on one bullet point each day.

God bless.

For All the Saints

by Mother Janet, Associate Priest

For this bumper edition covering November and December, I thought one saint stood out above all others, St Nicholas, who is celebrated on 6th December. better known to most of us as Santa Claus.

The first thing to say is that he was a real person who lived in the 4th century. He was the bishop of Myra in what is now Turkey.

He was born into a wealthy family and was probably imprisoned as a Christian during the terrible persecutions carried out under the Emperor Diocletian.

He was buried in a shrine at Myra until 1087 when some Italian sailors stole his remains and brought them to Bara, where a magnificent church was built to honour him.

Many legends are told about him – here are a few.

Nicholas felt very sorry for three sisters who were too poor to have a dowry, so he climbed onto the roof of their home and dropped three bags of gold coins down the chimney to provide for them.

The Roman governor of Myra accepted a bribe to condemn three innocent men to death. The executioner was just about to kill them when Nicholas appeared and prevented this, Turning to the governor Nicholas scolded him until he confessed his guilt and begged for forgiveness.

Three children were murdered by a pork butcher and their remains were hidden in barrels of brine. Nicholas restored them to life.

He voyaged to the Holy Land and when the ship was sinking in a violent storm, he calmed the waves and saved all on board from drowning.

[continued on page 3]

Merry Christmas in advance!

We don't intend to produce a magazine for December owing to contributors' availability, so please allow us to wish you a rather early Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022.



The Nativity, from the Great East Window at St Mark's

Living in Love and Faith: Part 6

By Fr Simon

Here my series of articles ends. You see, Living in Love and Faith is not about me convincing you. It is about people with different opinions listening to each other and valuing each other. Some time next year we will run the Living in Love and Faith course. As part of this we will see some videos about all sorts of different people telling us about the way they live out their faith in and through relationships in many various ways. The Church of England is very broad, very varied. This is our strength, but also poses us great challenges. I think one of our tasks is to move from tolerating each other to listening to each other, and then to progress to valuing and learning from each other – even those we disagree with or think or wrong. You have heard from me, next I will hear from you and you will hear from each other, all (we pray) within the love of God.

For All the Saints

[continued from page 2]

In Europe, legend says that he visits the earth every year on his feast day and that he has a list of all children with details of their good and bad deeds during the year. He brings rewards for good children and naughty children are punished by the little imps who accompany him!

He was always a very popular saint, and many churches are dedicated to him. Dutch settlers took his traditions to New Amsterdam (now New York) in the USA and Santa Claus became a tradition there and during the 19th century he became even more popular, becoming the bringer of gifts at Christmas.

St Nicholas is the patron saint of children, unmarried girls, sailors, Russia, Greece, merchants, and pawnbrokers.

Notices

Saturday 13th November, church cleaning at St Mark's **10am-12noon**. The more the merrier!

Sunday 14th November is **Remembrance Sunday**.

Monday 15th November is our next monthly **bible study**, at **7.30pm via Zoom**. Meeting ID: 821 7505 2779

All are welcome, no experience necessary. It usually lasts one hour.

Wednesday 17th November: Longwood Schools Festival of Peace, 1.30pm

Saturday 27th November, Golcar, 10.30am, packing of shoeboxes

Sunday 28th November, Advent Sunday, Golcar blessing of shoeboxes

Friday 17th December, St Mark's Longwood at **7pm, Carols by Candlelight**

Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Longwood 6pm, Christingle

Midnight Mass begins at 11pm

Saturday 25th December, Christmas Day

Service at St Mark's at 11am

Sunday 26th December, St Stephen's Day

Joint benefice **service at Golcar** at 9.30am (**no service at Longwood**)

Open the book is a group which tells bible stories in local schools. We could always do with more people. Speak with Fr Simon for more information.

The **gardening teams** at both churches do a tremendous job. Volunteers are welcome to join in on **Wednesdays at 2-4pm**.

Morning prayer is usually said in church Monday – Thursday:

Mondays and Wednesdays 9am St Mark's Longwood

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am St John's Golcar.

Fridays the service is live-streamed from home by Rev'd Mtr Jan Sargent

You are welcome to join in with these services in church or online.