Welcome to
Aylestone Baptist Church

GROWING, LEARNING, EXPERIENCING, & SHARING GOD'S LOVE



November & December
Christmas Magazine
2026

Letter from the editor….

Together with my family, we spent the October half term at a little seaside village near to Bridlington, Yorkshire. The holiday coincided with the first named storm of the season, Austen, and we experienced the power of the North Sea at its height. This is the third year we have visited this cottage, and again we saw the consequences of the winter storms washing away the coastline -a road we walked last year having disappeared, and a W.W.2 defence "Pillbox" that had slipped down the cliff since last year.





And yet, just a week before, with that same sea in a much calmer mood, 600 new believers were baptised on Bridlington beach – a friend of ours included. Praise God.

How easy it is to concentrate on the negative. On that first Christmas the world must have been a frightening place, with the Roman Empire conquering all before it. And yet God chose that time, and that place, to send His Son into the world to be our Saviour. Hope and joy came into the world.

With the constant news of wars and catastrophic climate change bombarded at us from every angle, we can become negative, even fearful, but then, amidst it all there is CHRISTMAS – the birth of Jesus, our hope, maybe our only hope, if we put our trust in Him.

So, this Christmas, let's enjoy the Christmas tree, the fairy lights, the presents, let's sing carols at every opportunity, share mince pies, but most of all remember that we only have this lovely time because Jesus came to earth, to suffer and to die that we might have life, life in all its fullness.

I hope you will be able to join us for the Christmas Services, and bring along a friend or two, forget about the storms that rage around us, and step into the peace that knowing Jesus gives.

God bless you all at this special time of the year.

Dorothy

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 8th November	Service includes the Act of Remembrance, 10.30am.
Sunday 22nd November	Ladies' Bring & Share lunch & Christmas Crafts.
Saturday 28th November	Christmas Market, 10.30am – see poster
Sunday 6th December	Children's Nativity Service 10.30am
Sunday 13th December	Carols in the Garden at St. Andrews Church, 4.30pm (Spirit of Aylestone, Churches together)
Monday 21st December	Carols in the Pub at the Black Horse. 7pm.
Thursday 24th December	Late night Communion Service, 11.30pm.
Friday 25th December	Christmas Day Service, 10am.

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Supporting the FOOD BANK this Christmas Season.

You are invited to bring along the following items:

22nd & 29th November – Festive biscuits, chocolates, sweets – the sort of treat you would like to find in your Christmas stocking.

6th & 13th December – Toiletries and general food to help struggling families through the holiday season.

Thank you in advance to our generous and loving friends.

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HARVEST FESTIVAL 2026

How lovely to have a packed church for our Harvest Festival. The Church looked beautiful with the display of flowers, fruit and vegetables (thanks to Sandra – you excelled as usual).



The Service, led by Beth, included poems read by (and most written by) members of the church, to inspire and enrich. It was so encouraging to witness the depth of talents in our church. There was also a story for the children, where Dorothy told of the visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon and encouraged the children to nurture the seed of love that Jesus has planted in their hearts, even as Solomon's gift of wisdom grew.

The music and the songs were a great blessing of praise and worship.



The gifts for the Food Bank at the Salvation Army were once again more than generous, and in these days of the constantly rising cost of living, will be such a blessing to those who are struggling to make ends meet.

After the Service, the Fun Day welcomed in many families from the community to enjoy the Bouncy castle, garden games, crafts, cakes and hot food, all provided at no charge. There were many thanks from parents for giving them and their children such a lovely time.







In “Days of old” – very old ! whole communities would come together to gather in the harvest. We are continuing this tradition but in a modern way.

Thanks to all who made the day possible.

“Blessings all ours and ten thousand besides” - Praise God

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Visit from Granby School year 5 children



We welcomed in a group of children from Granby School to learn what it means to be a Baptist.

The highlight was the baptistry pool, giving Mrs. Ellis (Beth) the chance to explain the significance of Believer’s Baptism.

We hope and pray that these children will find their own personal faith as they grow.

What's on for the 3rd Age…..

Lunch Club

Meeting on alternate Thursdays and serving a two-course roast dinner for £5. The church opens at 11am for coffee in the lounge, and the meal is served at 12.45. There is no need to book – there is always plenty for everyone – and be assured of a warm welcome from our lovely staff and members.

Dates for November/December:

Thursday November 12th / 26th

Thursday December 10th. This will be our Christmas Dinner, Cost £8. Please join us for a Carol Service at 12-o-clock – sing your favourite carols and we will also have a visit from Granby School Choir.

There will then be a break : Restart January 14th 2027

The Open House

Open from 11am enjoy a morning of coffee and biscuits, chatting, Quizzes, board games, bring along your knitting, have your nails painted, then a lunch of either Jacket Potato and Chilli or Home-Made Soup plus a choice of 10 puddings! Cost £5. No need to book, you are very welcome to join us.

Thursday November 5th / 19th

Thursday December 3rd / on the 10th we join together with the Lunch Club for Carol Service and Christmas Dinner (see above).

There will then be a break: Restart January 7th 2027

Christmas Film & Lunch

On Thursday 17th December at 11am we are showing a film "The Christmas Candle", starring Leslie Manville, Susan Boyle and many other stars. After the film there will be a lunch of Jacket Pot, cheese, beans, and Apple Crumble.

This is a free event but please add your name to the list for catering.

Tuesday Group

A group of Ladies and Gentlemen meet at 11am for coffee, then at 11.30 a time of looking at a Bible Passage, with questions and discussion, followed by a two-course lunch at 12.30. You are welcome to come and join us. Whether you are a long-standing Christian, some-one who went to church as a child but have drifted away, or want to find out for the very first time – it's never too late.

Tuesday November 3rd. / 17th.

Tuesday December 1st / 15th – Christmas readings/ poems/ carols - followed by Christmas Dinner.

There will then be a break – restarting January 5th 2027

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LADIES TOGETHER….



Over the last two months the Ladies have enjoyed a Breakfast and discussion, and also Bring & Share Lunch with a quiz then icing cookies to look like fruit - under Tanya's guidance.

The next meeting is Sunday November 22nd, after church, for Bring & Share lunch and Christmas Crafts.

The Ladies Group is also co-ordinating the donations for the Food Bank.

Smile - -while

New Shrub Trimmer
I bought a new shrub trimmer today. I proudly showed it my son.
"Have a look at this!" I said.
He replied, "That's great dad."
I said, "It's cutting hedge technology!"

Wrong Answer
My wife asked me what would stop the stairs from creaking… Apparently 'Slimming World' was not the right answer!

Recommended Author
I asked the librarian to recommend an author who writes dinosaur books. "Try Sarah Topps," she replied.

Floral Delivery
I sent a clown to deliver some flowers to my wife… I thought it would be a romantic jester!

The Garage Mechanic
I was so worried that the garage mechanic would rip me off because I confessed I knew nothing about cars… Imagine my relief when he said I only needed indicator fluid!

Apparently a new mummy has been discovered in Egypt.
It was found covered in chocolate and nuts.
They believe he was the Paraoh Rocher.

A friend entering the church one very rainy morning noticed that the verger was ringing the bells more vigorously then usual and asked the reason.
Replied the verger: "If they're not coming to church, they're not sleeping either!"

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LIGHT PARTY - 31st October 2026.

We welcomed in many families to our fun afternoon 'Light Party' (the alternative to Halloween). There were crafts – biscuit making, decorate a hat or bag, make a table decoration, firework paper chains, or (a favourite) make slime. The games included bowls, hoopla or have a "glow in the dark" tattoo, and to challenge the brains, a Bible quiz trail.

Light refreshments were enjoyed, and a toffee apple to take home.

Thanks to Tanya for organising this and to all who helped.







Maintenance



Lots has been going on behind the scenes at ABC.

The railings to the front and side of the church have been painted – thanks to a group of volunteers.

A bespoke cabinet has been created for the new Sound Computer – thanks to Duncan.



A retaining wall to the side of the church has been created by Duncan.

The lawn and shrubs are kept looking lovely by Stan.

A new light fitting has been installed in the kitchen by Steve Atkinson.

There has been some work on the flat roof by the back door by skilled stonemasons.

Two new boilers have been installed for the Church and Lounge, and a new hot water boiler in the kitchen by our plumber.

Duncan and Stan keep a constant eye on replacing bulbs and keeping general good order in the church premises. It is so important that we look after our building and keep it clean, warm and welcoming for all – it is after all our Church family home.

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BMS Birthday Scheme



November 5th	Wendy Hall
November 8th	Keith Elliott
November 27th	Sam Elliot
December 11th	Hannah Mackley
December 18th	Isabelle Tait.

If you would like to join the Birthday Scheme, please see Denise Vernon

Café Harmony have been having fun making Christmas Crafts for a stall at our Christmas Market.



If you are caring for some-one with dementia, you are welcome to come along to this gentle space, held every Monday Morning from 11am, for a board game, a little craft making, some music and a light lunch. The team are there to support and give you a little break, bring some smiles and comfort.

Grandma's wisdom (a true story)

Gladys' young grandson was spending the day with her and when he went to use the bathroom there in the bath lay a huge spider.

Alarmed, he called Grandma. She gently explained this was one of the Autumn spiders who had become trapped in the bath, how, although they looked scary, they are all God's creatures.

Gladys took a cloth and gently scooped it up.

As they walked back down the stairs, Gladys assured her grandson that the spider would soon be back with her family, and in the garden she shook it onto the patio – where grandson firmly stamped on it !



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CHRISTMAS MARKET

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER 10:30 - 2pm

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TRAIL

LOTS OF LOVELY STALLS - INCLUDING

CRAFTS; GIFTS; JEWELLERY; CAKES;

PRESERVES & PIES

TEA & COFFEE

DELICIOUS HOT LUNCHES







Christmas Quiz



1. If you are born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign ?
2. What colour are mistletoe berries ?
3. Which animal carried Mary before she gave birth to Jesus?
4. In which year was the first Christmas card sent - 1743, 1843 or 1943 ?
5. Which ocean can Christmas Island be found in ?
6. Where was baby Jesus born ?
7. Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as the god of love ?
8. How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Spanish ?
9. What was Frosty the Snowman's nose made of ?
10. Which horned figure is said to punish naughty children at Christmas?
11. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas ?
12. Which Angel visited Mary ?
13. On which date is Christmas celebrated each year ?
14. What red-breasted bird do we associate with Christmas ?
15. December 26th marks which Saint's Day ?
16. What is Scrooge's first name ?
17. Which plant, beginning with P, is associated with Christmas ?
18. When Santa got stuck up the chimney, what did he have in his sack ?
19. What gifts did the Three Wise Men give to Jesus on His birthday ?
20. What is the name for the shortest day of the year ?
21. What does Santa give to naughty children ?
22. Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642 ?
23. Which Pantomime does Buttons appear in ?
24. How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Welsh ?
25. Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as a female fox ?

Answers on Page 18.

A “tale” of two goats and two Isabellas - A Christmas story from 2025

Most of you know our granddaughter Isabella who is at Brooksby College doing an animal care course. Her favourite animals are the goats and she has regularly asked could she have a goat of her own.
Last Christmas the family all sat around giving out our Christmas gifts. Our son Matthew (Isabella’s uncle) handed her an envelope, inside was a picture of a goat. There you are he said you now have a goat but it is going to be looked after by someone else. He then explained that he had bought a goat in the ‘Animals for Africa’ scheme. This was Isabella and the family’s Christmas gift from him. Everyone was quite interested in how the scheme works - where you pay for an animal for a family in Africa in one of your friends or family’s name and Isabella had a picture of a goat to keep.
A lovely story you might think but there is more! What I call the greater plan than our own.
We also have another Isabella a girl in Kenya that we sponsor through the Compassion scheme. Every Christmas we send an extra donation for a Christmas gift for Kenyan Isabella. This we did as usual and a couple of months after Christmas we received one of her regular letters. She wrote “ thank you for the Christmas gift – I bought a goat for our family”.

Coincidence - I don’t think so.

Contributed by Cindy Elliott and Isabella Thorpe





CHRISTMAS Nativity Scene
Word Search



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



MANGER BED
BABY JESUS
SHEPHERD'S STAFF
ANGEL CHOIR
BETHLEHEM TOWN
STAR OF DAVID
HOLY FAMILY
VIRGIN MARY
STABLE ANIMALS
WISE MEN GIFTS
GOLDEN FRANKINCENSE
DONKEY'S STALL
GUIDING STAR
SACRED NIGHT
JOSEPH'S JOURNEY
HEAVENLY PEACE
KING HEROD
CHRISTMAS MIRACLE
SWADDLING CLOTH
NOEL'S LIGHT

He speaks to all….

Jesus speaks to people of every nation.

Christianity is the one thing which can overpass all national barriers and boundaries. The Church is not a human institution which belongs to any one land or nation or continent or colour.

Within the Church all nations are gathered,

Christ comes to everyone in that person's own tongue.

Jesus speaks to people of every condition.

The philosopher with his wisdom, and the simple man who has no book - learning, the great man with the cares of great affairs on him, and the humble man of whom no one has ever heard, the saint who walks in holiness and the sinner who is soiled with his sin – Jesus Christ speaks to each one in a language he can understand.

Jesus speaks to people of every experience.

The man who has succeeded and the man who has failed, the man whose dreams have come true and the man whose dreams have never materialised. The child, the youth, the man in the mid-time and the man far down the vale of years, the man for whom the sun shines in joy, and the man for whom life is wet with the tears of sorrow – Jesus Christ speaks to each in a language he can understand.

The reason ?

The language that Jesus speaks is the language of love.

"Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love divine,

Love was born at Christmas,

Stars and Angels gave the sign."



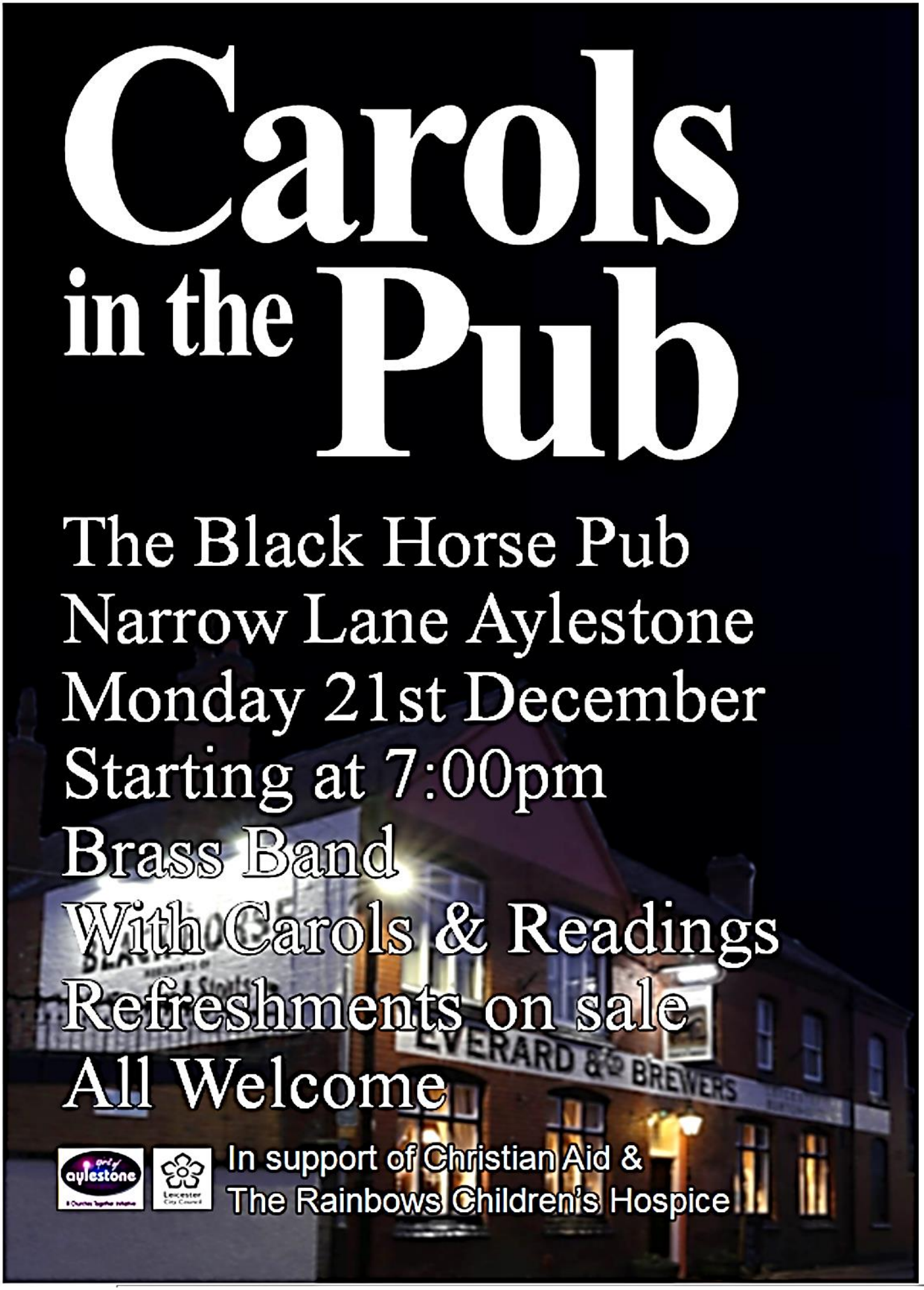
St ANDREW'S CHURCH

OLD CHURCH ROAD AYLESTONE

SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER

STARTS: 4:30pm

IF BAD WEATHER.. COME & SING CAROLS WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH


Carols
in the Pub
The Black Horse Pub
Narrow Lane Aylestone
Monday 21st December
Starting at 7:00pm
Brass Band
With Carols & Readings
Refreshments on sale
All Welcome
In support of Christian Aid &
The Rainbows Children's Hospice
EVERARD & CO BREWERS

Two Prayers



Last night my little boy
Confessed to me
Some childish wrong;
And kneeling at my knee
He prayed with tears –
" Dear God, make me a man
Like Daddy, wise and strong,
I know you can.

Then while he slept
I knelt beside his bed,
Confessed my sins,
And prayed with low-bowed head,
"Oh God, make me a child,
Like my child here
Pure, guileless,
Trusting Thee with faith sincere."

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Answers to Christmas Quiz

1. Capricorn. 2. White. 3.Donkey. 4. 1843. 5. Indian Ocean.
6. Bethlehem. 7. Cupid. 8. Feliz Navidad. 9. A button.
10. Krampus 11. Advent. 12. Gabriel 13. December 25th.
14. Robin. 15. Saint Stephen. 16. Ebeneezer. 17. Poinsettia
18. Soot. 19. Gold, frankincense, myrrh. 20. Winter Solstice.
21. Coal. 22. Isaac Newton. 23. Cinderella. 24. Nadolig Llawen.
25. Vixen.

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road, Aylestone, Leicester LE2 8PE

Weekly & Fortnightly Activities:

Sunday

10:30am Morning Service / Junior Church / Creche Facilities

Monday

11am Café Harmony - People living with dementia & their carers

Tuesday

11am Tuesday Fellowship (3rd Age Bible Study) meets fortnightly)

Wednesday

9:30am ABC Tots (For all babies & toddlers. Ages 0 – 4. during School Term)

7.00pm Youth Group

Thursday

11am Community Lunch Club (Meet Fortnightly)

11am The Open House (For the 50s & over. Meet Fortnightly)



Loop System Installed, Wheelchair Access, & WC Facilities

To enquire about Baptism, Marriage, Funerals, Church Membership, House Groups, The Community Lunch Club, The Open House, or any other activity,

Please get in touch with the church.

07476 923 382

0116 2832527 [answerphone]

email aylestonebaptist@gmail.com

Don't forget to visit our website.

https://www.aylestonebaptist.com/

A warm welcome awaits you.