

Kilbride HERALD

St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021



The Nativity Scene, located in the Baptistry

PARISH OF KILBRIDE : ST BRIDE'S CHURCH
- where Faith and Fellowship grow

Rector: The Revd Canon W D Humphries
 St Bride's Rectory, 53 Brook Meadow, Doagh, Ballyclare BT39 0QF
Phone: 9332 2979 E-mail: wdhumphries@hotmail.com

<p align="center">Reader Emeritus William Harper</p> <p align="center">Parish Reader David Holmes</p>	<p align="center">Honorary Treasurer Lilian Lyttle: 9332 3311</p>
<p align="center">Rector's Churchwarden Clarence Gibson: 9332 3761</p> <p align="center">People's Churchwarden Diane Hurst: 07595 497487</p>	<p align="center">Parish Hall Organiser Alex Johnston: 9334 9393</p> <p align="center">Caretaker Jean Johnston: 9334 9393</p>
<p align="center">Rector's Glebewarden Jim Wilson: 2589 8753</p> <p align="center">People's Glebewarden Billy Robinson: 07799 863 095</p>	<p align="center">Parish Website kilbrideparishchurch.org Parish Webmaster: David Holmes</p>
<p align="center">Honorary Secretary Ivan Topping: 9334 1916</p> <p align="center">FWO Secretary Ashley Hurst 07890 583 962</p> <p align="center">Gift Aid Secretaries Phyllis Glenn: 9334 0884 Irene Paget: 9332 3579</p>	<p align="center">HOLY BAPTISM This is by arrangement. Please contact the Rector at the phone number in the top panel.</p>
<p align="center">Temporary Organist & Choir Director: Timothy Wilson</p> <p align="center">Sunday School Superintendent Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000</p>	<p align="center">The Rector would be grateful for information about hospital admissions and discharges.</p>
	<p align="center">KILBRIDE HERALD Editorial Panel Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping, The Rector</p>
	<p align="center">Charity Number: 10 35 70</p>



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Parishioners,

It's still Christmas, but by the twelfth day, 6 January, all of our Christmas celebrations will be over for another year.

As we tidy up and restore our homes to what they were like *before* Christmas, we might look back at our somewhat changed festivities and ponder on what was so special about things this year.

Jesus made clear that He came as light for the world. He came to give life in all its fullness. He came to show God's character—full of love and compassion, forgiveness and mercy.

So if, as we put away all our Christmas decorations, we think there is no more to be said until next Christmas, we have missed out on a vital part of the Christian message.

For Jesus also said that we, His followers, were to be *the light of the world.....'let your light shine before men, that they may see*

your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven'. (St Matthew 5:14-16).

I have just completed a rather swift door-to-door visitation of all our parishioners. I was rather concerned that the effects of Coronavirus, subsequent lockdowns and physical separation from such things as church-going, parish activities and a curtailed pastoral ministry, might be having a detrimental effect on our people.

I need not have been concerned, and I discovered that most folk were very much aware of our efforts to keep them involved in the spiritual life of the parish. All who made the effort to assist in that visitation are to be thanked enormously.

Jesus calls us, as His disciples, to be like Him this coming year – lights of hope, love, joy, healing and peace in a world that, slowly struggling through the Covid 19 Pandemic, badly needs this light of Christ, seen in you and me.

Your friend and Rector,

The Services at St Bride's



Friday 1 January
The Naming of Jesus
11.00am Holy Communion

[1] Sunday 3 January
Christmas 2
11.00am Holy Communion

[2] Sunday 10 January
Epiphany 1
11.00am Morning Prayer

[3] Sunday 17 January
Epiphany 2
11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 24 January
Holocaust Memorial
11.00am Morning Prayer

[5] Sunday 31 January
Epiphany 4
11.00am Morning Prayer

[1] Sunday 7 February
2nd Sunday before Lent
11.00am Holy Communion

[2] Sunday 14 February
Sunday before Lent
11.00am Morning Prayer



Wednesday 17 February
Ash Wednesday
11.00am Holy Communion

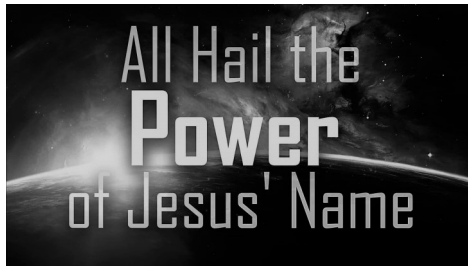
[3] Sunday 21 February
Lent 1
11.00am Holy Communion

[4] Sunday 28 February
Lent 2
11.00am Morning Prayer

The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday, as we focus on ourselves and try to come closer to God.

Many people regard the Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday as a fitting and necessary way to begin their devotions. You are very welcome to participate in this service.

Please note that in these days of uncertainty, all our services are subject to change at short notice.



St Matthew and St Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'.

The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1st January - eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

Friday 1 January 2021
Feast of the Naming of Jesus : 11.00am Holy Communion

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in his way. *[Ps.37:23]*

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. *[Proverbs 3:6]*

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. *[Corrie ten Boom]*

What we look for does not come to pass. God finds a way for what none foresaw. *[Euripides]*



There are just a few things we want to review since the last edition of The Herald.

“Lest we forget.”

The first is Remembrance Sunday, which went very well indeed. The church was as full

as we could make it, bearing in mind Coronavirus regulations.

Stewart Henry laid the wreath at the War Memorial; Willie played Last Post and Reveille, and joined with choir and organ in the hymns, and the service was formal, dignified, and quite moving, as we remembered those who died in service of their country through their membership of the Armed Services, including the RUC(GC), the PSNI, the UDR.

All those who currently suffer as a result of war and violence were remembered in prayer, as were those who mourn the loss of loved ones. We thank all those who took part, and we look forward to having all ex-Service men and women with us next year.

Gardener Assistance

Our new container to store the gardening equipment is in place and is completed! Supervised by the Glebewardens (Jim and Billy) and assisted by Raymond Haggan, Alan and Thomas, the container is now behind a new gate at the top of a driveway (also new) on one side of the Parish Room. There may have been others involved in the erection of this very useful addition to parish work. We apologise if their names are left out.

It should be pointed out that this storage facility is for our three lawnmowers and other gardening equipment, and is not for general use! Our gardeners do us a huge service during the year, and we're grateful for all their work.

Brightening up the Buildings

The building containing the Parish Hall, toilets and other rooms have been “freshened up” with a new coat of paint and new blinds, so everything is looking well for the start of a new year.

Christmas as Usual

Because of Coronavirus, Christmas was certainly not postponed! We held a Carol Service, (just one example of the hard work put in by Timothy and the Choir, for which we are always so grateful), and parishioners had ample opportunity for Holy Communion, both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as the usual services.

A new life-size nativity scene (with six foot tall manequins) was temporarily installed in the baptistry (thanks to Diane, Clarence and Dorothy) and a transitory relocation of the Rector’s prayer desk allowed the Christmas Tree to be installed in the church as well.

Many thanks to all!

THE UNKNOWN FUTURE

Life is a book in volumes three -
The past, the present, and the
yet-to-be.

The past is written and laid away,
The present we’re writing every day,
And the last and best of the volumes
three

Is locked from sight—God keeps the key.



- 6 January -
**FEAST OF THE
EPIPHANY**

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany—the visit of the wise men to the child Jesus.

But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. St Matthew calls them ‘Magi’, and that was the name of an ancient caste of the priestly kind from Persia.

It wasn’t until the 3rd century that they were called kings—by a church father, Tertullian. People generally assume that there were three of them—to correspond with the number of gifts given—but this is rather flimsy evidence to make such an assumption, and the Bible simply doesn’t tell us how many there were.

Later on, Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing, and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set

aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things.



There is also a great deal of debate as to when our Lord was visited by the wise men. It is highly unlikely that the visit took place on the night he was born—or even in the days and weeks afterwards. In fact, reading St Matthew’s text very closely, and using the original language, there is evidence to suggest that the visit could have been made up to two years after Jesus’ birth.

The word Epiphany comes from a Greek word, Epiphaneia—showing forth, and the feast is also known as “The Manifestation (or showing forth) of Christ to the Gentiles.”

The feast reminds us that Jesus was shown to the wise men, the representatives of the non-Jewish world. Epiphany is sometimes known as the Twelfth Day of Christmas.

THINGS TO BELIEVE

at the start of a new year

Believe in yourself; you are God's creation.

Believe in your job; honest work is a form of worship.

Believe in this day; every minute contains an opportunity to serve God.

Believe in your family; create harmony and togetherness by working together.

Believe in your neighbour; friends are an important ingredient of a happy life.

Believe in the present; yesterday is gone, and tomorrow may never come.

Believe in God's promise; he means it when he says "I am with you always."

Believe in God's mercy; since God forgives you, you can forgive yourself and try again tomorrow.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were bad, He would send a Leader to save them. He told Simeon it would happen in his lifetime.

God told Simeon to go to the Temple.



He saw a couple with a baby.

Mary and Joseph had come to give their offerings for their first-born, Jesus, and for childbirth.



Simeon held Jesus and praised God.



I can now die in peace because You have kept Your promise.



I have seen the one You have sent to save Your people and all the world!



Mary and Joseph were amazed! Simeon blessed them, but said...



This child will show what people are really like inside and this will mean pain for you as well.



Anna the prophet was also in the Temple.



Her family was from the north of Israel and she was very old.



She spent every day praying in the Temple.

When she saw Jesus she praised God.



Anna spoke about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for God's Saviour.

HOW TO IMPRESS THE CAT

If you are going to spend New Year in a house with a resident cat, it may be worth knowing how to win his favour on the big day.

Recent research has found that humans become more attractive to a cat when they slowly blink at him (or her), and mimic what is known as a 'cat smile.'



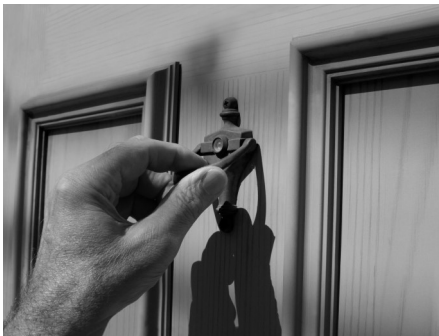
Cats are more likely to 'slow blink' at their owners after their owners have slow blinked at them. Cats are also more likely to approach an outstretched hand after a person has slow blinked at the cat.

As one professor said, this is something 'you can try for yourself with your own cat at home, or with cats you meet in the street. It's a great way of enhancing the bond you have with your cat.' (Presuming you want such a bond!)

'Try narrowing your eyes at them as you would in a relaxed smile, followed by closing your eyes for a couple of seconds. You should find they respond to you in the same way. You might even start a sort-of conversation.'



THE RECTOR'S CHRISTMAS 'DOOR-TO-DOOR'



The Rector and his helpers made a herculean navigation of the parish (250 families, spread throughout the area from Tildarg to Ballyrobert, as well as many outlying places), to offer them his Christmas blessings and to let them know that while they can't come to church and he can't make

proper visits, they were nevertheless in his prayers.

He felt that after almost a year of Coronavirus illness and other depressing news, the parish needed a little cheering up. It was a struggle to do it in just three weeks, but it was done nevertheless.

If you didn't get a visit, you probably didn't complete and return a Consent Form, which is now a legal requirement of the Government if you want the services of the parish!

Consent forms can still be obtained—just ask for one. If you've already completed one, you don't need to do it again!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Christian Burial

4 November

Barbara McLeod

Ballyrobert



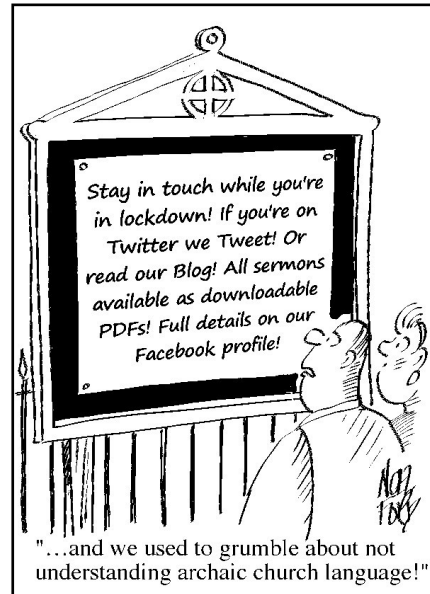
Thanks

A big Thank You to those who decorated the church for this Christmas, erecting the Nativity Scene and the Christmas Tree, together with one or two other bits and pieces.

Due to the strict Coronavirus regulations the number of helpers was necessarily limited, but as you will have seen, they did a fantastic job!

This year our nativity scene was constructed in the baptistry using life-size manequins. The photos can be viewed elsewhere in this magazine.

Our Christmas Tree was installed in the chancel where it could be seen by all.



There's a picture above of five Wise Men coming to visit Jesus. It is accurate?

The picture is no more or less accurate than one showing three Wise Men, or two, or four, or five! We don't know how many Wise Men there were—the Bible doesn't tell us! Some people assume there were three because it is mentioned that they gave three gifts, but that's pretty flimsy evidence! We just don't know.

Pilgrimage Progress

Last year, twenty people were set to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Rector, but due to Coronavius, the trip was not to be.

Pilgrimage Postponed

All the pilgrims decided to hold on and try again this coming May. Will the pandemic be sufficiently arrested by that time? We don't know. If it is, we'll go on pilgrimage; if it isn't safe to go, we'll postpone again. The door is not closed, and we look forward to our spiritual journey when the time is right.



Year after Year

The Rector has been bringing people to the Land of the Bible for nearly thirty years. During their eleven-day pilgrimage the travellers are steeped in a very different culture, thus understanding the Bible in a fuller and more intimate way.

What do we Do?

The pilgrims visit many places associated with the life and ministry of our Lord, as well as scenes associated with other Biblical characters, and celebrating the Holy





Communion in some of these locations brings home the concept of the historical Jesus in his own land, teaching his own people.

The pilgrims also have the opportunity to meet the people of the land, especially individual Christians.

Meet the People

The Rector makes a point of bringing his people to an orphanage—Jeel al Amal—located in the town where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Interaction with the children of the orphanage generates an enthusiasm to go home and raise money which is donated to the orphanage through the McCabe Educational Trust. Over the years the Rector's pilgrims have raised thousands of pounds, thus enabling the orphanage to continue its valuable work.

Pilgrimage Changes Everyone

All those folk who travel on these spiritual journeys come back changed in some way, perhaps receiving a memorable and cherished experience, never to be forgotten. The Holy Spirit travels with them, guiding their discoveries in the way he chooses, subjecting them to an unforgettable encounter.



Each year the Rector

brings someone else to assist on the spiritual journey. Canon Walter Lavery has been with him on several occasions, as has Canon David Brown. In recent years the Revd Amanda Adams from Ballyrashane & Kildollagh has been the co-leader.

A Real Interest?

People often ask questions about these pilgrimages, showing their genuine interest. Several parishioners from Kilbride have made the excursion; others, although interested, have not been as courageous. The opportunity is always there. If anyone is interested, they should pray, as it is God who guides the individual, not anyone else.

If you have questions, ask the Rector; if you know of anyone outside the parish who wants to go, do put them in touch.

The dates are 11-21 May 2021.



The Revd Amanda Adams and the Rector at a Pilgrimage Information Evening at Ballyrashane.

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE RECTOR**

HOLY COMMUNION

As you are probably aware, for many months now, we have been instructed not to use the chalice at the administration of the Sacrament, for fear of spreading the virus.



This is perfectly understandable, and so at the Holy Communion we have received bread only.

The clergy of the diocese were recently given the opportunity to receive wine in single cups, such as is done in the Presbyterian Church. This has been adopted in some parishes, but rejected in others. I have a certain antipathy to this practice, and so I have vetoed this opportunity.

The “common cup” is very much part of our identity as Anglicans. We will continue to celebrate the Sacrament in one kind only, until we are permitted to return to the communal chalice.

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *‘Where is He?’* (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *‘they presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.’* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe.

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God’s people and so God is worthy of our worship and prayer.

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby’s birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and it was a spice used in His tomb. We should know that Jesus understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. We promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) which for us, is the Sunday nearest to the international day on 27



January, to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people who were killed under Nazi Persecution and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and genocide must still be resisted every day. Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

HMD is for everyone. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. We know they learn more, empathise more and do more.

Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.

Our service for the Holocaust Memorial this year is on Sunday 24 January.





One Saturday morning six year old Ben decided to make breakfast for his parents. He wanted to make pancakes. So he found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury train on the floor which by now had some tracks in it left by the cat. Ben was covered in flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for mum and dad, but it was getting very—well, floury.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, and he didn't know how the stove worked!

Suddenly he saw the cat licking from the bowl of mix. He rushed

to push her away and knocked the rest of the eggs to the floor. Ben tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pyjamas white and sticky.

Just then he saw his dad standing at the door, and he feared the worst. "Ben, what are you doing?" Ben stammered an explanation with tears in his eyes. Then, walking through the mess, his dad picked up his crying son and hugged him, getting his own pyjamas white and sticky in the process.

That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it can often turn into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky, or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do.

That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us. But just because we might mess up, we shouldn't stop trying to 'make pancakes' for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried!





On a Monday evening just before Christmas—the time the Cubs usually go to the Uniformed Organisations Carol Service, they held a meeting by ZOOM, and invited the Rector to join them.

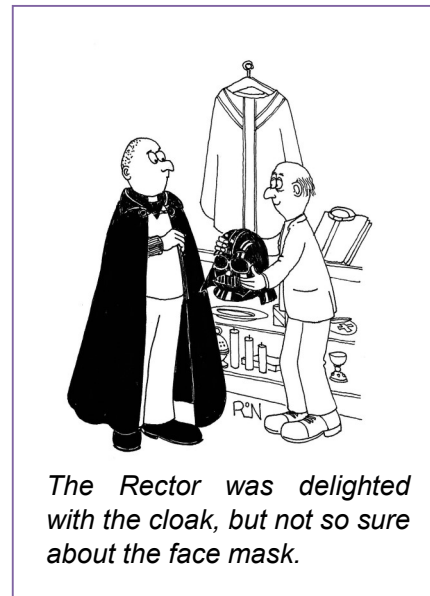
ZOOM enables the boys and their leaders to sit in their own homes and communicate with each other on their computers.

They can see each other and talk away, just as though they were all sitting in the same room!

Some of the boys had made paintings on a Christmas theme, which they happily displayed. The Rector talked about gifts, and questions were asked about the meaning of Advent.

The Rector's cat, Darwin, also joined the meeting. He was about twenty minutes late, but nobody seemed to mind.

A meeting by ZOOM is a good way to keep things moving on with the Cubs when they can't meet in the normal way, and the leaders are to be thanked for their excellent initiative.!



Bible Bite

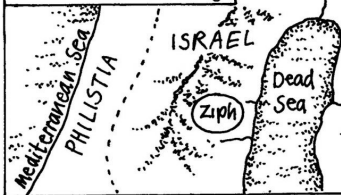
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 26 - 27:1

When King Saul wasn't fighting the Philistines to stop them invading Israel he was still trying to hunt down David.

People came to tell King Saul where David and his men were hiding. Saul took 3000 of his best soldiers and went to look for David...

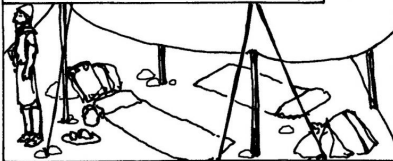
They camped near where David was hiding



When David heard that Saul was near, he crept up to the camp.



He saw that Saul and his army commander Abner were sleeping in the middle of the camp.

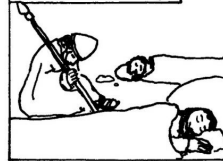


Who will come with me into the camp?

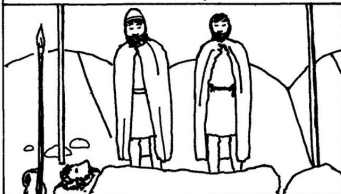


Abishai said he would.

That night God made all the camp sleep soundly.



David and Abishai reached the centre and found Saul

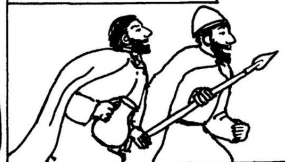


This chance is from God! I'll kill him!



No! God chose him as king!

They took Saul's spear and water jar and crept out of the camp.



When they had got far enough away, David shouted



Abner, why didn't you protect your king? I've taken his spear and water jar!

King Saul heard David and shouted back



David, I'm so sorry! I won't try to harm you again!

But David knew that Saul would try again to kill him, so he left Israel and went to Philistia.

Heavenly Father,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic.

The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?



Lord, we dare – because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have – that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity – if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We **will** be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be. You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



St Bride's Nativity Scene

Over this past while we've been changing our Nativity Scene every year, and this year we've placed it in the Baptistry. We've also used some mannequins to give it a more "life-size" appearance, and we've tried to make the costumes as realistic as possible. The shepherds we used represent three generations of a family, and the figures include Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus.

A sincere thank you to those who laboured long and hard to bring us this essential aid to our Christmas worship. At the beginning of the Epiphany season we hope you'll see some Wise Men.



Our Christmas Tree, located on the south side of the Chancel.

