



St Alkmund's
Duffield
Parish Magazine

December 2019



The church surrounded by the flood water of Nov 7/8. Picture: Martin Boyce

CHURCH OFFICIALS, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS



Vicar: Revd Dr James Hughes

The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Duffield. Telephone 841867

Trainee Minister: James Rollin

Telephone: 07485 027171

Reader:

Richard Lindop

98 Eaton Bank, Duffield

Telephone 840282

Churchwardens:

James Rollin

5 Grendon Close, Belper

Telephone 01773 825895

Paul Linford

152 Over Lane, Belper

Telephone 01773 821853

CHURCH SECRETARY / CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS: <i>Emma Rollin</i>	840536
HON. SECRETARY P.C.C.: <i>Marion Taulbut</i>	840677
HON. TREASURER P.C.C.: <i>Nick Peacock</i>	840935
HON. PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR: <i>Jeffrey Taplin</i>	842665
YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORKER: <i>Helen Hawley</i>	840536
MUSIC & WORSHIP GROUP LEADER: <i>Fiona Lindop</i>	840282
TOWER SECRETARY: <i>Luke Heaton</i>	841054
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS: <i>Paul and Gill Linford</i>	07486 560657

* * * * *

St Alkmund's Church Office, Church Drive, Duffield, Belper DE56 4BA. Tel: 840536

e: office@stalkmundsduffield.co.uk www.stalkmundsduffield.co.uk

* * * * *

Duffield Parish Magazine e: duffieldparishmag@gmail.com

The Vicar's Letter

JAMES HUGHES



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I have just received some very good news: we are going to be able to be back into the church building after the floods for our Christmas services, starting with Christingle on the 15th December at 4.30pm. There will still be work to do in the hall in the new year, but we rejoice that we are going to be back in for Christmas, and therefore able to welcome you in to join us over the festive period.

In the meantime, we are continuing to meet week by week, at William Gilbert School for our 10am service, having a joint service with our sister church St Paul's over at Little Eaton every Sunday at 4.30pm. We may not be in our building at the moment, but the church continues to meet. As we have this time away from the building, and as we recover from the flooding, I am doing three things—giving thanks, praying, and looking forward.

First of all, I give thanks for many things. No-one was hurt or injured at St Alkmund's as we cleared the building. Our insurance company (Ecclesiastical) have acted swiftly, and by Tuesday the Disaster Recovery company were in

cleaning, drying, removing carpets, and otherwise getting on with the clean-up operation. We will be able to get back into the building before too long. We have another place to meet. We have been able to sort out a temporary office. Many people both inside and outside the church family have offered help and support. So, we have much to give thanks for.

And then second, I am praying, particularly for those worse affected. For the family and friends of Annie Hall, as they come to terms with their loss. For those who have been forced out of their homes, and who face the prospect of more flooding. When Kirsty and I came home after helping move things to higher ground in the church (on top of the pews!) we took off our wet boots and socks in a dry house, washed and warmed up; it is a shame to be out of our building, but we can still count our blessings.

Finally, I am looking forward to being back in for Christmas, and looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and what it means for us and for the world.

I look forward to seeing you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "James". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.



Services & Events

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

- 8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Chapel
10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at William Gilbert School—(*Acts 19:8–22*)
4.30 pm **HOLY COMMUNION** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)
2 Thessalonians 2:1–12
-

THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER

- 2.00 pm **SONGS OF PRAISE** IN THE CHURCH HALL AT ST PAUL'S LITTLE EATON
Half-hour service, followed by tea/coffee/cake
-

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

- 10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at William Gilbert School—(*Acts 19:23–41*)
4.30 pm **AFTERNOON SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)
2 Thessalonians 2:13–3:5
-

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER

- 8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Chapel
10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's—(*Acts 20:1–16*)
4.30 pm **AFTERNOON SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)
2 Thessalonians 3:6–18
4.30 pm **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** at St Alkmund's
-

TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

- 2.00 pm **WILLIAM GILBERT SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE**
-

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

- 10.00 am **FAMILY SERVICE (NATIVITY)** at St Alkmund's
4.30 pm **CAROL SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)
6.30 pm **CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS** at St Alkmund's

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER (Christmas Eve)

- 3.00 pm **CRIB SERVICE** (WILLIAM GILBERT SCHOOL)
4.30 pm **CRIB SERVICE** (DUFFIELD MEADOWS SCHOOL)
6.30 pm **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**
-

WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER (Christmas Day)

10.00 am **JOINT CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE** at St Alkmund's

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

- 10.00 am **MORNING SERVICE** at St Alkmund's
4.30 pm **AFTERNOON SERVICE** at St Paul's (with refreshments from 4.00pm)
-

Regular Events:

SONGS OF PRAISE—Thursday 5th, in the Church Hall at *St Paul's Little Eaton* at 2.00pm.
(Half-hour service, followed by tea/coffee/cake)

IMPACT (school years 7–9)—Mondays (2nd, 9th & 16th), 7.00–8.30pm (*See leaders for venue*).

IGNITION (school years 10–13)—Tuesdays (3rd, 10th & 17th), 7.30–9.00pm (*See leaders for venue*).

MEN'S 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL (at Ecclesbourne School)—Tuesdays (3rd, 10th & 17th),
at 8.00pm.

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING—Wednesday 4th, 7.30pm at *St Paul's Little Eaton*.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday 11th, at 10.00am (*Changed venue*).

MORNING PRAYER—Tuesday 17th at 9.15am. Held in church for around half an hour.

TEA, CAKE & CHAT—Thursday 19th, 2.00pm in the Church Hall at *St Paul's Little Eaton*.

— — — — —

ALLESTREE SATELLITE AERIAL SERVICES

- TV Aerial repairs and installations
- FREEVIEW wideband digital aerials
- FREESAT installations
- SKY installations, dish realignment and MAGIC EYE
- Additional points and telephone points installed

**Call Paul today for a
free estimate**

**TEL: 07985405244 or
01332 559246**



AMG WEALTH MANAGEMENT

- INHERITANCE TAX
PLANNING
 - RETIREMENT INCOME
PLANNING
 - LATER LIFE AND
CARE FEES ADVICE
 - INVESTMENT PLANNING
-

Tel: 01332 551155

Email: info.amg@sjpp.co.uk

Web: www.amgwealthmanagement.co.uk

Address: Park Farm Drive, Allestree, Derby DE22 2QP

What Christmas music means to me

By Paul Linford

Many people can pinpoint the exact time at which they first became a Christian. Others will say they have been one all their lives, and that there was never a time when they did not regard themselves as such.

I suppose I am a bit of both. There was certainly a time, at university in the 1980s, when I made a more definite commitment to Christ, but as I have got older I have come to appreciate more and more how my childhood and in particular my exposure to Christian music as a church choir-boy influenced and shaped my spiritual journey.

At no time was this more true than at Christmas; for me, not just the most wonderful time of the year, but the time when I feel most keenly the reality of God's presence in my life.

Christmas has always been a special time in my family—my mum made sure of

that. But it wasn't until I joined the church choir in the small market town I grew up in that I really began to appreciate what it was really all about.

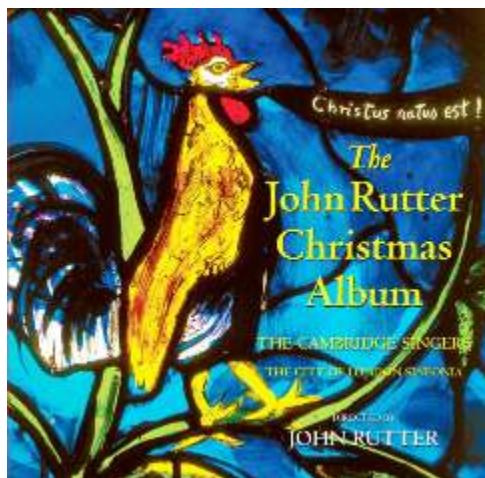
My first Christmas as a chorister in 1975 opened up to me a new world of wonder. I remember being totally entranced by the beauty of the carols we sung, and looking back with the benefit of years, I can now see that through pieces like John Rutter's 'Love Came Down at Christmas,' God was drawing me to himself.

For me, Rutter's music will always be synonymous with Christmas, and I look forward each year to listening to his Christmas Collection CD (pictured), as well as singing some of his lovely carols round the piano with my family.

It's not just sacred choral music that speaks to me in this way. A few years ago, the pop band Prefab Sprout brought out a track called 'Earth: the Story So Far' which contained the lyric: "There was a baby in a stable, some say it was the Lord. Why if it's no more than a fable does it strike so deep a chord?"

Which sort of sums up why, in my innermost being, I have always believed the Christmas story to be true.

Nowadays the two things I most look forward to about Christmas are both to do with music. As always, the afternoon of Christmas Eve will be spent listening to the service of Nine Lessons and Carols →



from King's College Cambridge on the radio while making the stuffings for the following day's dinner—an annual ritual for me which is pretty much sacrosanct!

Then, on Christmas Day itself, there's the once-in-a-year opportunity to belt out the seventh verse of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' to the accompaniment of its fantastic organ arrangement—all the more special for the fact that it is unique to Christmas morning.

God speaks to different people in

different ways—through his word the Bible, through the beauty of creation, through the wise counsel of friends and loved ones and sometimes just through the circumstances of our lives. But for me, he has always spoken most powerfully through music.

May you enjoy some magical musical moments of your own this Christmas—and in so doing, experience some of the joy and wonder of Christ's incarnation.



LIVE IN DUFFIELD? RETIRED?
 THE WESTON CENTRE, TAMWORTH STREET, DUFFIELD
Serve Refreshments 10 am – 12 noon Monday to Friday
Why not come along for a cuppa and a chat ?



My favourite Christmas carol is **In the Bleak Midwinter** with words by Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894). I appreciate poetry which conveys intense feeling and this largely contributes to her reputation as a major Victorian poet. **Before the Paling of the Stars** considers the stranger who became the King of Glory.

'Before the Paling of the Stars' by Christina Rossetti

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cock crow,
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world his hands had made
Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem;
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem;
Saint and angel, ox and ass,
Kept a watch together
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Jesus on his mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless lamb of God was he,
Shepherd of the fold:
Let us kneel with Mary maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of Glory.

Sent by Paul Wiggins

Introducing our new Trainee Minister

I started as Trainee Minister on 4th November 2019, following the church's recruitment process for this position earlier this year. My role includes leading and speaking at Sunday services and various midweek meetings, as well as supporting a range of other activities and events across the life of the church, together with our united benefice activities at St Paul's Little Eaton. I'm also currently undertaking the Midlands Ministry Training Course (MMTC), run by the Midlands Gospel Partnership, in parallel with my new job. I'm married to Emma, who is one of our Church Administrators (we were married at St A's back in 2007) and we have two children, Tom, aged eight and Nancy, aged five. (See picture, right)



Born and bred in Doncaster, I was brought up as a Christian by my Mum, regularly attending church and Sunday school from a very young age and, as such, my testimony doesn't feature a dramatic "*road to Damascus*" moment of conversion. Instead, my Christian journey has been one of spiritual learning and development over the years, ever since I made my first commitment of faith aged 11, at a Billy Graham 'Mission England' Crusade back in 1985. (As a keen Sheffield Wednesday fan, Dave Barnsley was appalled to learn that said event took place at Sheffield United's Bramall Lane ground!!)

My Christian life progressed significantly during my time at York University, which had a strong Christian Union and I also attended York Baptist Church, a great Bible-based fellowship. Then, after graduating in 1995, for several years I attended Bessacarr Evangelical Church in Doncaster, which was another key time of spiritual growth and Bible learning, prior to moving to Belper in late 2000 and joining St Alkmund's in early 2001.

I've been pleased to help out at church as best I can since then; I've led a growth group for a number of years, together with playing in our music group, and more

recently I was one of our Churchwardens. I'm looking forward to now serving at church in my new capacity and your prayers and support as I 'get up to speed' will be very much appreciated!

Previously, I was employed in the rail industry (at engineering consultancy Interfleet Technology and train-builder Bombardier Transportation) in various communications and Public Relations roles. My work included writing and editing of all kinds (which I love); together with event organisation; plus various online activities, including websites and social-media. Whilst my new job is somewhat of a 'departure', hopefully many of these skills will be equally useful in my new role!

In my spare time—not that I suspect I'll have much!—I play the electric bass and lead guitar and listen to a wide range of classic rock music, as well as avidly following the Formula One and American IndyCar motor-racing. I'm also a longstanding Trustee at Christ Church Derby, the International Presbyterian Church (IPC) church originally 'planted' in Derby city centre by St Alkmund's back in 2010. Here's to growing in our faith together!

James Rollin

Directed by
Richard Roodis

The Derwent Singers

Christmas Concerts

~~CANCELLED~~

Saturday 7th December 7.30pm
St Alkmund's Church
Quince Drive, Duffield
DE56 4BA

Thursday 12th December, 7.30pm
All Saints Church
Aston-On-Trent
DE72 2AZ
in aid of Treetops Hospice

TREETOPS HOSPICE CARE
where every day counts

Tickets £10 / £8 advance*

Tickets available on www.derwentsingers.org.uk, by calling 07790 052032, emailing events@derwentsingers.org.uk, from choir members and on the door. *50% discount under 25s


Peak Oil

Local Family Supplier of:

Heating Oil, Aga Oil and Farm Fuels

We also stock:

- Fuchs Lubricants
- AdBlue
- Storage Tanks
- Fuel Additives
- Fuel Accessories



For an instant online quote visit:

WWW.PEAKOIL.CO.UK

Chesterfield: 01246 450242 Belper: 01773 550400
sales@peakoil.co.uk

Book Review



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

from Village Green to Church Choir

By **Andrew Gant** (Profile 2014)

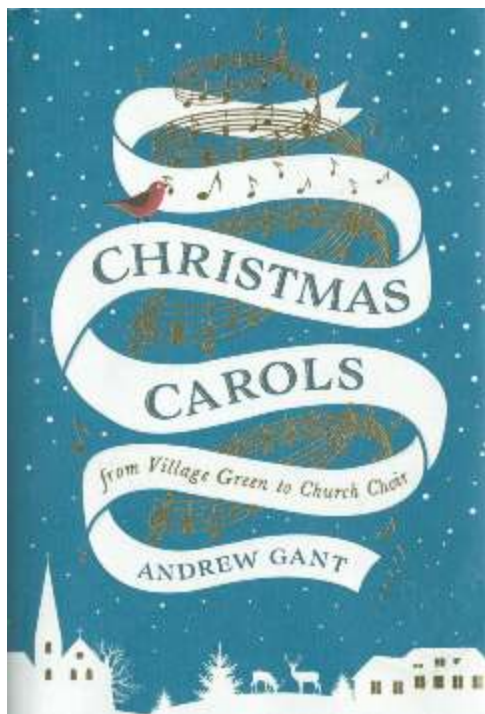
To provide a topical theme, this month's book review is a fascinating exploration of the carols that still form an important part of Christmas for many, perhaps most, people. The book was given to me as a present, and my edition comes with a fine CD of the carols in unusual arrangements.

Andrew Gant is introduced as "... a composer, choirmaster, church musician, university teacher and writer," on the

back fly-leaf, and his experience shows in this absorbing introduction to twenty-two carols, both more and less familiar. He might also add "historian" to his CV, because he clearly takes delight in exploring the background to the writers of each carol.

The ordering of the carols in the book follows the pattern for the church year, starting with the Angel Gabriel's visit to the Virgin Mary, then Advent and on through the Christmas season, including "The Journey to Bethlehem 'I Saw Three Ships'", Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the visit of the Angels to the Shepherds, and on into the New Year ('Here we come A-wassailing'), Twelfth night and Epiphany.

Gant chooses "The Angel Gabriel" ('... Oh highly favoured lady, Gloria') as his first carol, as an overture to the work, showing the way in which writers of the Victorian



era, adapted tunes and earlier version of songs into the versions we know. He gives a spirited description of the writer Sabine Baring Gould, Squire and Minster, and his approach to life.

His next choice is the oldest of those we still sing, 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel', with its haunting melody, possibly from the 15th Century (although opinions differ). The hymn as we know it became established around 1850. However, both the words and the music can trace their heritage over many hundreds of years. The Anglo-Saxon poet Cynewulf wrote *The Christ* between 750–800: this poem also influenced JRR Tolkien who took inspiration for Middle Earth. The plainsong tune is also likely to have been in use for centuries before it was written down.

Hearing 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night' is a surprise when sung to the alternative tune Cranbrook, better known to most as 'On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at'. Some of you will have heard this at Mike Severn's production of *The Christmas Carol* last year.

'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' is an example of a carol that has received extensive modification. The words are often attributed to Wesley, and the tune to Mendelssohn, but both have been

modified over the years, and the familiar descant by David Willcocks dates only from the 1960s.

All of the most well-known carols have their own chapter, plus one or two that might be less familiar. Gant concludes that more carols will evolve from both old and new literature, and that there is still a mine of new ideas to be explored even from quite ancient material.

He covers the expected canon of Christmas Carols, except that he does not touch on any modern songs that have been or might be heard in St Alkmund's at Christmas, including the dramatic work *Make Way for Christmas* by Graham Kendrick in 1987, whose anthem 'Shine Jesus Shine' often forms an uplifting choice at the Christingle Service.

Many people come to sing Carols during the Christmas season. This book gives a fascinating insight into the origins of our favourite carols. You may be interested in the book, or not, but do take the opportunity to share in our Christian heritage at Christmas. Christmas is a special time of year, and a special time to think about why Jesus came to earth as a human baby: when you're singing your favourite carols this year, please do take time to reflect on it!

Andrew Jackson

CALL FOR
FREE
QUOTE

R & R

PLUMBING AND HEATING

MAINTENANCE — REPAIR — INSTALLATION



- Gas Safe Registered Gas Installer • Plumbing Services •
- Landlord Certificates • Gas Fire & Boiler Servicing • Boiler Changes •
- Central Heating Installations • Bathroom Installations •
- An Excellent Friendly Service • Competitive Prices Guaranteed •

TEL: 01332 554883 MOBILE: 07905 364694

Laburnum Crescent, Allestree, Derby

Youth and Children



We want to say a huge THANK YOU to the families that have offered to host our weekly youth groups at their houses whilst our hall is out of use due to the flood damage. We've been made to feel so loved and welcome in people's homes and are so pleased that we've been able to continue meeting together each week.

Our youth groups meet on Monday and Tuesday evenings to spend time together, playing games, having fun and learning from the Bible. They are run by our joint benefice youth and children's team and by volunteers from our congregations. There is no fee and we welcome anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Bible! If this is something that you (if you're aged 11–18) or a family member would be interested in, then get in touch with our youth worker Helen Hawley to find out where and when we are meeting. We'd love to have you join us.

Helen Hawley



Panoramic view of the flooded church surroundings. Photo: Martin Boyce

So: What are you doing for Christmas?

Normally a perfectly reasonable question for around now, but for anyone involved in Church music, like me, this question usually raises its head as I'm doing the school run in late July.

I begin the process by considering the varied parts of Christmas, any that haven't been touched on, or explored much; any useful analogies or images that are related to this time of year that would transfer well into a song.

Then, I discuss the concepts and the reasons and meaning behind them with my co-writer, who happens to be my husband, James.

We then brainstorm, or start with a verse or a chorus. It's very rare that the first line that we write ends up as the first line of the song. This year's first verse of the song was written after the rest of the piece. You can have a listen to a very scratchy version of the song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMCz5VhMPoA>

Then, we record it to make sure it works. And then, I used to have to painstakingly arrange all of the vocal parts, but our resident pianist & organist, David Dilks, now takes in this role, which I'm very pleased about. I then input it into a computer programme called Musescore, which I'm very slow at. Then, we go to print. And this is before the beginning of November when we begin to practice for Christmas. We also practice the parts for the carols, ready to sing on Christmas Eve at our 6.30pm service.

Our main aim is to provide a song that can be sung by our singers, speak the message of Christmas and also share the truth of the gospel and how it impacts on our lives beyond the tinsel and the wrappings of Christmas-time.

This year will be slightly different as our last rehearsal on 19th December will be a dress rehearsal for our hosts, The White Hart in Duffield, who, following the flood last month, have let us use their upstairs room for rehearsal.

So, Come all ye faithful, and join us on Christmas Eve at the church at 6.30pm, or Thursday 19th in the pub. We'd love to share our love, joy and peace with you.

Merry Christmas,

Emma Rollin

A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

God appeared one night;
the world slept on.
Infant flesh disguised the Holy One,
announced by angels singing in the sky,
'Peace on earth and praise to God on high'
but who turned up?
Shepherds came, star-gazers from the east,
outcasts, prophets, sinners, lost and least.
Kings and lawyers saw him as a threat,
Creator, Saviour, Prince of Peace and yet
persecuted, made a refugee,
condemned to death from birth
and forced to flee.
Wonder at the welcome Christ extends:
He heals, forgives, restores,
makes us his friends.
As we recall and celebrate his birth
how are we to live his life on earth?



Poem by Helen Brocklehurst
Former member of the Scargill Community

Wedding Choir available

DUFFIELD SINGERS could help make
your day special. Please contact:

www.duffieldsingers.org

Men's 5-a-Side Football

Tuesdays at Ecclesbourne
School at 8.00pm

This month: 3, 10 & 17 Dec.

2 Minute New Testament—Galatians



Who would you like a 1-2-1 with? Martin Luther King? Winston Churchill? Henry VIII? David Beckham? I'm afraid I can't offer any of those famous people—but I can get you a 1-2-1 with the apostle Paul...

...well nearly. In Galatians, we see Paul explaining himself—and explaining what he cares about the most. We see him excited—even calling his readers foolish—and passionate, and committed—all those things you perhaps don't expect from an apostle! So what has got Paul so excited? He tells us in verses 6 and 7 of chapter 1:

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all.

The Galatians have heard the good news about Jesus Christ, the gospel—and now they are turning away from it. So Paul sets out to remind them what the gospel is really about.

He starts by reminding them that the good news he preached wasn't his own invention (chapter 1)—and how it changed his life completely. Paul met Christ personally on the road to Damascus, and Christ gave him a job to do.

He went to Jerusalem to meet the other apostles—like Peter—but was prepared to oppose Peter for the sake of the gospel (chapter 2). It was all to do with Peter stopping eating with non-Jews. Whilst this may seem a minor issue, it was a denial that all are one in Christ, whether Jew or gentile, because all are saved in the same way—by grace. As Paul says:

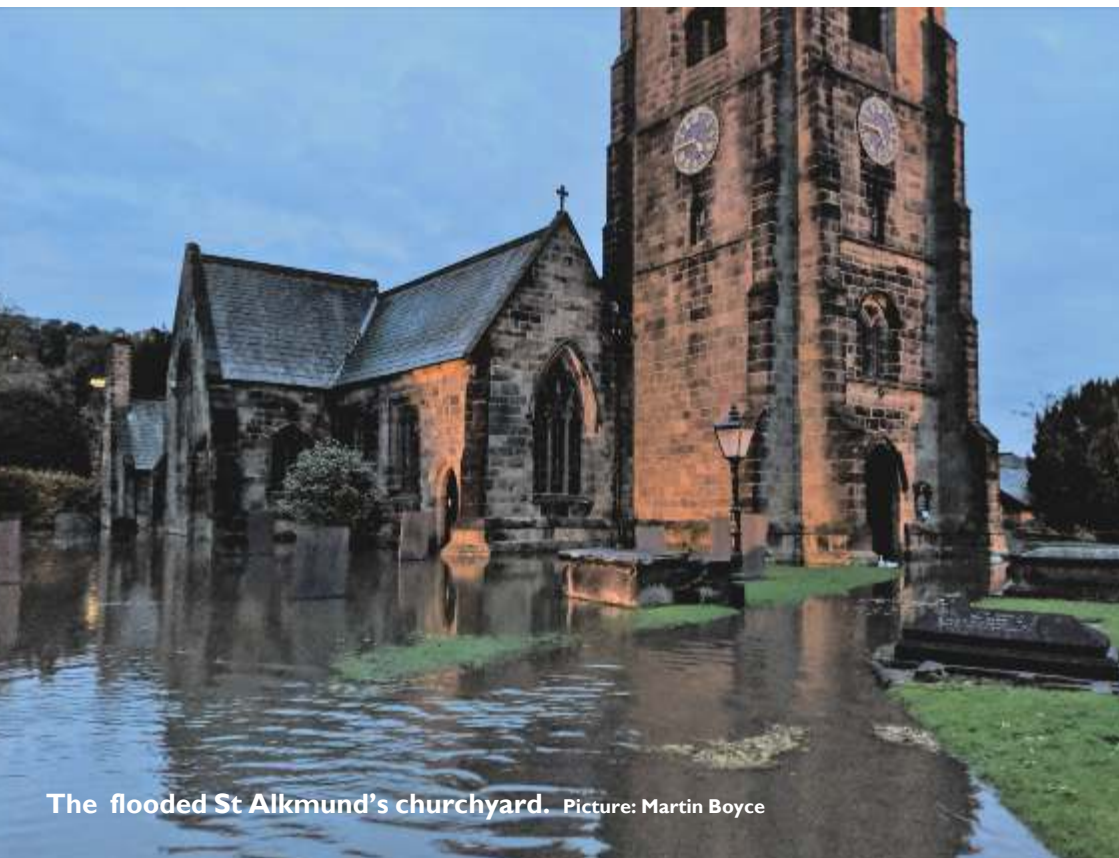
So we too have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no-one will be justified. (Chapter 2 verse 16)

This was critical—it was why Paul saw the Galatians were following a different gospel, because they thought they had to keep certain regulations, rather than accepting that Christ died on the cross for everyone. The gospel is about what Christ has done, not what we do. So, in chapter 3 Paul reminds them how they were saved by faith, and shows how even Abraham was saved by faith.

Paul talks of Abraham’s seed—all those who trust in God—who believe God’s promises. He shows how we are sons of God, and children of freedom (chapter 4)—so we shouldn’t tie ourselves up in rules and regulations which make us slaves again (chapter 5)—instead we should live by the spirit, watch our lives (chapter 6)—and trust in Christ and what he did on the cross.

Paul gets very excited in Galatians—because he knows that it is vital that we know what the good news is—that Christ died for our sins on the cross. He wants everyone to boast, not in their own actions, but in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not what we have done for him that matters, but what he has done for us.

James Hughes



The flooded St Alkmund's churchyard. Picture: Martin Boyce

OUR WALL HANGINGS

The history of a church doesn't just rest in its age and the shape of its arches; we create history all the time when loving care adds something new to the building. Although it can sometimes be a battle to persuade the Heritage bodies to allow a change to take place, there is a feeling around now in Diocesan circles that we are justified in making the building our own place of worship rather than focused on the church as a museum.

There have been changes all the time since St Alkmund's was first built in the 12th century—at one time it was plastered internally and painted blue.

The church had ceased to be a subject of concern to a great family after having passed by expropriation from the rebellious de Ferrers to the absentee House of Lancaster in 1269. The interior is therefore quite plain though with the benefit of two interesting memorials and various banners and hangings such as 'The Water of Life' created by Barbara McBain. The music stands all have hangings created by members of our congregation depicting the place of music in our worship. Other banners have promoted the significance in their time of the Mothers' Union and Junior Church.

In the 1980s Ken and June Spruce were welcomed into our congregation and offered their many talents to God and to us. They both sang in the choir and offered to 'Open the Book' to the children at William Gilbert School and June has a wonderful gift for embroidery, which over the years she has used to illustrate our faith and brighten our plain walls. The Cross on a background of stained glass on the south wall and the Dove of Peace in the Bradshaw Chapel are both June's work.

Between completing these two she was asked by our then Vicar, the Revd. Dr. Mark Pickles to create two wall hangings; the first depicting **Psalm 119:105** '*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*' and the second, based on a theme from our 10-Year Plan, depicting **Mark 1:18** '*They left their nets and went with Him.*'

Mark chose the texts and the places in church where the hangings could occupy a blank wall. Carol Dewhurst drew the designs and June set about creating the hangings from Carol's designs by a process of collage and embroidery. Each hanging took about 500 hours of work spread over 1½ years. Kim Jeffery fixed them to the wall so that they could be moved if needed.

The two Wall Hangings

First, one likes to think that the people with the lamp could be the two



disciples on the road to Emmaus and that Jesus is about to join them. They are travelling west through the hills of Judea and the sun is setting. Their hearts will be set on fire as the Risen Lord explains the scriptures to them.

The second hanging features Christ's call to Simon Peter and his brother



Andrew. Jesus is walking by the Sea of Galilee and sees them at work with their nets. They leave their boat with its furled lateen sail and join him to become 'fishers of men.'

M.T.

Views from the Village

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to fill in our questionnaire—both at the Carnival in the summer (remember that heat!) and online. We now have 22 online responses to add to the 29 we received at the Carnival, giving a total of 51, and we have combined these to give an overall picture. It's not too late to add your voice at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StAlkmunds>.

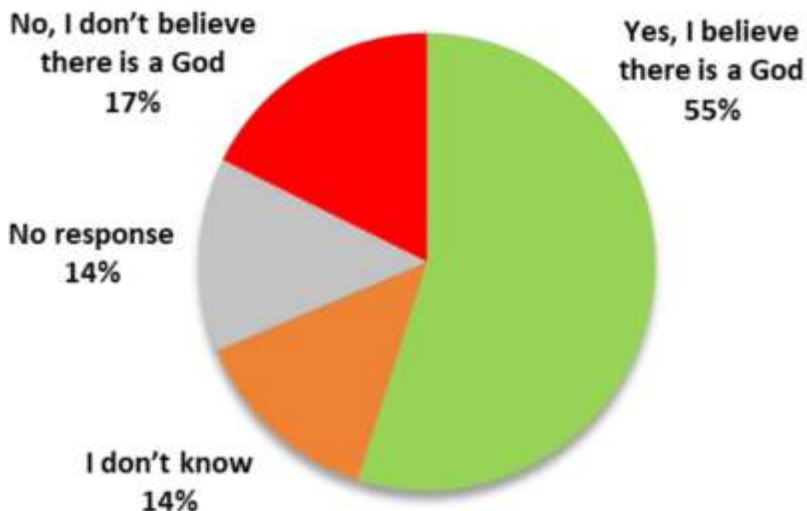
Online respondents were slightly younger than the Carnival respondents (27% of online respondents and 52% of carnival respondents were aged over 60). Almost all of the online respondents (91%) live in Duffield: to be expected given that the online survey was advertised through the church magazine which is distributed in the village. They were also slightly more likely to be a regular attendee at St Alkmund's (14% of online responses, 3% at the Carnival) but still the largest proportion (49% overall) said that they sometimes attended at such times as Christmas, Easter, weddings, funerals, baptisms. Many (57% overall) knew friends or family who attended.

Interestingly, despite this, respondents often said "I don't know" when asked about the church:

- around a third (35%) don't know if the church has plenty of activities for children and young people—*there are!*
- a third (33%) don't know if the church runs courses for people to find out about Christianity—*we do!*
- 61% overall didn't know whether St Alkmund's understands what people in Duffield need—*we're using this questionnaire to help us find out!*
- and half (50%) of online respondents don't know if the services are boring or not—*we'd love you to come along and find out!*

Online respondents were also less likely to believe in God (32% said they did online compared to 72% at the Carnival) or to pray to God (36% online and 69% at the Carnival). Combining all the responses gives us a different overall picture:

DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS A GOD?



All responses to our questionnaire are helping to give us a picture of how people view the church and what their beliefs are. Next time, we'll look at life and the Bible!

Please do add your voice by filling in the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StAlkmunds>.

Scouts 

Calling all Go-getters

**Could you be a Beaver, Cub
or Scout Leader?**

All ages, genders & backgrounds welcome

Contact: Marie - 07584 039207
email: marie@microavionics.co.uk



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

*to all our readers, and many thanks
to our distributors, new or long-
standing, who now deliver an even
greater number of magazines each
month throughout the year.*

Stupid jokes from the internet—number 683!

A frog goes into a bank and marches up to a clerk called Patricia Wagge. “My name is Kermit Jagger,” he says, “and I need to borrow £23,000.” Ms Wagge asks if he has any security and he presents a one-inch-high porcelain elephant. “I’ll need to talk to the manager,” she says, and disappears into the back.

The manager inspects the elephant, ponders for a moment, then says, “It’s a knick-knack, Pattie Wagge, give the frog a loan. His old man’s a Rolling Stone.”

(Printed in Chatterbox, January/February 2007. Hasn’t improved with age!)



Ear Wax Removal from the comfort of your own home

NHS Qualified Audiologist (HCPC, MSHAA) removes wax from the comfort of your own home.

No need to suffer in silence with our BESPOKE care

Microsuction is the safest and most comfortable method of removing ear wax

Benefits include:

- Cutting edge technology
- Reduced risk of infection
- No need to use olive oil
- Immediately use your hearing aids after the treatment
- Safe and clean procedure for all ages

Contact us now for a free consultation

www.earwaxtreatment.co.uk

07759141843

Where's the Bear?

Well done to all of you who guessed where Alkmund the Bear was last month! He was in our church yard by the gravestone of Mrs Elizabeth Sowter, *d.1794*, whose story featured in an earlier article of our magazine. The hole in the stone was made by a blunderbuss gun fired by the second Mrs Sowter, who was fed up with her husband's continued devotion to his late, first wife.



However... this was Alkmund's last stroll in our church yard for some weeks due to the flooding of the area! But don't worry! Alkmund was safe and kept

busy by being the official director of flood operations on the day the waters came!

And for now, whilst his home dries out and undergoes some repairs, he's lodging with his good friends—our organist and his wife. We hear he's enjoying warming his feet by the fire and has even taken up organ lessons!

#wheresthebear?

Alkmund directing flood clearance





Flood water outside the church...



...and flooding the link to the hall

Picture: James Rollin



Clean up operations underway

After the flood: cleanup operations in progress



LOCAL BUSINESS ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

BENZ-BAVARIAN/DUFFIELD MOT CENTRE (Felix Frixou). All types of vehicles serviced and repaired. **843756**.

PLUMB-RITE SERVICES LTD (M. D. Moore, AIP, RP), *Registered Plumber & Heating Engineer*. 24-hour Service. **552485**. Mobile: **07966 162145**.

M. R. BLACKWELL JOINERY for all your joinery requirements; *windows, doors, property repairs, fencing, roofing, etc; also uPVC*. Est. 1989. Tel. **07976 684931**.

WASHERCARE by Wayne Blount. *Domestic Appliance Repairs*. **01332 556593/07790 344881**.

PEAK OIL PRODUCTS (Northern) Ltd. *Heating oils, lubricants, farm and road fuels*. **01773 550400/550417**.

D. BLACKWELL. *Electrical Services, Domestic Wiring and Rewiring, Showers, Security Alarms and Lighting*. Experienced Registered Electrician; Free Estimates. **01773 748062**.

TOWN STREET BARBERS, 20A Town Street. *Walk-ins Welcome. No appointment necessary*. **841632**.

HOLBROOK HALL, Private Residential Home for the Elderly. (*Both short- and long-stay residents*). Tel. **(01332) 880698**.

DERWENT CARS (Duffield-based Taxi Service). Please call **01773 824824**.

CROOTS FARM SHOP – Locally produced meat, Deli, produce, and a lot more. Visit our coffee shop and look at our Shire Horses. **843032**.

R & R PLUMBING AND HEATING. For all your plumbing and gas requirements. **01332 554883/07905 364694**.

SATELLITE AERIAL SERVICES (Paul Flower) – *FREEVIEW, repairs, re-tuning, extra points, FREE ESTIMATES* – Telephone: **01332 559246 or 07985 405244**.

GREEN HAVEN GARDEN SERVICES. *30 years experience, all garden work undertaken. Hard to soft landscaping. Friendly, reliable service. OAP rates*. Call David: **01332 731000/07891669062**.

CLEAN & BRIGHT DOMESTIC CLEANERS. For a friendly, reliable service tel: **0796 906 4226**, or email: **clairebloor@hotmail.co.uk**.

MILFORD HOUSE at Milford, is a retirement home of elegance and distinction. It offers nursing and residential care for long term or respite care. *For further details please call* **01332 841753**.

ELLIS-FERMOR & NEGUS Solicitors—local and friendly expertise for all personal, business and charity advice. Belper **01773 821665**, Ripley **01773 744744**. *Online conveyancing quote on* www.ellis-fermor.co.uk.

THOMAS BATTERLEY—Supplier of Electrical Appliances. TV Setups • Cabling • Freesat and Freeview boxes • Aerial and Satellite Installation. **07894 732816; 01629 823883**.

PIANOTUNERVERSE—Piano Tuning, Regulation and Repairs. Professional service from a committed Christian. Contact Lorraine Bolger Dip. NSPT Cert. CMIT. **07841870219**, lorrainebolger@pianotunerverse.com or degandlorraine@btinternet.com

LAVELLE PLASTERING SERVICES. Little Eaton-based domestic plastering. *Free estimates & competitive prices*. **0748387070/lavelleplastering@gmail.com**.