

## FOLLOW THE STAR!

“the Magi went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.” (Matthew 2:9)

Over 2,000 years ago, wise men (not kings, but Magi, pagan priests from Persia) saw a star shining over the Holy Land. They recognised it as their signal to embark on an epic journey to visit the new Messiah, the King of the Jews. But what exactly was the Star of Bethlehem? A passing comet, a supernova, an alignment of planets? An ancient clay tablet, now in the British Museum, is a key part of one theory which says the star was a rare series of planetary meetings, known as a triple conjunction. The Persian tablet predicted that Jupiter (the royal star) and Saturn would come together three times in the year 7BC. Others, like European Space Agency astronomer Dr Mark Kidger, believe the star could have been a much bigger celestial event, a supernova explosion in the night sky. My favourite theory, however, has to be the view put forward by astronomer Rick Larson, who suggests that in 2BC Jupiter (the royal star) met up with one of the brightest stars in the sky, Regulus, known by the Magi as the "little king". Nine months later, Jupiter met Venus, and the date? 25th December! Obviously, I like this view because of the date! Of course, the God who 'built the starry skies', as we sing in the carol, can place a star in the sky for His purposes. A natural explanation isn't needed, indeed the whole question is ignored in the Bible, because it is the destination that is important not the divine sign. The star led the Magi to Jesus. When they arrived in Bethlehem, their attentions shifted from the star to Jesus. Isn't that what following the star means? Recognising who really is the star.

As a bit of fun, we're running our own Follow the Star competition on Facebook this Advent. Follow the (6' MDF) star around the village, and see if you can identify the locations. Merry Christmas!

*Dave*

**Rev. David Barnsley**

31 Derby Road  
Duffield,  
Belper, DE6 4FL

Home Tel: 01332 585 190  
Church Office: 01332 840 536  
e: vicar@littleeatonchurch.co.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH  
FROM DAVID BARNSELEY



# Christmas

## at St. Paul's

9th Dec | from 9.45am  
Christingle Café Church

23rd Dec | 6.30pm  
Carol Service

Christmas Eve | 4pm  
Crib Service

Christmas Eve | 11.30pm  
Midnight Communion

Christmas Day | 10.00am  
Family Service



## Café Church

### Big Breakfast

Sunday 27th January  
from 9.30am in the Village  
Hall. Start the day with a  
cooked breakfast and an  
informal service.

## December—January

### December

Mon 3	7.00pm	Impact
Tue 4	10.00am	Growth Group
	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 6	12.00	Advent lunch followed by Songs of Praise
	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Sun 9	9.45am	Christingle Café Church
Mon 10	7pm	Impact
Tue 11	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 13	7.30pm	Growth Groups
Mon 17	7pm	Impact
Tues 18	10am	Growth Group
	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 20	2.00pm	Third Thursday
	7.30pm	Growth Groups at home
Sun 23	6.30pm	Carol Service
Mon 24	4pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Tue 25	10am	Christmas Day Service

### January

Thur 3	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Sun 6	5.30pm	Salt Café
Mon 7	7.00pm	Impact
Tue 8	10.00am	Growth Group
	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 10	7.30pm	Growth Groups
Mon 14	7.00pm	Impact
Tue 15	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 17	2.00pm	Third Thursday
	7.45pm	Life Explored: Taster session
Mon 21	7.00pm	Impact
	7.30pm	P.C.C. Meeting
Tue 22	10.00pm	Growth Group
	7.30pm	Ignition
Thur 24	7.30pm	Growth Groups
Mon 28	7pm	Impact
Tues 29	7.30pm	Ignition

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



**Taster Session** - Thursday 17th January  
7.45pm in the Church Hall  
For more info: vicar@littleatonchurch.co.uk

## Songs of Praise

A short service of favourite hymns, chosen by you.

**First Thursdays** (6th Dec after Advent Lunch, 7th Feb) 2pm in the Church Hall, followed by tea and cakes.  
**Please note there is no Songs of Praise in January.**

### Third Thursday

20th Dec, 17th Jan, 21st Feb.  
2pm in the Church Hall.  
Tea, cake and company!



Did you know St Paul's Church is on Facebook? Search for 'St Paul's Church Little Eaton' and follow us.



### Vicar and Newsletter Editor:

David Barnsley 31 Derby Road, Duffield, Belper.  
t: 585 190 e: vicar@littleatonchurch.co.uk  
Please note: David's usual day off is a Friday.

[www.littleatonchurch.co.uk](http://www.littleatonchurch.co.uk)

## SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST PAUL'S

Dec 2nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Dec 9th	10.00 am	Café Church
Dec 16th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Dec 23rd	10.00 am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	Carol Service
Dec 30th	10.00 am	Morning Service
Jan 6th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Jan 13th	10.00 am	Morning Service
Jan 20th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Jan 27th	10.00 am	Café Church

*8am Holy Communions have been moved to All Saints, Duffield.*

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

3-11's	<b>Explorers</b>	Sunday at 10.00am
		Church Hall, Little Eaton
Y7-9	<b>Impact</b>	Mondays at 7.00pm
		St Alkmund's Parish Hall, Duffield
	<b>Fuel</b>	Sundays at 10am
		Church Hall, see website for dates
Y10-13	<b>Ignition</b>	Tuesdays at 7.30pm
		St Alkmund's Parish Hall, Duffield
Y7-13	<b>Salt Café</b>	1st Sunday at 5.30pm
		St Alkmund's Parish Hall, Duffield

## REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

<b>Growth Groups</b> (meet fortnightly)	
Tuesday 10am	Thursday 7.30 pm
<b>Church Prayer Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday
Church Hall	7.30 pm
<b>Songs of Praise</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday
Church Hall	2.00 pm
<b>Third Thursdays</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday
Church Hall	2.00 pm



St Paul's  
Little Eaton Church