



## This week's service

Welcome to today's service  
with Sean O'Toole



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## This week's reading



John 1:1-18

## A thought from Sean

As we journey through Advent, anticipating the great feast of Christmas we need to stay focused on the real message of this season. Christmas is not an excuse for indulging ourselves. It is a time set aside for celebrating the extraordinary and wonderful mystery of God coming to be with us, taking our place by sacrificing Himself on the cross, so that one day we might be with Him in glory. Jesus is the human face of God the Father. Can there be anything greater than knowing Jesus, the Saviour of the world?

## Prayer for the week

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes  
again as judge and saviour we may be  
ready to receive him, who is our Lord  
and our God.  
Amen

## Don't forget ...

**There's no 10:45  
service at St Peter's  
next week,  
17<sup>th</sup> December  
CAROL SERVICE 4pm**



## Christmas Services across Swadlincote Minster

### SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS EVE

10am Family Crib Service at GCCC  
4pm CHRISTINGLE at Emmanuel Church  
4pm Crib Service at St John's, Newhall  
7pm Carol Service at Emmanuel Church  
1130pm Midnight HC at St Peter's Church

### MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Short Outdoor HC & Carols in Gresley Church Churchyard  
10am Traditional HC Service at Emmanuel Church  
10am Family Service at St Peter's, Hartshorne  
10am HC Service at St John's,



## Weekly Prayer Meeting

**Thursday 7- 8pm** at Nige and Deb's home, 3 Sharpwood Manor.

Not everyone who comes prays aloud, so don't be nervous about that. The important thing is to be part of it. This is our last meeting until January.

## Coffee & Conversation

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Goseley Community Centre**

**10.30 - 12 noon**



### An opportunity

- to chat
- to meet friends
- to ask questions
- to pray
- or simply to sit and rest

Starts again on  
11<sup>th</sup> Jan then  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday  
each month

**ALL WELCOME**

## Church diary for the next month

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**7pm Prayer meeting**  
 at 3 Sharpswood Manor

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
**4pm Carol Service**  
 with Rev Mike Firbank

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**  
**2.30pm Hartshorne Primary School**  
**Carol Services**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**11.30pm Joint Christmas Eve**  
**Midnight Communion Service**  
 with Rev Mike Firbank

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10am Christmas Day Family Service**  
 with Sean and Sandra O'Toole

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**  
**10am Joint Minster Service at**  
**Gresley Church Community Centre**

## Cleaning Rota

Please clean the church before the date marked.

Please swap with someone else on the rota if you cannot clean during your week.

**The toilets will be cleaned weekly by Sean & Sandra**

17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Deb P
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Jane
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Bill
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Brian Redfern
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Val & Andy
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Nige & Deb
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christine

## Refreshments Rota

It's a real blessing to be able to spend time chatting with one another after the service. We have a rota for serving tea & coffee.

Please swap with someone if you cannot do a particular date.

Please bring the milk.

10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Jane
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carol
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	James
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Maxine & Jane
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christine
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Deb W & Alicia
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Carol
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	James

Thank you

## What was school like nearly 150 years ago?

### From the Log-book for Hartshorne Infants and Girls School 1875

**Sarah Anne Smith, a certificated mistress, was responsible for teaching the entire school**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>** Very poor attendance on Monday morning owing to the rough, snowy weather. Mary and Henry Betteridge are still away ill. The Thompsons, Holmeses and others whose homes are at a distance from the school have not been in attendance all the week.

On Thursday morning Mary Henson\* was away from school on account of the illness of her mother.

Fannie Villiers\* was away through illness on Friday afternoon. On Thursday morning she taught the infants a tune to the hymn "While Shepherds watched their flocks by night". The children in the girls' school have this week learned the tune of "Once in royal David's city".

On Friday morning all the children in the girls' room were required to stand for a quarter of an hour, holding a slate above their head, for a punishment for their disorder.

The attendance on account of the weather, also the illness of several of the children has

been very small, and the average attendance for the week is only 92.

**Thursday Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** The fourth standard, for a composition exercise, in the morning wrote out an account of the "Ancient Britons". Their grammar is very faulty. Emily V did the best exercise. Joanna R has improved very much in her lessons lately, but her sewing is still very poor.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** This morning I heard the first standard boys read. The girls are better readers than the boys. John A has forgotten his reading and writing too, through being absent so long. The attendance has been better than last week. Received eight shillings and 10 pence this week for the school fees of the pauper children for the last quarter. Average number present this week 112.

**December 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>** Mary Henson was in the girls' school during this week. On Tuesday morning Fannie Villiers gave a lesson to the children on the upper gallery on the "swallow". In the afternoon Mary Henson gave a lesson to the infants on the "Shepherd dog". On Tuesday morning I took the first standard girls for a reading lesson I find that several of them have improved lately. Many of the girls have been away helping their mothers prepare for Christmas. Average number present 103. Christmas Holiday from Dec 24<sup>th</sup> to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\*Fannie Villiers and Mary Henson were Pupil teachers