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Treasurers and church bank account details:

St Clement: Robert Sharp [robsharp@fastmail.fm](mailto:robsharp@fastmail.fm) **St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 84087488**  
St Nicholas: Ian Bromley [captainimb@aol.com](mailto:captainimb@aol.com) Payments for St Nicholas Church have now been clarified and these are the amended bank details for St Nicholas Church:  
**St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 94289579**

*Please put a note in the 'reference' box for online banking so treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.*

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Dear friends of St. Clement and St. Nicholas,

Last week was busy with schools and Christingles. All the children at Samares School saw the giant Christingle in assemblies and the firework candle didn't set off the smoke alarm which was a relief, two classes at Samares and a class from St Clement enjoyed making Christingles. The R.E. GCSE class from Le Rocquier spent Friday afternoon in St Clement - as usual the tower visit was popular.

Our first ever 'early Christingle' was quieter than the Christmas Eve ones but enough came to give it atmosphere and with the St. Clement helpers joining in, plus Bertie the sheep(dog) we managed to create a lovely nativity scene. The choir and Graham were greatly appreciated in the evening Carol service. Do come and see the beautifully decorated churches.

On Sunday 22nd the 10.30am will be quieter with space and prayers to remember those we have lost and used to spend Christmas with. Then hopefully the sheep will have given birth to baby lambs to visit the pen under the yew tree as we begin to hold our seven services.

2/4/6pm Christingles carols and nativity at St. Clement and a 5pm Carols and Christingles at St. Nicholas with a 'Midnight Communion' starting at 11pm

9am Christmas Day communion and carols at St Nicholas finishes with a restorative sherry - wonderful for tired vocal chords - and the morning ends with the 10.30am Christmas Day family Service and mulled wine. On the final Sunday of the year there will be a 9am communion at St. Nicholas and a lay led service at St. Clement.

From Sunday 5th of January we will be back to normal with communions at 9am St. Nicholas and 10.30am St. Clement. and the office will reopen and letters resume.

Thank you to everyone involved in our Christmas celebrations.

We hope you have a happy and healthy Christmas,

David, Tracy and Martin



**People, look east to see at last  
hopes fulfilled from ages past:  
now in the promise of the morning,  
see, a brighter day is dawning,  
rich with the visions long foretold,  
prophets' dreams from days of old.**

**God reaffirms the gracious call:  
words of welcome meant for all;  
comfort enough for all our sorrows;  
justice shaping new tomorrows.  
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,  
freed to praise and serve the Lord.**

**Now, with the coming of the light,  
darkest fears are put to flight;  
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,  
blown aside by hope's appearing.  
Jesus, the Light of all our days,  
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.**

**Born of our race, a child so small-  
hail the promised Lord of all!  
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,  
he shall rule God's new creation.  
Lift up your eyes, and look again:  
see, he comes in power to reign!**

**Lighting the Advent Candle:** In this season of advent, we watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness: selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression, shall be no more.

**Lord, by your presence, light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness.**

**Light up the present that we might live it with love.**

**Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.**

**As we watch and wait and pray, may we always be ready to encounter the Lord who is always with us. Amen.**

***The fourth candle is lit*** . We light this candle to remember the Virgin Mary and all who say 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting the sorrow and joy of an unknown future.

**O God, as we wait for your promise, give us light, give us hope.**

**Call to worship**

The Lord be with you. **and also with you**

Our help is in the name of the Lord **who made heaven and earth.**

**Call to confession**

**If we say we have no sin** we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us

In a dark and disfigured world **we have not held out the light of life**

In a hungry and despairing world **we have failed to share our bread**

In a cold and loveless world **we have kept the love of God to ourselves**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to your truth, strengthen us to do your will and give us the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Bible reading**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord**

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!

And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant

Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors.'

**Luke 1:39-55**

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Gradual hymn**

**Ye servants of the Lord,  
each in his office wait,  
observant of his heavenly word,  
and watchful at his gate.**

**Let all your lamps be bright,  
and trim the golden flame;  
gird up your loins as in his sight,  
for awful is his name.**

**Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,  
and while we speak, he's near;  
mark the first signal of his hand,  
and ready all appear.**

**O happy servant he  
in such a posture found!  
he shall his Lord with rapture see,  
and be with honour crowned.**

**Christ shall the banquet spread  
with his own royal hand,  
and raise that faithful servant's head  
amid the angelic band.**

**Intercessions:** The prayers recognise that not all feelings at Christmas are happy ones ...  
Therefore we pray:

For people living in places of violence, whether war or conflict, or in relationships that are abusive  
...

For people who are sad ... frustrated ... angry at life ...

For people who feel forgotten and go days without having a proper conversation ...

For people remembering loved ones and happier times ...

And we hold before God our families and friends and all who need to know God's healing touch,  
remembering that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

We remember those we know who are at peace now, and that God knows the pain we feel without them. May all who grieve know the peace and joy of God at home in their hearts.

Bless us as we trust that you know our needs, and hear our every thought and prayer.

**The Peace**

May Christ, the king of love, bind us together with a bond that cannot be broken: the bond of peace. The peace of the Lord be with you. **and also with you.**

**All for Jesus, all for Jesus,  
this our song shall ever be;  
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,  
if we have not hope in thee.**

**All for Jesus, thou wilt give us  
strength to serve thee, hour by hour;  
none can move us from thy presence  
while we trust thy love and power.**

**All for Jesus, at thine altar  
thou wilt give us sweet content;  
there, dear Lord, we shall receive thee  
in the solemn sacrament.**

**All for Jesus, thou hast loved us;  
all for Jesus, thou hast died;  
all for Jesus, thou art with us;  
all for Jesus crucified.**

**All for Jesus, all for Jesus,  
this the church's song must be,  
till, at last, we all are gathered  
one in love and one in thee.**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. Amen.

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks,

and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with Clement all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen**

### **We break this bread to share in the body of Christ**

Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.

Jesus is the lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

**Prayer after Communion:** Father in heaven, whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace, an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem: grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage that, fed with the living bread of heaven and united in the body of your Son, we may be the temple of your presence, the place of your glory on earth, and a sign of your peace in the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own, your holy people,**

**light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.***

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in your church gathered today.***

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

### **Blessing**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

### **Midnight Communion**

#### **Welcome to St Clement Church Holy Communion for Christmas Eve 2024**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not

The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

*We remain standing* Minister: The Lord be with you! All: And also with you.

All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

All say the Gloria

Glory to God in the highest And peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy upon us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Please sit** Minister: Eternal God who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth to see the radiance of your heavenly glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The First Reading is taken from Acts, Chapter thirteen, beginning to read at the twentyfourth verse (Acts 24-26)

Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

"Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child;  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.



Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia:  
Christ, the Saviour is born,  
Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Remain Standing* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**All: Glory to you O Lord**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **(John 1 1-14)**  
**Glory to you O Lord**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth

This is the Gospel of the Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid winter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God almighty,

**Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay:  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.**

**Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air  
But only his mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the beloved  
With a kiss.**

**What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part  
Yet what I can I give him  
Give my heart.**

**Prayers of INTERCESSION:** Let us kneel or sit for prayer  
Each prayer ends: Lord in your mercy  
**All respond: Hear our prayer**

### **The Confession**

Minister: Christ the Light of the World has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins. Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned.

**All: Forgive and heal us**

Minister: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned. **All: Forgive and heal us.**

Minister; Jesus was born in poverty forgive us our greed We have sinned.

**All: Forgive and heal us.**

Minister: The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our lack of vision. We have sinned. **All: Forgive and heal us.**

Minister: The wise men followed the star. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned. **All: Forgive and heal us**

Priest: Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**All: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

*Please stand for the PEACE*

Priest: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and his name is called Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace *with a handshake and the words "Peace be with you"*

**May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

**CA 508** O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy Birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas Angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel

*We remain standing until the Lord's Prayer*

Yours, Lord is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All: All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

The Lord be with you **All: and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. And now we give you thanks because a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom. When we turned away you did not reject us, but come to meet us in your Son.

**All: You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**All: He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and give it to them saying Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**All: Father, we do this in remembrance of him, his body is the bread of life**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drinks this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All: As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven.

**All: Holy holy holy Lord God of power and might Heaven and earth are full of your glory Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Lord's Prayer: All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Priest: Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**All are invited to come to the altar rail to receive Communion or a blessing. .**

Prayer after Communion: **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

**CA 479** O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of Angels.

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created **CHORUS**

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
'Glory to God  
In the highest'. **CHORUS**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing. **CHORUS**

### **The Blessing**

May the joy of the angels, The eagerness of the shepherds, The worship of the wise men, The obedience of Joseph and Mary And the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas.

And the blessing of God Almighty The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Be upon you and your homes now and forever more. **Amen**