



Wesley Methodist Church Weeke

Wesley Somborne Link

One Church on two sites

19th December 2025



King's Somborne Methodist Church

At the Community Carols I spoke of the delight to the local people of the Christmas lights being turned on in Bethlehem for the first time in three years. Most prominently, at the centre of Manger Square, stands an enormous Christmas Tree – if you are on-line, it is well worth looking up. Impressive as it is, I had to ask myself, is it not a little incongruous, the symbol of a northern European evergreen tree in the middle of Palestine? (Although it is now a 12m artificial tree.)

You can now find Christmas Trees right across the world but, as you may already know, the modern Christmas Tree can be traced back to Germany. The tradition is very old and possibly dates back as far as pre-Christian times when trees themselves were worshipped. This tradition travelled to America with German immigrants as early as the 17th century and, by the 18th century, it had been firmly adopted by the Lutheran Church in Germany as a symbol of Christmas. By the early 19th century, it had spread to England although it was not until later in that century that it became widespread under the influence of Prince Albert. At some point, certainly by the 1930s, the Christmas Tree found its way into the celebrations in Bethlehem where Christmas had begun over 1900 years before. I wonder how the locals felt about it at the time. It is interesting to think that what began there as a British colonial imposition has now become so central to their celebrations.

The significance perhaps lies in what the tree both is and is not. Bethlehem will see Christmas celebrated on three different dates by different groups of Christian Churches but they all share the one tree. No individual group, Christian or otherwise, owns the symbolic nature of the Christmas Tree in Manger Square. It stands as a symbol of hope and unity for all the people in Bethlehem, both residents and visitors but this symbol does not end in Bethlehem. By its history, every Christmas Tree is symbolically linked through that ancient tradition. Through this link every Christmas Tree is a sign of hope and unity for the whole world. Every Christmas tree serves to remind us that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son that through him, everyone throughout the world could become one in him and one with each other love and in hope.

Blessings

Peter



On Sunday 21st December at 10.30am, the Nativity Service will be led by Revd Peter Rayson
This service will not be live streamed.

On Thursday 25th December at 9.30am the Christmas Day Service will be led by Revd Peter Rayson
This service will be live streamed, the link to which can be found via the Wesley Website at:
www.wesleychurch.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary:

19th December: Friday Fun Club (5.00-6.30pm)

19th December: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)

21st December: Nativity Service led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 10.30am

21st December: Carols led by Mrs Elizabeth Britton at King's Somborne 10.30am

21st December: Messy Church at King's Somborne (3.00-5.00pm)

25th December: Service led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 9.30am

28th December: No Service at Wesley

28th December: Service at United Church Winchester led by Revd Dr Howard Mellor 10.30am

28th December: Service at King's Somborne led by the LA Team 10.30am

4th January 2026: Covenant Service led by Revd Peter Rayson at Wesley 10.30am

4th January 2026: Service led by Mr Mike Bowstead at King's Somborne 10.30am

8th January 2026: Together Thursday 2.30—4.30pm

11th January 2026: Service led by Mr Tom Belshaw and Mr Andrew La Follette at Wesley 10.30am

11th January 2026: Service led by Mr Stewart MacLachlan at King's Somborne 10.30am

15th January 2026: Mini-Marvels (9.00—11.00am)

16th January 2026: Friday Fun Club (5.00-6.30pm)

16th January 2026: Feel Good Friday (7.00-9.00pm)

18th January 2026: Pulpit Exchange at Wesley at 10.30am

18th January 2026: Messy Church at King's Somborne (3.00-5.00pm)

Wesley getting in the Christmas Spirit.....



A very sociable evening occurred at the Golden Lion on Tuesday, when many of the Wesley Family were able to enjoy a lovely festive meal and share in a special fellowship together. Huge thanks to Jan and Heather who made this all possible!



The next edition of the WSL will be on Friday 9th January 2026, we will need any items for inclusion to be sent to Paul and Brenda, by Wednesday 7th January, 2026.

Email: brenda.yarrien@btinternet.com or by phone on 01794389153.

Paul and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and blessings for a peaceful New Year.



A very blessed Christmas and New Year to all our friends at
King's Somborne Methodist Church

United Church Winchester

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

4pm

Light Afternoon Tea

from 3pm

All Welcome



Christmas 2025

This year again you can pin
ONE Christmas Card for
all your friends at Wesley.

Then offer a donation to

BEACON

Night Shelter



Remember to collect you
stamps in aid of Naomi House



Eco Tips for Christmas



DON'T TRY TO DO
EVERYTHING -
PRIORITIZE



LISTEN TO YOUR BODY,
EMOTIONS & ENERGY



PICK ONE PROJECT
TO COMPLETE, LET
THE REST BE FOR
2026

End of Year Tips For PROTECTING YOUR WELLNESS



IDENTIFY WHAT YOU
WANT TO RELEASE &
NOT CARRY INTO THE
NEW YEAR



AVOID EXTREMES!



ADD MORE THINGS
THAT RESTORE YOUR
ENERGY

@DRRACHELDEW

The Epworth Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday 9th December, the Epworth Lunch group enjoyed a three course Christmas meal! It was a lovely atmosphere and everybody enjoyed themselves.



The diners were challenged with two Christmas quizzes, followed by a short Christmas story and a time of Carol singing. Everybody left with a goodie bag each and a smile on their faces!! Thanks to an amazing team of helpers, the lunch was a great success!

The Laughs and Crafts Group

This Autumn, Marion and I decided to reintroduce our Laughs and Crafts Group which we had first started about 10 years ago. When we started it, the group was held in the Epworth Hall in an evening, once a month. The idea was for people to bring along their own craft work and enjoy an evening of chatting while crafting! Although it proved successful for a while, it gradually became less supported, probably due to being an evening activity. We are now trying again, using the same idea, the same venue but held in an afternoon, the second Wednesday of the month. So far, it is well supported, with people bringing along their knitting, sewing, crocheting and even making scarves on small hand held looms. Also available is a jigsaw puzzle for anyone who doesn't do craft work but would like an afternoon of companionship, chat and laughter.

Marion and Marilyn



UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS IN WINCHESTER



For more information on how to get **tickets** please visit:

[winchester.gov.uk/
mayor-of-winchester](https://winchester.gov.uk/mayor-of-winchester)

The event will take place on

Friday 19 December

United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester

6.30pm

Tickets: £20pp

The event includes Festive Concert, Traditional Ukrainian instruments and captivating dances, Snacks and traditional Ukrainian Christmas dishes and lots more.



WUCA

Winchester Ukrainian
Cultural Association



THE MAYOR OF
WINCHESTER EVENT

THE MAYOR OF WINCHESTER'S
SUPPORTED CHARITIES 2025 - 2026



A Christmas prayer

Loving God, this Christmas season we remember the wondrous gift of your transforming love, born among us in humility and hope.

Unite our hearts across our differences, that we may become one in spirit and purpose.

Kindle in us a passion for justice, that all might live in dignity, peace, and joy. Help us restore hope and honour the worth of every neighbour.

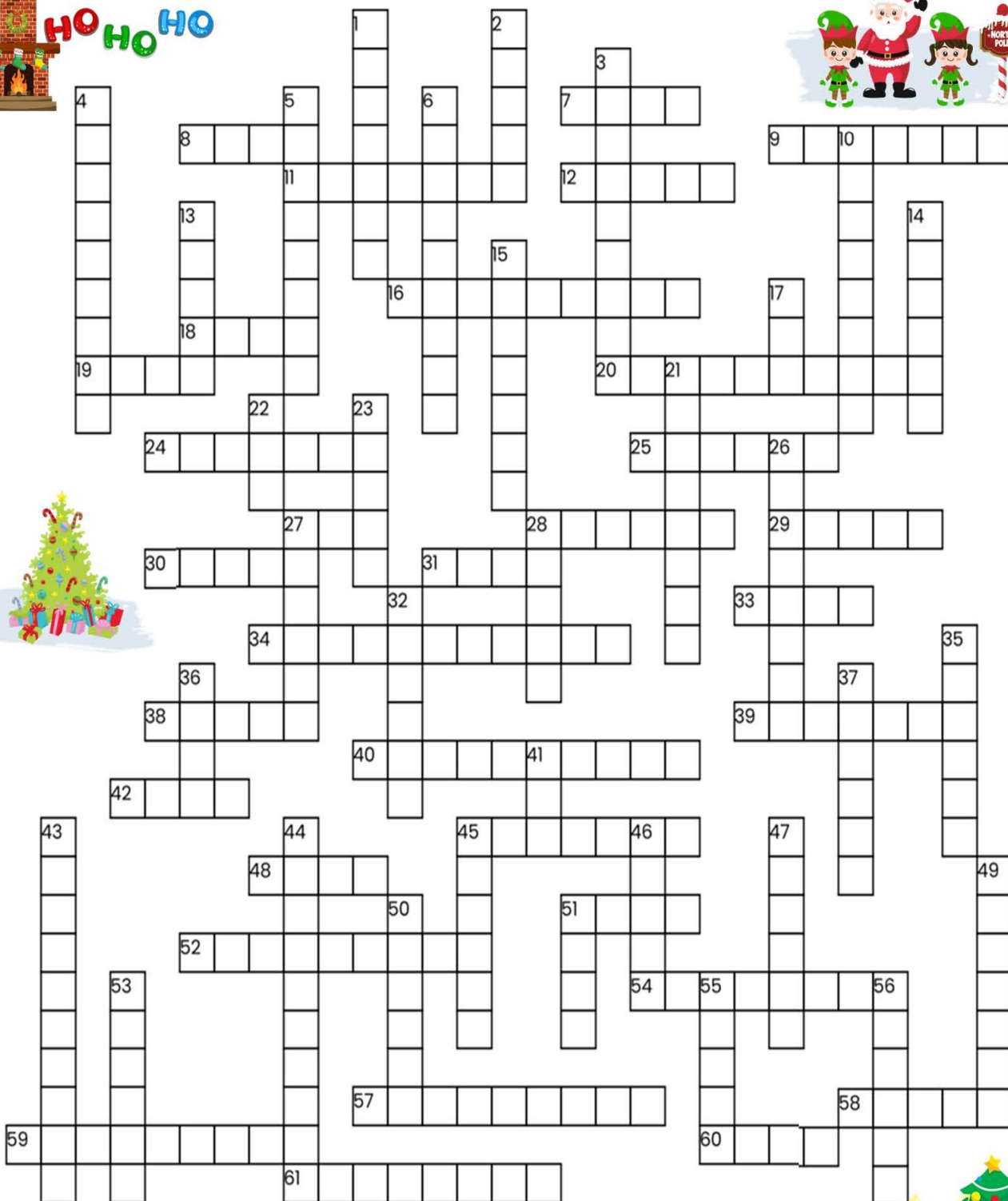
As we receive the light of Christ, teach us to work together to gratefully receive the gifts of each other's traditions and to generously share your love and joy with the world. Amen.



cte.org.uk



Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

7. Cover presents with paper
8. Hand out gifts
9. Santa's lead reindeer

WE WISH YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS

DOWN

1. Children enjoying new toys
2. Merry and happy disposition
3. Holiday bread with dried fruit



- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. Santa's entrance | 4. Place to hang stockings |
| 12. See friends at the holidays | 5. Deck the halls |
| 16. Take part in joyful activity | 6. Christmas tree decorations |
| 18. Check it twice | 10. Final month of the year |
| 19. Comfortable and warm | 13. Evergreen shrub with red berries |
| 20. Enthusiasm at Christmastime | 14. Bulbs strung on tree |
| 24. Strings of shiny tinsel | 15. Celebratory atmosphere |
| 25. Journey for Christmas visit | 17. Short for evening |
| 27. Conifer tree | 21. Door to door singing |
| 28. Christmas songs | 22. Helpful mythical being |
| 29. Mailed Christmas greetings | 23. Festoon for Christmas |
| 30. Christmas gift giver | 26. Trade gifts |
| 31. Child's Christmastime hope | 27. Blood and chosen relatives |
| 33. Santa's bag for presents | 28. Jolly mood |
| 34. Ginger flavored cookies | 32. Wish list sent to Santa |
| 38. Cheerful and happy | 35. Decorative circle of greens |
| 39. Trust in a belief | 36. Secretly unwrap a gift |
| 40. Candy cane flavor | 37. Sound of sleigh bells |
| 42. Make cookies | 41. Color of Santa's jacket |
| 45. Good wish greetings | 43. Decorative Christmas plant |
| 48. Christmas season | 44. Holiday decor for cracking nuts |
| 51. Evergreen decorated for Christmas | 45. Thin metallic streamer decorations |
| 52. Sock shaped gift holders | 46. Color of evergreen tree |
| 54. Historical model for Santa | 47. Egg and nutmeg drink |
| 57. Small, colorful cookie decorations | 49. Baked gingerbread men |
| 58. Christmas presents | 50. Rip off wrapping paper |
| 59. Plant to kiss under | 51. Objects to play with |
| 60. Buy Christmas presents | 53. Christmas visitors |
| 61. Pulls Santa's sleigh | 55. Santa's last name |
| | 56. Santa's sled |



Birth of Jesus Foretold Word Search



Read the story below. Find and circle the words that are underlined. The words can appear in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards.

Birth of Jesus Foretold - Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true."

"I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

W	P	C	T	J	E	S	L	V	D	P	H	T	N	D
G	V	U	W	C	O	U	V	E	I	H	I	D	E	D
A	O	M	M	N	T	S	R	B	G	R	E	A	T	T
X	D	D	O	G	R	E	E	T	I	N	G	V	V	T
I	T	T	D	B	W	J	G	P	A	T	A	I	S	M
G	H	V	G	S	R	A	S	Z	H	L	L	D	N	T
R	C	M	N	B	U	Y	A	L	C	V	I	K	J	T
M	R	A	I	G	L	R	C	R	L	M	L	S	K	N
J	B	R	K	O	E	M	E	H	E	A	E	B	B	K
L	T	Y	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E	N	L	J
H	N	Y	H	N	C	O	V	C	R	L	K	A	E	D
A	F	R	H	P	O	W	E	R	B	P	D	O	S	S
F	C	R	B	J	B	P	O	D	A	A	Z	R	S	T
D	Q	G	S	Z	S	A	D	E	G	A	G	N	E	P
G	Z	K	N	M	H	R	I	N	G	E	A	B	D	N



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The Birth of Jesus Word Search



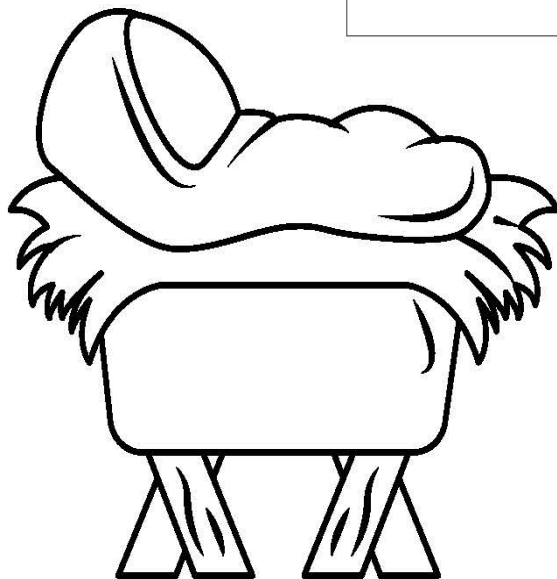
Read the story below. Find and circle the words that are underlined. The words can appear in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards.

The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-7

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

Q	F	R	M	V	H	E	A	D	M	G	J	H	M	T
B	U	K	O	O	J	X	F	E	E	A	Z	E	D	S
U	I	I	O	U	N	P	H	B	E	T	V	S	E	W
X	B	R	R	A	S	E	A	C	E	E	S	D	C	E
J	E	O	T	I	L	C	J	E	R	U	R	I	A	D
B	Y	N	Y	H	N	T	L	Y	T	G	Y	V	L	U
N	B	R	T	X	V	I	O	S	B	J	E	A	P	R
A	A	E	C	N	L	N	U	P	O	R	W	D	T	X
M	B	V	L	A	E	G	D	S	R	H	Q	N	Z	S
O	I	O	G	Z	U	A	E	D	U	J	E	F	G	R
R	E	G	N	A	M	P	P	W	G	X	M	G	Y	P
E	G	F	F	R	H	I	P	X	V	A	L	D	V	G
F	T	N	R	E	N	G	A	G	E	D	P	X	I	P
Z	P	C	C	T	L	M	R	O	L	P	B	F	S	F
V	F	A	N	H	A	T	W	J	X	I	M	J	R	C



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CHRISTMAS QUIZ

General Knowledge



1. What is the first name of Scrooge in the novel A Christmas Carol?
2. How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish?
.....
3. What is the name of Macaulay Culkin's character in Home Alone?
4. What colour are the berries on mistletoe?
5. 26th December is also known as which saint's day?
.....
6. On the seventh day of Christmas, what does my true love give to me?
7. Which country gives Britain a Christmas tree each year as a thank you for support during World War II?
.....
8. If you have your birthday on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?
9. Name 4 of Santa's 8 original reindeer.
.....
10. What gifts were given by the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus?
.....





CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Food & Drink Round



1. What name is given to mini sausages wrapped in bacon?
.....
2. Which beverage company made the concept of Santa Claus popular worldwide?.....
3. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?
.....
4. Name the sweet bread loaf which is traditionally eaten during Christmastime in Italy?.....
5. Which fast food brand is really popular in Japan at Christmas?
.....
6. Which milk-based drink is popular at Christmas?.....
7. What kind of pudding is referred to in the carol We Wish You a Merry Christmas?.....
8. What do they call mulled wine in Germany?
.....
9. In Belgium they eat a special bread called cougnou at Christmas. Who is it baked in the shape of?.....
10. According to the Christmas song, what type of tree was the partridge sitting in?.....



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

The True Story

Answer each question with one word. Use the word bank to help you

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| _____ Where was Jesus born? | A. Gold |
| _____ Who was Jesus' mother? | B. Egypt |
| _____ Who was Jesus' earthly father? | C. Glory |
| _____ Who told Mary about Jesus? | D. Shepherds |
| _____ Where did Mary and Joseph travel? | E. Donkey |
| _____ What did Mary lay Jesus in? | F. Simeon |
| _____ Who visited baby Jesus first? | G. Manger |
| _____ What guided the wise men? | H. Luke |
| _____ Name one gift the wise men gave. | I. Mary |
| _____ Which king wanted to kill Jesus? | J. Bethlehem |
| _____ Where did the family escape? | K. Joseph |
| _____ Who sang at Jesus' birth? | L. Gabriel |
| _____ What city was Joseph from? | M. Star |
| _____ What animal carried Mary? | N. Nazareth |
| _____ Who praised God at the temple? | O. Angels |
| _____ Who ordered the census? | P. Emmanuel |
| _____ What did the shepherds hear? | Q. God |
| _____ Who was called "Emmanuel"? | R. Caesar |
| _____ What does "Emmanuel" mean? | S. Herod |
| _____ Who wrote about Jesus' birth? | T. Jesus |