

December 2024 – January 2025 Newsletter

St Alban's going for Bronze in 2024

Exciting news re our Bronze Award bid, I have sent off our application and await the result – please pray for a positive outcome.

Here are some of the cuter creatures considered to be the UK's most endangered animals ----- Countryfile 2024



The **Scottish wildcat** is the only feline species native to the British Isles, the wildcat was once widespread, but is now restricted to northern Scotland where as few as 100 may remain

The **Red squirrel** has been in decline since the early 20th century and has dwindled to an estimated population of only 140,000. Only commonly found in the far north of England and Scotland.



The **Hazel Dormouse** has a great fondness for sleep, the hazel dormouse spends half of the year in hibernation. They are small, the body measuring 75mm with a 65mm tail, and have golden-brown fur with large, round black eyes.

Once a familiar summer sound, the 'purr' of the **Turtle Dove** is now rarely heard in Britain. In fact, in 2022 a survey suggested they were the fastest declining species in the UK. They have declined by 99% in Britain since 1960, due in part to widespread hunting across the Mediterranean as they migrate from Africa.



Lets hope their numbers increase and they are no longer endangered.

Christmas is a time that we think of our loved ones, those who are here with us on Earth and those who are no longer with us.

I found this poem on the internet by Wanda Bencke – I hope it brings comfort to you.

[I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year](#)

I see the countless Christmas trees. Around the world below,
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear.
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs. That people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare, with the Christmas choir up here.
For I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring.
For it is beyond description, to hear an angel sing.

I can't tell you of the splendour, or the peace here in this place.
Can you just imagine Christmas, with our Savior, face to face?
I'll ask Him to light your spirit, as I tell Him of your love;
So then pray for one another, as you lift your eyes above.

Please let your heart be joyful, and let your spirit sing.
For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven, and I'm walking with the King!

I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart.
But I'm not so far away, we really aren't apart.
So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory of my undying love.
After all "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings, or the love He has for you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember that I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
- try to be Eco Friendly this festive season