# Parish Rews Kington, Huntington & Titley December 2020



## SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

email: m	ike@sargeantsbros.com	Mill Street, Kington
Tel :	01544 230481	Herefordshire
		HR5 3AL

HR5 3AL HEREFORD 467 via Lyonshall 462 via Eardisley

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Also available on www.sargeantsbros.com

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ASSISTANT CU Rev Linda MacDe		5 Gravel F Email: lin	01544 239395		
Rev Denis Parry Rev Tony Jardine Rev Paul Bucking	ham	33 Mill Sti 9 Park Gre The Cotta	01544 230550 01544 239160 01544 231357		
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Greenfield Farm, Huntington, Kington HR5 3PZOld RadnorMr Michael Jones01544 370259Weythel Farm, Old Radnor, Presteigne LD8 2RR<br/>Mrs Rosemary Watkins01544 230174Dunfield Bungalow, Stanner Rd, Kington HR5 3NN01544 230174KinnertonMrs Ruth Jones:<br/>Upper House, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE01547 560207<br/>01547 560319<br/>Church House, Kinnerton, Presteigne LD8 2PE

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#### St. Mary's, Kington PCC is a registered charity and its number is 1185453

## Message from the editor

Welcome to the last edition of the Parish News for this strangest of all years. Let's hope that we can start 2021 in a better place than we seem to be at the time that I am writing this in mid November. The January edition will be printed and distributed just before Christmas.

I'm very grateful to the people who have sent me in interesting items for this edition, but I would really welcome some more accounts from other people as well. The sort of topics that I would like to see are accounts of life in Kington and the surrounding villages in the past - either personal accounts or items of historical interest.

If you want anything included in the January magazine, I need to receive it by 15th December, but ideally by the 12th so that it can be printed and distributed before Christmas. My contact details are at the bottom of page 3 - I'd love to hear from you.

Finally, I wish every one of our readers a very Happy Christmas and good health over the Christmas season and on into the new year. *Freda (Editor)* 



#### Letter from the Bishop

Most human beings have a natural sense of justice. We don't think it right that people can commit crime and get away with it. It was important at the end of WWII that those guilty of war crimes were seen to be punished. The Nuremberg trials did not accept excuses that they were only obeying orders. It was essential that those accused accepted personal responsibility and its consequences.

In the story of the Garden of Eden in the first book of the Bible, one of the characteristics of sin was evading responsibility. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and then they ran and hid when God showed up. The story is a powerful one. It identifies a defining human characteristic. When we are bang to rights, we all tend to try to excuse and blame someone else for our misdoings.

Advent is for Christians a season where we seek to reflect on our own responsibility and accountability before God. For many people, being accountable in this way sits uncomfortably with popular myths about what God is really like. We are comfortable with a cosmic grandfather or Father Christmas type figure, whom we expect to keep the good times rolling. However, we get cross if he doesn't do his job properly and things like COVID happen, or heaven forfend, he expects something of us.

Religion can be terribly abused if people's distorted view of God leads them to think they can do his job of judgement for him. ISIS is a case in point. However, faith can be a powerful corrective if we recognise our accountability. Christians sum it up in the creed that says, "one day he will return to judge the living and the dead". To have our inner secrets exposed in this way would be a frightening thing. But it's this bad news that led Christians to describe the message of Jesus as such very good news. There is judgement, but with Jesus there is also forgiveness. Advent anticipates the former, but prepares us for Christmas when we rejoice in the gift that sets us freeis judgement, but with Jesus there is also forgiveness. Advent anticipates the former, but prepares us for Christmas when we rejoice in the gift that sets us free.

#### View from the Vicarage

Dear Friends

#### In the bleak midwinter?



As I write this the country is enduring a spell of unseasonably warm weather which is entirely confusing many of the spring flowers in the garden. The prospect,

that the winter of 2020/21 will be meteorologically a long hard "bleak" winter seems rather unlikely to say the least.

Irrespective of what the meteorologists tell us about the weather that we will/will not endure over the next few months, I think that for a great many people this will feel a very bleak midwinter indeed. As the coronavirus still rages leaving behind it a tale of misery and destruction many of the things which give light and colour to the season will be abandoned and potentially forbidden as this extraordinary and unprecedented year reaches its equally unpredictable finale.

Too many homes and families across our community, our country and indeed our world will be minus loved family members who've either succumbed to covid-19 or indeed other conditions. The empty space at the table for them will inevitably diminish the sparkle and joy of Christmas.

Other families will also be celebrating Christmas apart from loved ones because of regulations designed to reduce contact between different households. For them too, Christmas 2020 will feel decidedly different.

We must also not forget to mention those individuals and families whose income has reduced dramatically during the course of this tumultuous year.

For all of these and for so many others this will probably seem an extremely bleak Christmas indeed denuded of many of the elements of the celebration which make it feel like a glittering jewel among the dark months of winter.

But, all of that, of course is only part of the story. Let's return to the meaning at the heart of Christmas the precious golden truth which underpins and undergirds all of the rest. The story told in a multitude of nativity plays from St. Francis of Assisi until 2020. The birth of a child ostracized from the rest of society, born in obscurity raised as a nonentity but who went on to change the world.

If we peer through the tinsel and the baubles, if we forget about turkey and mince pies, we find that at the heart of Christmas is domestic but also a cosmic story; a very human story but also an entirely transcendent and eternal one.

However, our Christmas festivities may be curtailed or constrained this year the eternal truth at the heart of Christmas remains undiminished and undimmed that as John Betjeman put it: *"God became man in Palestine and lives today in bread and wine".* The story of the birth of a child, the story which all of the carols and all of the readings celebrate. The birth of someone whether you accept his divinity or not changed the lives of humanity more profoundly than anyone else in human history.

Blessings

+Richard

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Let's use Christmas 2020 to remind ourselves of the universal truths of Christmas; to rejoice in what we can do rather than grieving for what we can't. The bleak mid winter of that carol was transformed by the glow of the Christ child and if we place our trust in him and as individuals and as a country follow his teaching and behave as he taught and exemplified then not just the winter but all of our lives will feel considerably less bleak, coronavirus not withstanding.

Jean joins with me to wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and God's most abundant blessings throughout 2021.

Ben



#### Kington Parishes Readings List for Advent and Christmas 2020

29th November Advent 1 Isaiah 64: 1-9 Psalm 80: 1-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-end 6th December Advent 2 Isaiah 40: 1-11 Psalm 85: 8-end 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8 13th December Advent 3 Isaiah 64: 1-4. 8-end Psalm 126 1 Thess. 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28 20th December Advent 4 Magnificat Romans 16: 25-end Luke 1:26-38 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 24th December Christmas Eve Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 9.30pm: Old Radnor 11.30pm: Kington 25th December Christmas Dav Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

27th December St.Stephen (trans) 2 Chron. 24:20-22

Psalm 119: 161-168 Acts 7: 51-end Matthew 10: 17-22

John 1:1-14

### Dear Friends

#### Advent and Christmas Services

As you read the pages of this magazine you would naturally expect to read about arrangements for special services during Advent and Christmas.

Unfortunately as I write this we have simply no way of knowing what form those services will take because as yet we have no knowledge of what Governments in London, Cardiff and beyond will be prepared to permit. Whether singing will be permitted inside or outside. Across our five churches we are working to establish very visual Christmas symbols outside of our church buildings and I'm deeply grateful to everyone who's been working so hard to bring that to fruition; I'm really excited about all of them.

Please do keep an eye out for our pew sheets, posters, website and social media feeds for up to date information. It will be updated as soon as we have it. Please note that services from St. Mary's, Kington will continue to be livestreamed.

Ben

#### Memory Tree Kington Churchyard

One of our new highlights for Christmas 2020 will be decorated Christmas trees in some of our churchvards.

The Christmas tree in Kington will be a memory tree. The decorations on the tree will be a series of handmade wooden stars each of which can have the name and/or a short message in memory of a loved one. This can be for somebody living who you would normally meet up with at Christmas but won't be able to this year.

It could, of course, equally be a memento for the departed.

The stars will cost £2.50 each and can be obtained from :

Ann Edwards: 230271

The Vicarage: 230525

230019 Gill Pennell:

They will also be available in Kington Church following Sunday Services once the English lockdown concludes. The money raised once expenses have been deducted will be divided between St. Michael's Hospice and St. Mary's Church. Kington.

The tree will be illuminated and dedicated on 13th December at 4.00pm as part of an outdoor carol service (if that's permitted of course!!)



## From the Registers

Regular readers of the Parish News and indeed it's temporary stand-in may have been wondering why there have been no "From the Registers" for so long. As you can imagine all of the weddings previously booked to take place this year have all been moved to 2021. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas do please remember the families who have had to mourn the death of loved ones in the extraordinary circumstances of these past months and especially:

Ronald James "Ron" Edwards who died on 29th February and his wife Janet Ethel Edwards who died on 18th September Paul Victor Stadie who died on 3rd April Margaret Alice Evans who died on 16th April Matthew Sharp who died on 3rd May Edith Williams who died on 5th May Kathleen Jean Rouse who died on 16th May Malcolm James Richmond Edwards who died on 24th May Sheila Valerie Morris-Jones who died on 30th May Diana Mary Johnstone who died on 2nd June and her daughter Carol Judith Baillie Forbes who died on 2nd October Anthony Michael Dawson who died on 7th June Marie Walker who died on 5th June Dorothy Gillian "Gill" Williams who died on 16th June Robert Basil Edward "Bob" Wozencraft who died on 29th June Aubrev Thomas Price who died on 14th August Geinor Wyn Hussey who died on 23rd August Joanne Audrey Russam who died on 24th September Rosemary June Duggan who died on 2nd October Eileen Mary "Molly" Davies who died on 7th October Gillian Ann "Gill" Jones who died on 18th October Derrick Layton Morris who died on 5th November



May their families and friends know the love and peace of God the light in the darkness.

May they and all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

#### **Holy Baptism**

Amidst the grief and uncertainty of this year it was a particular joy to welcome in the Lord's family Emily Grace de Jager who was baptized at St. Thomas a Becket, Huntington on Sunday 23rd August.

We send our love and prayers to Emily, her parents Wilhèm and Jane de Jager.

#### St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

We are most grateful to those who have been on a rota over past weeks helping to sanitise the Church at the end of each day. Your willingness to do this has been much appreciated.

Christmas is fast approaching and this year it is going to be somewhat of a challenge in so many ways. A challenge is good for us for it makes us discoverways in which we can maintain the real truth and



meaning but in different ways. On the pages of the Parish News the Rev Ben will put before us how we hope and plan to celebrate Christmas at St. Mary's in 2020. The true meaning of the Festival will, of course, be revealed and seen perhaps by a wider audience than usual which would be great. We shall miss the magnificent Tree of Light in the chancel, but, who

knows, a hitherto unseen tree may spring up somewhere else from where it can act as a guiding light.

As regulations stand at present, some of our celebrations will have to take place outside so, as I hinted in the November Parish News, boots, mufflers, woolly hats, thermals, gloves will be the order of the events and we need to order fine, starry evenings!

St. Mary's events are usually happy occasions and I feel sure that together we can make Christmas 2020 another special time even in these strange, uncertain days.

Rodney joins me in wishing you all a peaceful, safe,happy Christmas.Ann & Rodney

#### THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

If you have a Children's Society Collection Box then please can you return it as soon as possible to St. Mary's for counting.

Mrs Elaine Morgan has been the secretary for this charity on behalf of St. Mary's for over twenty years and feels that the time has come for her to hand this role to someone else. Is anyone willing to do this. From what Elaine has told me it does not sound too onerous a job. Currently there are seven or eight boxes in circulation. These have to be collected in during November then handed to our Treasurer who does the counting and despatch of money to the Society. The secretary then returns the boxes to the supporter in January. If you feel you could take this on please contact me to enable us to continue to support the Society's work on 01544 230 271.

Elaine has asked me to thank all who have supported her over the years. St. Mary's says a very big thank you to Elaine for so many years of support so quietly carried out and sends her all good wishes.

I hope that I can look forward to hearing from a future secretary soon.

Ann Edwards

#### From the Belfry

In May, 1947, my father, Tom, (after many years of badgering), decided, at 10 years old, that I was strong and big enough, to learn to ring the bells at St Mary's Church, Kington. My tutor was the tower captain, Trevor Jones, a coachbuilder and wheelwright by trade, whose premises were at Headbrook, (where the car sales is now). Trevor had followed his father as tower captain.

On 1st January 1950, I became a member of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers. In those days, unlike now, you had to be able to ring 120 different changes before getting the Certificate. I have been a member of the Guild now for over 70 years.

During my time in the tower, four members of the Kington clergy have been ringers. Curates, Hugh Sergeant and Richard Smith, and Vicars, David Leaning and Neil Weston.

In my early days we rang for morning and evening services, and at 6.00pm we would meet in the Church Porch, and chat to the Verger, Fred Stanley, and later Arthur Bradley, until the Vicar arrived. He would up-date us on the weather forecast, before we climbed the steps to the Ringing Chamber.

At Easter and Christmas, we would ring at 6.30am for the 7.00am Communion, go to the service, and then come out to ring for the 8.00am service. Home for breakfast, and then back at 10.30 for the 11.00 service.

In 1979, on the death of my father, Rev. Leaning invited me to take over as Tower Captain, a post I occupied for 35 years, before handing over to the present Captain, John Clayton.

Bellringing is good exercise, and a very social activity, and during my time I have rung at over 250 different churches.

Unfortunately, due to health conditions, I have been unable to climb the Belfry steps for the last few years, but I listen out to see if I can count how many bells are ringing for service. I am pleased to say that between us, my father and I, have been ringing the bells at St.Mary's for over 100 years.

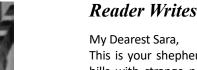
If you are aged between 10 and 80 why not give it a go, and these days there are as many, if not more Ladies ringing than men. I am sure you will enjoy the experience, and John would be delighted to see you. It is not hard work, otherwise, I would not have been doing it for so many years !!

Bryan Giddings

#### A Message of Thanks

I would like to thank Priscilla Scott for her Apple Cake recipe featured in the November magazine. My husband John has turned his hand to baking during lock down and produced three lovely Apple Cakes following Priscilla's recipe. I have to say that it is the most delicious cake I have tasted and is a good way to use our windfall apples.

Carole Hill



This is your shepherd Isaak, writing to you from the Judean hills with strange news! Just two nights ago I was keeping watch when it was cold and silent, and I felt a great joy at the blackness and the brightness, the unreachable mystery of the stars. As I sat by the dying embers, a great light appeared, a shining beyond all shining. The others woke up. An angel appeared before us, and we were struck dumb with wonder. Then the silent night somehow split asunder and heavenly fire and praise came streaming in. This Judean world was suddenly rolled up like a scroll. Miracles broke out and our minds went



wild. The dogs sang, eyes sparkling. Wolves howled far off. Deer came up and stared. The sheep, well they never moved, not a bleat, just a wrinkled muzzle and a twitching ear.

The angel gave us an extraordinary message: "I bring you tidings of great joy that will be for all people" - All people he said! Does that mean Persians and Greeks and Celts and Ethiopians as well? And he went on - "A Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord, and you will find him wrapped up in an ox's manger". Could this really be the long awaited Messiah foretold by the prophets? Didn't God promise we would see a great light, that a child would be born to us, and the government would be on his shoulders? Suddenly the night was filled with a vast choir of angels, and ecstasy filled our hearts.

Somehow God led us to an inn; and in the stable we found the child, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, just as the angel had said. It was still well before dawn but a great commotion had broken out amongst the animals. As usual God's creatures seemed to know something. A cock crowed for all it was worth, an ox lowed, the inn's shaggy dog stood up on its hind legs and yarooed, and a donkey brayed and brayed and brayed. Bright angelic light seemed to settle on the spot; men and beasts alike had caught celestial fire. What more could we do but fall on our poor knees and pay homage, speechless with a dammed up joy? The mother lay by the manger; all was well and very well. All was blessed and overflowing with God's goodness. No props for this drama but the wild excess of the human heart and wisps of straw and angelic light; Immanuel, God with us. So we were first on the scene, we very rough and poor men of the fields more used to sheep and dogs than the mystery of the universe and God's plan to visit us.



The angel told us, and I believe with all my heart, a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the King! The Word has come to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. This is the light that the darkness shall never overcome. This is the King of kings, the ark to lift our lives above the flood, the man to walk for us to the lonely hill. "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to mankind on whom his favour rests." My words have emptied me. We are returning, you and I, to the garden where we belong. Amen, Amen

Robert MacCurrach

#### Church Book Club

Have you thought of joining the church book club? We all read the same book and then meet to chat about two or three chapters once a fortnight on zoom.

The book we are reading at the moment is Borderlands by Mark Brickman. We started it in November. If you want to join us it's not too late. Buy the book and contact me 07791935955 to get on the zoom meeting.

#### Plants for Good in Cutterbach Lane

I have some Sweet William plants for sale. (mid November) We are also looking for any used plant pots or modules for use as we start to plan our fundraising stall for 2021 Thank you to all who supported us this last year. The stall raised over £1000, £700 for St Mary's church and £300 + for the Red Cross Covid Vulnerable Fund.

#### Nativity Stone Painting

If you want to take part in the Kington Nativity Stone painting adventure, please contact Trish 07791935955 or collect a few stones in a bag from Cutterbach Lane. The idea is to enjoy painting or decorating your stones with nativity figures. (There are lots of ideas on Pinterest, google will help you find suggestions or outlines) Then on the week of Christmas distribute your painted stones around the town in fairly visible places. Photograph them if you can. If you find other peoples' stones, take photos of them as well and rehide them.



See how many you can find, post your pictures on Kington chat (FB) and eventually one of them might end up at your house as a memorial to this rather unusual Christmas.

Trish MacCurrach

#### Handbells

Our Kington team of handbell ringers had been practising Christmas carols each week up to the start of this lockdown in preparation for a special service with handbells in St Mary's



church during the Christmas period. However, this has all come to a stop and we don't know if we will be able to hold such a service this year.

Once we are allowed to meet again indoors - just six of us all suitably socially distanced - we will resume our practices, although we may need to change to Lenten or Easter music! Happy Christmas to all of you.

Alison





#### The Organ of Kington Parish Church

The history of the organ can be most authentically set down by guoting the exact reference to it as recorded in the church minutes over the years, the Parish Magazine and other sources.

#### From Littlebury's Directory Herefordshire 1867

"The Organ was errected in 1848 by subscription, on the Gallery at the west end which was expressly errected for it. (no builder mentioned). In 1867 it was moved to the Vaughan Chapel."



#### Parish Magazine, August 1886

"The organ was rebuilt by Walker, London 1884, the amount subscribed and collected was £381-14s-4d."

#### November 1898

"Some £40 are urgently needed for the cleaning and repair of the organ which has not been overhauled since its restoration some sixteen years ago."

#### June 1899

"A large congregation assembled in our Parish Church on Wednesday 14th on the occasion of the re-opening of the organ by Mr A N Dolby, FRCO after restoration by Messrs Walker & Sons, London."

#### May 1908

"A sum of £400 was left by the late Mrs Garrard to be expended at the sole discretion of the Vicar and Church Wardens for the time being. The scheme is to remove the organ to the north side of the chancel and to restore the Vaughan Chapel.

The Vestry Meeting approved, provided that the organ does not overlap the most westerly of the lancet windows and does not overlap the dressed stonework of Mrs Toole's window."

#### November 1908

"At a special service held on Thursday 19th the organ, (moved from its position in the Vaughan Chapel to the opposite side of the Choir) was re-opened with becomong dignity. The work of reconstruction was entrusted to Messrs Norman and Beard of London. In order that the architectural features of the Church, including the handsome stained glass windows should not be interfered with, a large part of the instrument was placed low down with the large pedal pipes lying horizontally, so as to be hidden by the Vestry Screen

In addition, the reeds have been mellowed and a charming Gamba and Voix Celeste inserted, whereby the organ has gained greatly in refinement and beauty of tone. Also a large amount of pneumatic action has been substituted for the older tracker works."

#### 1959

"The organ was completely taken down and rebuilt by Mrssers Willis & Co, London, the work being done by Mr Bigwood of Hereford, Ingram & Co of Hereford, having been absorbed by Willis.

A Cremona stop was taken out and replaced by a Nazard. Other improvements were a balanced swell operated by a central lever above the pedalboard and a radial (and concave) pedalboard to replace the old straight one. The cost was £777-16s-0d, the money being raised as follows:

Balance from re-shingling Spire	9s -5d
Legacy from Mrs Pritchard (the Wyche)	250 - 0 -0
Hereford Diocesan Board Grant	100 - 0 -0
Donations	392 - 8 -3
Withdrawn from Deposit A/C	<u>34 - 18 - 4</u>
	£777 -16 -0

PS. A photograph of the Vaughan Chapel shown in the Bank's Archive indicated that the organ stood where the Vaughan Tomb now stands.

Stephen Gilling

Notes provided by by Mr Carlton Ward for an extended essay on organs written when at Hereford College of Education in the 1960's.



#### Lockdown Lodge MK II

During our brief period of freedom from the end of July until 5th November life at Lockdown Lodge followed its usual pattern of work in the garden, garage clearance and reaping the fruits of the harvest.

We also decided to have a holiday staycation at home. We carefully planned a week of leisure activities from Friday 25th September until Friday 2nd October. We spent the time reading, going for walks and playing croquet on the new lawn. On the Monday we paid a visit to Presteigne our first car journey for some time. We also played dominoes after six games in one session the end result was two wins each and two drawn games. It was quite an enjoyable experience where work was relegated.

October back to normal in the garden the lawn was extended by 3ft in length and 2ft in width. The plan was to reduce the side border along the kitchen side of the fence. Over a three day period weeds were removed and the ground prepared for bulb planning – some back ache experienced. Having kept a careful eye on the weather forecast the lawn area along the border was seeded. The rain came in abundance no need for watering! We are now seeing the first green shoots of grass. Trips to the recycling centre continued and I have lost count of the number of bags of garden waste deposited there.

I have also constructed staging for the greenhouse using a wooden pallet. The first attempt fell to pieces when I tried standing it upon its legs. The second attempt was more successful and the staging is now in use with its slatted top and four odd legs. It performs its intended function but in any carpentry test it might get 4.5 marks out of 10. On the plus side the raw materials and labour were all free!

After the recent high winds I put in stronger and taller stakes to support the purple sprouting plants now standing at 4' 6". At this rate of growth Jak and his Beanstalk will have nothing on us! Our reward will hopefully be an ample supply of purple sprouting broccoli in the spring.

Tony Jardine

#### ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

#### Remembrance Sunday:

At the war memorial in Kington on Remembrance Sunday, Christina Powell (Churchwarden) laid a wreath in remembrance of those from Huntington who fought and died for their country.



#### Church open for private prayer:

The church is opened each morning and locked early each evening to enable anyone who would like to do so to come and spend time alone in quiet prayer or meditation. Please use the hand sanitiser by the door and wear a face covering inside the church.

#### Silence & Prayer:

We hope to re-start silence and prayer again after lockdown. Please email info@ huntingtonchurch.co.uk if you would like to be added to our mailing list and we'll send you the date and time of the next session.

#### Market Goods & Produce:

Fiona Shone would like to draw your attention to the following:

Until Christmas St Thomas à Becket Huntington and St Mary's Kington will be selling hot seasonal locally sourced vegetarian soup on Fridays from 10:30 until 12:30 in the Place de Marine in Kington in aid of both our churches. We will also have a selection of baked goods, jams, honey and chutney.

When we are released from lockdown we will also be stocking Christmas gifts including sets of coasters, books, key rings, greeting cards and wrapping paper. Plus adult and child aprons made from the lovely Fermoie Linen. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase Christmas presents and also help our churches at the same time.

#### Jam, Honey & Chutney:

There is still jam, honey and chutney for sale inside the church, with all proceeds donated to church funds.

#### **Christmas Services:**

Depending on the guidance/regulations at the time, it is proposed Christmas services are as follows:

Sunday 13th December - 8:30am - Holy Eucharist

**Sunday 20th December** - we would normally hold a Carol Service with United Reformed Church – unfortunately due to social distancing requirements this cannot safely take place in church for such a large gathering. Please refer to Kington Parishes website www.kingtonparishes.org.uk/services-2 just in case we are able to arrange an outdoor gathering.

#### Friday 25th December - 8:30am - Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

This has been a very strange year for all of us, having to limit our social contact, social distance when we do see one another, take extra care in washing or sanitising our hands and wearing a face covering. Christmas will certainly be very different for most of us, but however you are spending your Christmas, we send you our very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021. Stay safe.

Susan Maiden

#### Huntington Village Hall Update - November 2020:

The Hall Committee thought we would write to update you all with the latest news regarding Huntington Village Hall.

As we all know the current pandemic has had a huge effect on everyone's ability to hold local events. The committee has met several times to consider the possible opening of the Hall but for several reasons, the decision has been made to remain closed for the foreseeable future. This is partly because the size of the Hall means that social distancing would be problematic and the type of events we currently hold would be unworkable at the present time.

The next Hall Meeting is to be held on March 29th 2021, when the situation will be revisited. Obviously, if the national situation improves markedly before then, we will convene to reassess the situation.

In the meantime, we are keen to hear your opinions and ideas on how to move forward with the reopening of the Hall and ways of developing its use. It is after all a community facility that we would like to encourage you all to use in the future. So, please feel free to contact me, Pippa Lloyd (Chair of the Hall Committee) on 01544 370692 or by email pippalloyde@btinternet.com with your comments and suggestions for future events. Also if you would like to get involved with Huntington Hall Committee you are welcome to join us at our meeting in March.

Thank You and Keep Safe.

Pippa Lloyd on behalf of the Hall Committee

#### A bit more of a pilgrimage (part 3, continued from last month)

In early October, our pilgrimage led us back just this side of the County border in Herefordshire once again, and almost by serendipity Linda and I allowed our path to lead us to the redundant church of St. Bartholomew, Richard's Castle. Sitting on a hill high above the current village, and with glorious views on a good day over to the Malverns and the

Black Mountains, this ancient church dates from the twelfth-century, with some parts even older. It is situated alongside the remains of one of the earliest Marcher' castles which were built by Norman overlords to defend the Anglo-Welsh border. Being up there, and looking out, you can almost imagine that for a while at least this fortress proved



impenetrable against foreign incursions! The castle, or should I say what's left of it, is very much steeped in the history of the area, at one point passing into the hands of the Mortimer family.

But we were really here to visit the church, and were able to see the interior, although there are no longer any regular services here. It has amazing Georgian box pews, of various sizes and standards, including a canopied box for the Lords of the Manor. This sits to one side in the north transept chapel, which is thought to have originally housed a Knights' Templars chantry, yet another layer of history! We loved the stained glass in some of the windows, fragments of which date from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. There is a separate square tower standing slightly apart from the church, which in the past was probably used for military purposes, but now houses 3 church bells!

Sympathetically repaired at various points over the years, this special church has retained a feeling of peace and calm, despite having witnessed what must have been many turbulent events over the centuries. It has survived civil wars, the Reformation and more, and is part of the story of this area. By simply being there, and by entering into it in the right spirit I think we both felt this church and its surrounding landscape speak to us.

Further South, on a different occasion before travel was restricted again, we visited St Dubricius in Hentland, which is off the road between Hereford and Ross on Wye. In contrast to St. Bartholomew sitting on its eyrie in Richards' Castle, this lovely church, which seems very remote is down a very bumpy and muddy single-track road, at the bottom of a valley just next to Pengethley parkland. If you walk into this parkland, which is owned and managed by the National Trust, you can get a lovely view back across the valley and really appreciate the setting for this ancient building. The name Dubricius in fact is the Latin version, but in Welsh he was called Dyfrig or St Dyfrig who was a legendary but nevertheless important early Celtic missionary, who lived in the 6th century. His name crops up in several places both in Herefordshire and in Wales and I learnt there are no less than 5 Herefordshire churches dedicated to Dyfrig! Parts of the current church in Hentland can be dated to Saxon times, but in fact it is thought that Dyfrig founded a monastery or college on this site, which means that there has probably been Christian worship here for 1600 years!

We were unable to see inside the church, but were impressed to see the 14th century stone lantern cross still standing in the churchyard. Carved into this cross, there is an effigy of Dubricius, according to various guidebooks. You can just make out the point of



the bishop's hat carved into the stone! Exploring a little further, below the churchyard and down a slippery bank, there is a holy well which is just about recognisable, but not much is known about it. The well contains 2 chambers or shallow bowls with water flowing through and on into the stream beyond. One chamber is for animals to drink from, and one for people. As I didn't know which was which, I chose not to take a drink on this occasion!

Paul MacDermott

#### Lazarus

Last year Chris brought 6 eggs from the farmers market because they were a lovely dark brown colour, the farmer's wife told her they had a Cockerel and the chances were good that the eggs were all fertile. We put them under a broody hen and five hatched, we were carrying them and the hen to our "maternity unit" and as I held the remaining egg, I heard a faint "cheeping sound" the chick inside the egg was hatching. We took it indoors and placed it on an old towel on top of a warm hot water bottle and I filmed the little chick break through the shell. Though billions of eggs hatch every day all over the world we wondered how many people have actually witnessed it up close. I have never seen anything so incredible (apart from the birth of my own four children). This tiny chick was packed in that shell so tightly that I wondered how on earth it could move its beak to break the shell. Within an hour "Lazarus" as Chris christened the chick was standing and wobbling like a drunk on Friday night. His first meal was broken up hard boiled egg (we didn't tell him what it was) and breadcrumbs.



Soon his dark feather turned yellow and for a week he lived in the kitchen in a laundry basket with his own warm bottle, mini dining area with water bar and a cuddly toy that Chris found. With some trepidation we slipped him into the pen with his mother and siblings after distracting them with a Lazarus with Dave in the kitchen. hand full of worms from the compost heap. Lazarus got on well with his new family and eventually they joined the other hens and large

Lazarus with Dave in the kitchen

Cockerel in the hen house. A few feathers flew but their adopted mother took good care of them and saw to it that they all got an equal share of any food. Eventually the day came when we let them all out of the pen to mix with the other chickens in the field, initially they didn't roam very far and would stay close to the hen house and would be easily tempted back with a handful of corn. Slowly they grew bigger and their feathers changed colour and as winter approached and the first snow fell they huddled up together in the hen house to keep warm.

Chris went back to San Diego to catch up with her family and enjoy the warm Californian sunshine. Each day we would talk on Skype and I kept her up to date with the chicken's progress and any other thing of interest in the garden. Corn went from £3 for 25 kilo's to £7.50 and as I feed the wild birds every day, winter and summer, with peanuts (which for some reason leapt from £15 a sack to nearly £40) plus fat balls and coconuts our avian friends cost a small fortune. However our bird feeder's situated just outside the kitchen patio windows attract a constant stream of wild birds, in fact it's like Heathrow airport at times with birds stacking to get onto the hanging feeders just a few feet from our

vantage point at the table. Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and most of the Tit species hammer away at the peanuts and fat balls, whilst below the Robins, Blackbirds and Thrushes and other birds that cannot cling to the metal mesh are happy to wait on the ground for any stray food items that fell to the ground.

Occasionally a flash of colour appears and a Sparrow Hawk grabs any bird that in unfortunate not to see its attacker. Everything goes quiet for a few minutes and then one by one the Blue Tits start to feed again followed by all the other birds as if nothing has happened. This used to concern me as when the Sparrow Hawks have young to feed they can catch and consume ten or fifteen small birds a day, however a conversation with a RSPB researcher assured me the Hawks were present only because of the high number of birds in my garden. Dave Latham

Text and photographs copyright Dave Latham 2020. To be continued next month

#### What can I do with all these apples? (part 2)

#### Carrot & apple soup:

1lb carrots, chopped ; 1/2 lb cooking apples peeled, cored, chopped ; 1oz butter; 1oz oil Pint & a half stock or water; 1 medium onion, chopped

Method: Heat oil & butter in large saucepan, add apple, carrot & onion, saute 4-5 minutes, season well (I also add a pinch of celery seed), add stock, bring to boil & simmer 15-20 mins. Short whizz in a liquidiser. It's thick and hearty. *Eileen Kite* 



Apple and Mincemeat Bakewell (shown below) Shortcrust pastry 100 gms Stork SB margarine; 200 gms self raising flour; pinch of salt; cold water. Mix all to a soft pastry.

Filling

400gms cooking apples, cored, peeled and sliced 1 jar of mincemeat (mine was made by Ann Edwards)

#### Sponge topping

100 gms Stork SB; 150 gms self raising flour; 100 gms sugar; 3 eggs; 1 teaspoon baking powder; 2 teaspoons almond essence. Mix all together

Method: Make the pastry, roll out and line a shallow cake tin approx 7 ins x 12 ins. Blind bake at 190 deg C for 15 minutes. Allow to cool. Add the sliced apple in an even layer, top with the mincemeat and then add the sponge topping. Bake at 180 deg C for 30 minutes. Cool on a rack and cut into 16 or 18 slices. Eat immediately or freeze individual slices wrapped in cling film.

Also shown in the picture are some Oat and Apple cookies which are high in fibre and low in fat. They look a bit like small brown Rock Cakes, and are very tasty. The recipe is on the next page.

#### **ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS**

#### **Best Wishes.**

We send all our best wishes to Alan Taylor who recently had a fall and spent a few days in hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope he is back on his feet very soon.



#### **Remembrance Service.**

We could not have a service in church but that did not stop a very good number to socially distance around the war memorial for a service led by Rob MacCurrah. Many thanks to Mark who operated the sound system so that Last Post and Reveille could be played. The list of the fallen were read by Tony Adlard and the wreath on behalf of the village was laid by David Forbes. The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

#### **Carol Service.**

It is hoped that we will have an "outdoor" Carol Service in the churchyard at 6pm on Friday 18th December if Boris allows it!!. Please keep the date free and look out for posters around the village nearer the time. I will also ask Sean to send a message to everyone on the village network email system.



#### **Christmas Service.**

The service of Holy Communion is at 10am on Christmas Day.

#### Lifeline Telephone.

Some months ago I reported that we had very kindly been given a lifeline telephone for anyone's use in the village. It is still unused. If anyone knows of someone who could benefit from one of these alarms please make contact with Dick on 231052. These alarms give the wearer the independence of living on their own, and their families the peace of mind knowing that help can be summoned 24hrs a day. Dick

#### **Oat and Apple Cookies**

Dry ingredients: 175 gms oats; 125 gms medium oatmeal; 50gms wholemeal flour; 50 gms brown sugar; 50 gms sultanas; 1 teasp baking powder; 1 teasp cinnamon;

Wet ingredients: 100 gms low fat spread; 100 gms apple puree; 2 beaten eggs; 1 teasp vanilla essence;

Method: Mix all the dry ingredients in a bowl. Melt the fat in a pan, allow to cool, add the rest of the wet ingredients and then pour into the bowl. Mix together and form into 24 little heaps on two baking sheets. Cook at 180 deg C for about 15 minutes. They keep for at least a week in a cake tin or can be individually wrapped in cling film and frozen.



#### Buses

I love the buses. When I open my curtains in the morning I can see the Bus Depot with four or five buses all lit up and sparkling, getting ready for service. And at ten past seven, a double-decker comes past my waves to me as I stand looking out. I am very excited because there are two double-deckers now and also a green bus. Perhaps that will be resprayed. One of the double-deckers goes out weekdays, and I try to see it every schools are closed, they sometimes go on holiday, to - Eardisley I think. All the drivers are friendly and put their love being in Kington.

When we first moved here, twenty communing. years ago, I used to walk along to the very kindly to take me to Hereford and sunhazed beneath a sky of azure blue. back in the double-decker just for the have to wear a mask!

My dad liked to ride upstairs on the double-decker, and years ago he wrote a poem about it.

Emma pp Giles Parry

... and here is the poem that Giles mentioned.

#### HARVEST HOME

September journey home from Hereford, front seat upstairs, the double-decker lurching by quiet country roads, sunscaped, and winding through cider-apple orchards dripping fruit, and fields of sheep, content, all unsuspecting of Sunday roasts;

and ripening fields of maize.

bedroom and the driver sometimes Here, unploughed acres yet unshaven, stubble; there, others, smooth and neatly combed await the seed-drill's input, Easter hope presaging, their skin-red earth, by hedges girt about, all neatly trimmed, short back and sides suggesting.

and returns three times a day on From Credenhill, the chestnut conkers falling, slowed by a tractor's trailer-load of spuds, through time it passes my house. But when the tunnels - trees, whose overhanging branches slap, slap against the roof and make us duck to Mansel Lacy, Weobley, Lyonshall, with houses black and white and gardens blooming, thumbs up to me when they see me. I and ancient churches wrapped in silent prayer "Be still, and know that I am God,"

depot to "help", and the men gave me The earth is His, He made it, and the fullness a special coat and cap so that I was like thereof, in Brecon's distant mountain view, a mechanic. And M.J. used sometimes and Radnorshire, the dry land His hands moulded,

ride, keeping an eye on me so that I And so to Kington, Penrhos hill descending, was safe. That would not be possible like harvest home, and heartily rejoice! now because of the pandemic. I would All this we have for one pound five and twenty "Today, if ye will only hear his voice!"

Denis Parry

(who points out that the fare of £1.25 has risen somewhat since he wrote this poem.)

#### Not a gardener (Part Two)

Last month I wrote a bit about apples and described some of those we grow in our garden. (Incidentally, we have noticed that the trees in the Community Orchard have yielded a good crop. I hope these have been enjoyed)



Anyway, as well as its being a good year

for apples, the soft fruit has been amazing. Emma is still regularly picking a punnet of raspberries (allgold) right into November. As well as raspberries we have blackberries (two sorts) boysenberries, loganberries, gooseberries, a few strawberries, alpine (wild) strawberries, mulberries (usually), wineberries, black, red and white currants and... Well,

I did originally sow huckleberries, only once though, because they self seed all over the place. They grow into a shrubby plant with little white flowers which produce shiny black berries. These have a slightly peppery flavour and are good in a tart.

Of course, all this fruit has to be picked and dealt with. It's easily frozen but also quite simply bottled. Emma tends to use proper Kilner jars for stewed apples or pears, but for soft fruit I use ordinary honey jars. Either way, the method is straightforward.

The fruit is put into the bottles and filled to the collar with water. (N.B. nothing else is added!) These are then stood in a large saucepan which, in turn, has water to

within about an inch of the top of the bottles. All is brought to the boil and simmered until the fruit is cooked and obviously boiling. Each bottle is then quickly removed, lidded



and left to cool. You can tell by looking at the lid whether it is sealed. Up until now, with my little jars, I have, touch wood, had 100% success over the years, and so we have delicious fruit to share with our cereal of porridge every morning until the next crop is forthcoming. However, when sometimes I have donated bottles to fund-raising stalls, they seem to have been viewed with suspicion, perhaps because bottled fruit is not very well recognised today and people look at it, especially when it's in little jars, and think it's jam.

That's it, and I'm sure you can hardly wait for next month's rivetingly exciting episode! Denis Parry

#### Footnote:

I can add to Denis's story, as Emma brought me round a jar of his boysenberries (a bit like a blackberry crossed with a loganberry) which I drained of the water and added to some Bramley apples from our front garden. As well as the lovely flavour that they added to the fruit, they also made it a really nice colour that made a good change from the usual stewed apples. He also gave me a jar of loganberries which I'm looking forward to using in the same way. Editor

## Go'n'knit in Kington

It occurred to me that during this winter when we will need to wear a warm hat as well as a facemask, that a Balaklava helmet would answer both needs. I found the picture shown on the internet and have worked out the following pattern. It is knitted in chunky thickness yarn on 5.5mm (old number 5) needles. I used a circular needle but the instructions below are for a two needle method.



Abbreviations:

Cable 6 : Place next 4 sts on cable needle held at the back, K2, slip next 2 sts from cable needle onto left hand needle and purl them, then K2 from cable needle.

Twist2: knit into second stitch then knit first stitch and slip both off together.

#### **BALACLAVA PATTERN**

Cast on 96 sts loosely and work in patterm as follows. Rows 1 and 5: P1 (K2, P2) across the row to last st, P1. Row 2 and all even rows: Knit the knits and purl the purls. Row 3 and 7: P1, (Twist2, P2, K2, P2, K2, P2) repeat to last 3sts, Twist 2, P1.

Row 9: P1, (Twist2, P2, Cable 6) repeat to last 3sts, Twist 2, P1. Repeat rows 2 to 9 five times .

Next 7 rows: Pattern 30sts, (K2, P2) for 36 sts, pattern to end. Row 8: Work 30 sts, cast off 36 sts for opening, complete the Row 9: Work 30 sts then cast on 36 sts and complete the row.



Begin shaping the crown by decreasing 9sts across the row every 8 rows by purling 2 together First remove the purl stitches in the centre of the cables one at a time, and then reduce the P2 between cables to a single purl stitch. (40sts)

The next decreases need to reduce the four cable stitches from four to three, (32 sts) and then four rows later from three to two (24sts) Work one wrong side row (P2 K1) across the row. Next row: (Twist 2 P1) repeated across the row. Work one wrong side row (P2 K1) across the row.

Break off the yarn and thread through the 24 stitches and then sew up the back seam.

Happy Knitting and I wish you a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year. Freda



#### KINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual Sunday lunch planned for December to celebrate 50 years as a club will now take place in the spring, if restrictions are lifted D Walters chairman

#### **December Wordsearch**

This month the Christmas story will be read and reread by hundreds of millions of people around the world: how the shepherds were in the fields of Bethlehem when the angels appeared with the astonishing news that the Messiah had been born! How many words from the Christmas story can you find below?



#### **Crossword Fun**

A cryptic crossword brings great fun (If you've got a twisted mind) With gems like anagrams and puns And hidden clues to find.

For a hundred years we have been clued For words across and down It's wondrous how the setters brewed Such clues to make us frown!

Lots of lucre, but little luck? (5,7) For nothing squared's a cube (3) Japanese once flew a duck! (4) Men used to wear this tube. (4) A 'small fortune' should come to you An 'oxo' cube you know; A 'Zero' was a plane they flew, And 'hose' – worn long ago.

You may have seen a cake walk If you had plenty (9) at the time Or heard within a science talk A line concerning lime (6)

A cake walk, or 'a bun dance'? 'Alkali' you'll not have missed – Are you, dear friend, by any chance A cruciverbalist?

By Nigel Beeton

#### DOWN MEMORY LANE

This is an attempt to respond to a request from our Editor that I should write about My Childhood in Kington. That story is a simple one but full of happy memories a few of which I will share with you.



I think I can claim to be a Kingtonian having been born here in 1936 and having had a home here for 84 years.

I was born on Thinking Day, February 22nd and dutifully became a Brownie when old enough.

My father, a mechanical engineer, had two garages here, one where JMart now stands and the other where La Place de Marines now sits. Selling petrol was of little interest to

him, he preferred to have his head under the bonnet of a vehicle and his work was highly valued I am proud to say.

What was the world like in 1936? Generally, I think there was unrest, perhaps an omen for the war that was to come in 1939. In Britain George Vth died and was succeeded by Edward who finally renounced the throne to be succeeded by George Vlth.

Just one or two facts about 1936 which I have discovered. The Queen Mary set sail on her maiden voyage; Gatwick Airport was opened; the craze for pierced ears swept the smart set in London; the board game Monopoly was introduced to Britain from America and the BBC broadcast its first TV programme from Alexandra Palace.

An economic study showed that an average family needed £6 per week to keep it above the poverty line. A four pound loaf cost eight and a half pence, sirloin of beef was one shilling and seven pence a pound, salmon three shillings and three pence a pound, a pound of apples cost three pence, a pound of tomatoes sixpence.

In 1938 my sister, Mary, was born. Sadly she was a Downs Syndrome baby but I don't know why I say sadly because she was loving and much loved and far more of an extrovert than I have ever been.

When I was three and Mary one, World War II began . We were joined by a six year old evacuee from Liverpool, Ivy, who quickly became one of the family.

Kington was very different in those days, very little going on, certainly not for children. Yes we had Brownies, Guides and St. John. I loved Brownies, particularly the creative side. There were tennis courts in the Rec. together with swings, a see saw and slide.

I have always been a home-bird and grew up in a loving, caring home where my friends were always encouraged to join me, it never seemed to matter how many we were. We had a lovely summer-house which is still in my garden, and it was used as a Wendy-house, as a school, a shop, we spent many happy hours in there. We had a swing, a dolls' house, an inherited rocking horse, we loved him and a tricycle.

Ivy and I correspond at Christmas and birthdays and her letters always contain some nostalgic memories. She often reflects on things I had forgotten. A quotation from one of her letters..." I suppose being a bit older than you could make a difference to remembering but I can remember things as if it were yesterday. I suppose that is because I was so happy and your parents looked after me so well. We did everything together, we shared little household jobs every Saturday morning, Do you remember that?" I don't, actually, but I am sure she is right. I expect just as I remember my sixpence pocket money left on the sideboard every Saturday morning so a sixpence was left for Ivy. She loved the countryside. On one of her visits in more recent times she particularly wanted to take home a root of



forget-me-not because she said it always grew in our garden strip. I am ashamed to say I remember the radishes we grew more than the forget-menots.

I have vivid, happy memories of my time at Kington Primary School. The current school hall was then two classrooms with sliding doors . The doors were opened after lunch, small camp beds put up and we had a rest. Every room had a tortoise stove around which crates of bottles of milk were put in the winter to warm them up and the guard surrounding the stove would be hung with damp gloves etc. I can see them as I write. The numbers were fewer than today and I was there until I went to the Grammar School.

One of my best friends was the Baptist Minister's daughter so I went to the Baptist Sunday School with Valmai and I loved it. We met in the upper room. I have never been a bookworm but always loved poetry so thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Anniversary Services which were a great occasion in the life of the Baptist Church. I also loved the summer Sunday School outing. Where did we go? Up to Penrhos Farm where the Jones family gave us a splendid time and tea in a barn.

Kington itself at that time the shop frontages have changed little really but what they sell in many cases is different. Where Barclays stood until its closure, was Merediths the ironmongers. The shop extended a long way back and up some steps they sold bed linen towels etc. The present Marches Gallery was Miss Read's Cafe, Tom Bounds was Dowlings, another super ironmongers. In Bridge Street, opposite the current Jmart, was a little store run by a lovely old lady, Miss Griffiths. It was a bit like a corner shop, she sold bread freshly baked and brought across from Turner's Mill and on Saturday mornings lovely currant buns from the same source. I was a pal of Miss Griffiths and sometimes she let me help her in the shop.

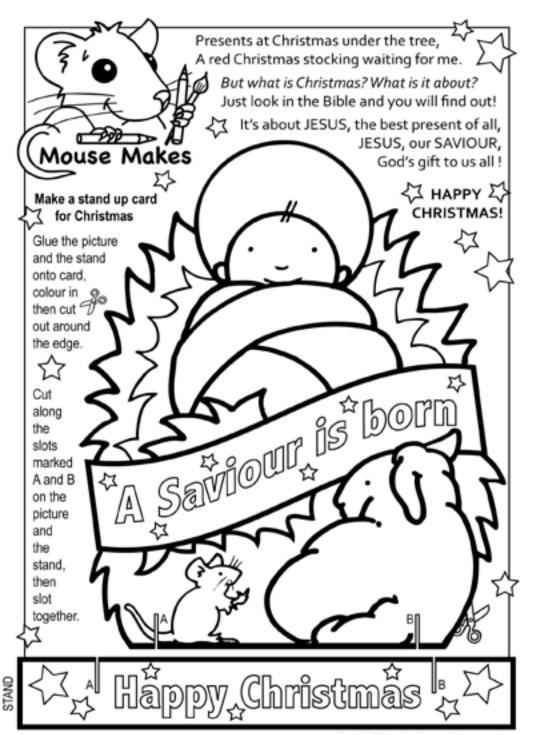
I will mention just one more shop, next to the Baptist Chapel was a paper shop but all sorts of other things were for sale too. As Christmas approached a pocket handkerchief sized room was opened up at the back and it was, to me, an Aladdin's cave .Cards, calendars, packets of paper strips to make paper chains,tinsel. I found some excuse to visit regularly during those two/three weeks. I am sure I didnt buy something every time but Mrs Ladd never seemed to mind.

As far as I can recall there were few musical opportunities here then. I did have piano lessons. I had to go up Oxford Lane to my teacher's house. I didn't like her very much and many was the time I stood in that lane trying to think up a good reason to go home. Consequently my piano playing never bore fruit.

My early formative years were years when many things were restricted or non-existent but restrictions brought creativity, "make do and mend "I think was a wartime expression. One lived a down to earth existence but we were happy with what we had.

I've always been a down to earth person , enjoying the simple things of life, eager to lend a hand. I look back on my childhood years with great fondness, loving, understanding parents, a sister I loved greatly and encouraged always in the things I tried to do.

Ann Edwards.



#### No smoke without a fire

Stories about St Nicolas (or Nicholas) should be taken with a large pinch of salt, for they were written hundreds of years after the saint's death and some of them are very improbable. Nevertheless he is very popular, especially in the East where there are numerous icons indicating that he was a very godly and generous bishop. And anyway, there's no smoke without a fire, and legends about him cannot simply have come out out the blue. And of course, we know him as the original Santa Claus, none other than Father Christmas, who is surely the very personification of goodness and generosity.

As well as being Patron saint of Russia, he is also Patron saint of sailors, children (especially choristers) and pawn brokers; and his feast day falls on December 6th, when children in some

Scandinavian countries wake up to find chocolates in the slippers left outside their bedroom door – a custom which Giles has been keen to take on board!

He's Patron saint of choristers because of a legend. It claims that three little boys were seized by an innkeeper who coveted their rich clothing. He chopped them into pieces and left them to soak in a tub of brine, intending to serve them up to his customers as pickled pork! However, Nicolas learnt of this in a vision and, hurrying to the place, called them forth and brought them back to life! That event is plaintively and movingly portrayed in Britten's cantata, "St Nicolas". The three little boys come forth singing so poignantly their Alleluia, alleluia!

He's Patron saint of sailors, because it is said that once, when sailing on a pilgrimage, he calmed by prayer a most ferocious storm.

And he's Patron saint of pawnbrokers, for the adoption of three golden balls for the sign outside their shops is said to have been inspired by this story:

Now young and old, pray lend an ear, and feast your eyes upon our play; for Nicolas must soon appear, whose fame we celebrate today. A rich young man he was, and kind, as proves the tale we now relate:-There was a nobleman refined, made penniless by cruel fate.

"That's me, a victim of recession, bankrupt, reduced to poverty; all I have left in my possession, these, my unmarried daughters three."

"Father, how shall we ever marry now you've no dowry to present with us, to Tom and Dick and Harry? To wed them was our firm intent."

But Nicolas learned of their plight, (No doubt he'd read it in the 'Sun') and creeping up by dead of night, it was no sooner thought than done!

The noble must not be insulted; plain charity might wound his pride: the purse of gold coins catapulted up through the window fell inside.

One daughter's dowry, lucky Tom! but two more sisters still were sad, until a second gift, wherefrom they knew not, made young Dickie glad. Two of his daughters thus espoused, our impecunious nobleman, his curiosity aroused, decides to find out, if he can,

"just who my benefactor is; I'll keep a watch, who knows, I might, if he brings dowry for poor Liz, identify this man tonight."

And so he did, and caught red-handed Saint Nicolas, who there had crept, bringing his bag of gold which landed beside the bed where Lizzie slept!

Then from this tale, Tom, Dick and Harry, let's learn a generous way to live; and whether we single stay or marry, let's freely receive and freely give.

When we first acted out this story in a Family Service some thirty years ago, the three little daughters were hiding up in the pulpit. When Nicolas tossed the first little bag of chocolate coins high into the air, perhaps rather too enthusiastically, its descent down into the pulpit was greeted by a piercing cry of Ouch! One daughter out of the running, we wondered? *Denis Parry* 

#### **Brilley Village Hall**

Despite all the uncertainties of our current times, Brilley Village Hall re-opened in July. A full risk assessment was carried out and new guidelines written for hirers. These are constantly updated in the light of new information. Flicks in the Sticks restarted in September, with extra matinee screenings to help us through the shorter autumn days. Unfortunately, a new 4 week lockdown was brought in on 5th



November meaning our last 3 screenings have been postponed until the new year (details below). Hopefully 2021 will be a better year for everyone and the hall will be full of happy chat once again.

#### Flicks in the Sticks

#### Thursday 7th January: Little Women(cert 15) 2.30 pm

Greta Gerwig brings the entire March family to life like never before in a respectful but bracingly current version that is frequently funny, charming and heart-warming. It is never about anything other than the journey to adulthood of four sweet, clever young women, and in this sweeping, musical, romantic and grounded retelling, it is a delight to travel with them.

#### Thursday 21st January: Animals (cert 15) 7.30 pm

A vibrant study of female friendship based on Emma Jane Unsworth's 2014 novel. Laura, an aspiring, self-doubting writer and her anarchic best friend Tyler share a flat in Dublin. They live to party, with drink, drugs and general debauchery infusing their days and with their careers and personal lives largely on hold. But when Laura falls in love, her new romance highlights flaws in their friendship that force them to re-consider their shared and separate futures. Unconventional, unruly and rich, with excellent performances and a sharp, insightful and witty script, Animals has received glowing reviews.

Advance tickets only via https://www.artsalive.co.uk/venue.aspx?id=113 Bring your own refreshments. Facemasks must be worn.

### December Crossword Across

1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)

7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14–15) (7)

8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)

10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)

11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)

13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)

15 First World War heroine shot by the

Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)

17 Stormy (8)

18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)

21 Arson (anag.) (5)

22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7) 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

### Down

1 ' — and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)

2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)

3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19–20)
(8) 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)

6 'Offer your bodies as living — , holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)

9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)

12 One who accepts government by God (8)

14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)

16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6) 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)

20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

## Answers to November Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16. Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide. DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

## A Word from St Hugh's

As we were raking leaves amidst the pure silence of a misty woodland morning with the last few leaves of Autumn slowly and silently descending to the forest floor, we paused for a brief comment on the day. *"You can't hear the leaves falling". "You can't hear the grass or trees growing. Yes, and a butterfly's wings in flight are totally silent to the human ear."* These simple images and the quietness of our surroundings stimulated an awe and wonder, and emphasised the power and importance for Silence at St Hugh's.



Thomas Merton the Trappist Hermit Monk wrote. "Let me seek then the gift of silence and solitude where everything I touch is turned into prayer: where the sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees are my prayer, for God is all in all".

The silence and solitude of our simple woodland leaf raking moment, and the autumnal lingering mist would seem to be one place where God loves to be. Inner Silence is indeed a Divine Gift waiting for all to seek a deeper relationship with God. *"Be still and know that I am God"*, says the Psalmist.

Please feel free to contact us for specific prayers, queries about St Hugh's, or if you need any other information. Peter and Pauline Swain.Tel. 01544 230999. Mobile 07950 877916. 10/11 Market Hall St.

in.iei. 01544 230999. Mobile 07950 877916. 10/11 Market Hall St. Email:pandpswain@gmail.com

### MacMillan Cancer Support Committee

The celebration dinner which was cancelled this year will be rearranged. However this will not be possible until 2021, so it has therefore been decided that ticket money will be refunded.

If you paid for a ticket and would like a refund please can you ring:

Doris Law Treasurer on 01544 231322 or Pat Roberts Secretary on 01544 231000

If you do not wish to claim a refund but would like your money to be donated to MacMillan please let either Doris or myself know.

Thank you

Pat Roberts

Secretary, MacMillan Cancer Support Kington Committee

## KINGTON FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK

## from the Borders

We are sorry to announce that this event which is usually held on the first Saturday of December has been cancelled for this year owing to the Corona Virus pandemic . There is no way that we could monitor the event for the safety of the public and stall holders. We hope that the Summer Food Festival will take place next June followed by the winter festival in December next year. Pam Peek

- Saturday 12th December
- Saturday 19th December

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Kington Arts and Crafts Market				Lasy	Juu	UKU			
-	2		1		8		7       6       2       4       3       2       2		
Get Ready for Christmas!	8	4	7	2			6		
Kington Saturday Arts and Crafts Market is gearing up for Christmas					7	5	2		
As the November markets had to be	7	3			2	6	4	5	
cancelled due to the second Lockdown, there now only remain the December				5		8			
markets for all your Christmas shopping		6	4	1	3			2	9
and seasonal decoration needs!			6	7	5				
Dates from now until Christmas 2020			2			1	5	3	6
Saturday 12th December			5		6		1		2

Fasy Sudoku

#### Intermediate Sudoku

				8	2				
							3		7
		4				3	8	5	
			6	3	5		7		2
	5				1				3
	1		3		7	9	5		
		2	9	5				6	
	6		5						
					9	2			

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#### Kington and its Churches - Two New Starts

Kington, in about the year 1000, is a Royal Domain with a suitable title, and has an important church - a minster with a titular abbot. With the invasion from Powys in the 1050's, all this changes, but a restart is made by Harold Godwin, later King Harold, who succeeds Edward the Confessor, and he re-establishes it as a Royal Domain and must have encouraged some recovery of the church.

However, a greater change looms with the Norman Conquest, but developments confirm the status of Kington locally. It is selected as the head of an "Honour", a Norman grouping of local areas later to become "Parishes", and a Norman nobleman is appointed to be its head. Also, there must have been some revival of the position of the church, as the existing stone font is that of the early 1100's.

The focus moves slightly from Kington when the Norman head arrives, and Hergest is chosen for the site of his hall, as the focus of the Honour, but this is due to persistent flooding of the Arrow, and so a useable crossing is chosen upstream at Bredward just below Hergest Court. It may also be possible that in fact this was already established as a site of a pigrims' crossing from North Herefordshire towards the shrine of St Ethelbert in Hereford, which would have been reached via Bollingham (the site of a pilgrim's hospice) and then on down to join the remains of a Roman road westward from Kenchester towards Mid-Wales. So, the church is being reinstated, and the town is said to date from the early 1100's - always an important part of such a site as it is prominent and makes the sound of the bells heard far and wide.

Another development soon follows as the Norman lord of Richards Castle (a pre-Norman place) had designs on the title of the original Welsh Prince of Brecon, and he guickly estabishes a route from Richards Castle westwards, which crosses the Arrow Valley via Kington, and heads southward to cross the Wve near Winforton. This uses a technique developed by the Romans, where Castles are always sited on the opposite side of any river to be crossed on the way, and so Kington acquired a castle overlooking the Back Brook crossing - both the original one above Floodgates, and a later one at Crooked Well.

A later development of the 1100's is the choice oof Kington along the Arrow valley to become the site of a Norman designed "New Town", neatly laid out with a marketplace as the focus and building plots alongside the main road. These were all neatly fitted into the surviving boundaries of an Anglo-Saxon field system, which was always laid out in dimensions of rods and perches, and this arrangement is still very obvious to this day, even if expansions have occurred in every direction.

This "Kington-in-the-fields" (first noted as such in the 1200's) is guite distinct from Old Kington of Anglo-Saxon origin, which was focused on a settlement just below Ridgebourne and reached towards, but did not actually include, the site of the churchyard and its accompanying focus of "Civil Jurisdiction" - the Wych. John Rerrie





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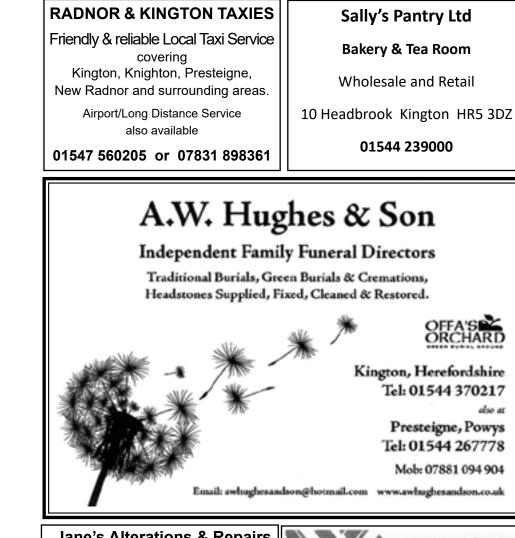
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> For information about hiring the hall please phone 01544 340450 or 01544 230859. or email office@kingtonparishes.org.uk





The Friends of St Mary's Church invite you, regardless of religious persuasion, to join them in helping to fund the upkeep of Kington's best-loved landmark, so that it may continue to serve all the people of this area for many more generations. To learn more about the Friends, please pick up a leaflet in the Church, Kington Tourist Information Centre, visit stmarykington.wordpress.com or contact: Ann Edwards on 01544 230271 or

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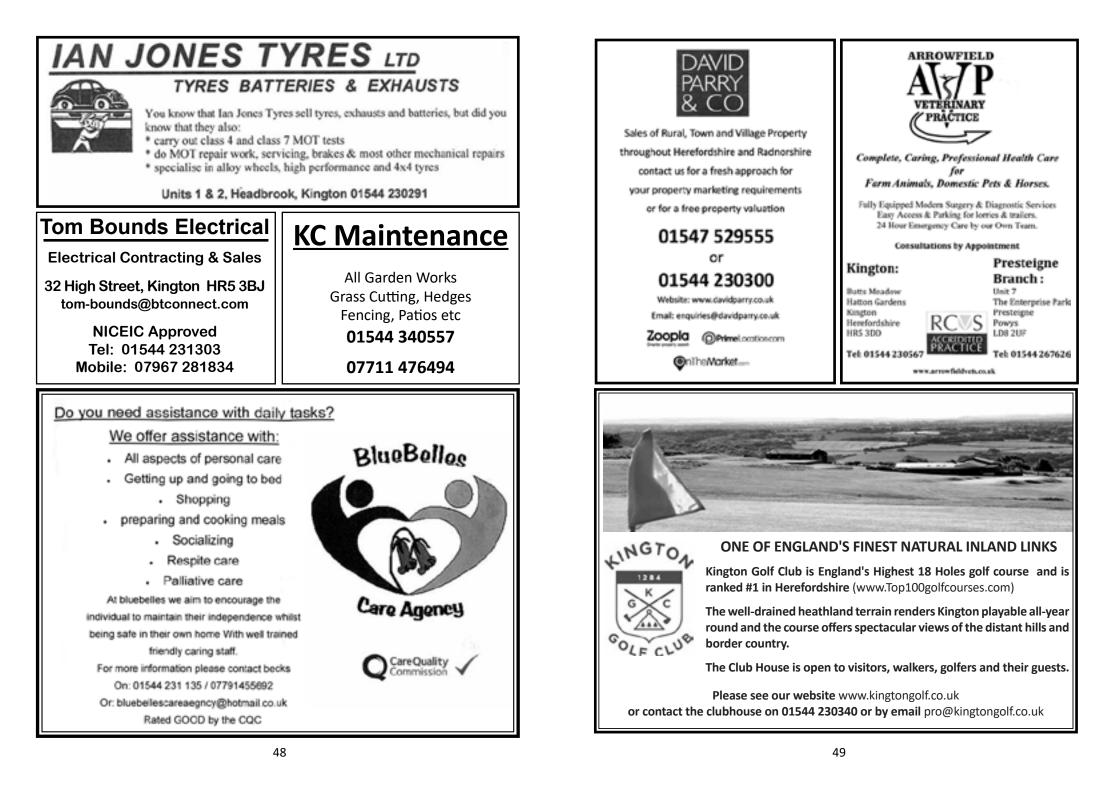
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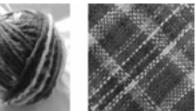
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A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas. The little girl gasped, and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

#### What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

#### **Church rules**

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angle pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

### Mother in a storm

One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small frightened boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?" Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence – and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"



### **MATERIAL FOR THE JANUARY 2021 PARISH NEWS**

by

## 15th DECEMBER but preferably by 12th DECEMBER please

to

The Parish News Editor Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Road, Kington HR5 3HD or email: freda@sparkiesofkington.com Note: The cut-off date is always the 15th of the previous month

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