

Parish News

Kington, Huntington & Titley

December 2022



SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

From 1st January 2022

email: office@sargeantsbros.com
Tel: 01544 230481

Mill Street, Kington
Herefordshire
HR5 3AL

HEREFORD 461 via Lyonshall 462 via Eardisley

Journey times vary Kington to Hereford approx 65minutes

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

	461	461	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	461	463
Mon-Fri	0645	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1540	1710
Saturday	-	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1540	1710

Returns Railway Station, HEREFORD

	461	461	462	461	461	462	461	461	461	461	461	
Mon-Fri	0748	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1615	1700	1815
Saturday	-	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	-	1700	1815

LLANDRINDOD WELLS

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	462	461	461
M-F Coll Days	0600	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
M-F Coll Hols	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
Sat	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810

Returns from Railway Station, LLANDRINDOD WELLS

	461	461	461	462	461	463	462	461	461	
M-F Coll Days	0638	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1600	1708	1808	1850
Sat& Coll Hols	-	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1605	1708	1808	1850

KNIGHTON Route 41

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

M-F	0610	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730
Sat	-	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730

Departs Bus Station, KNIGHTON

M-F	0642	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805
Sat	-	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805

TIMETABLES FOR ALL SERVICES AVAILABLE ON MOST BUSES
& OFFICE IN MILL STREET

Also available on www.sargeantsbros.com

THE KINGTON PARISHES



St Mary, Kington **St Thomas a Becket, Huntington**
St Stephen, Old Radnor **St Mary, Kinnerton** **St Peter, Titley**
www.kingtonparishes.org.uk

CLERGY

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Parish Office email: office@kingtonparishes.org.uk

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

Letter from the Bishop of Hereford

Most years when I was a parish priest in Sussex a group of us used to go Carol singing. We'd visit homes and the local pubs. Rather than asking for money for a charity or Church funds we would finish by giving out mince pies. This always threw people. They wanted to pay for them. They couldn't believe there wasn't some sort of catch. I'm sure it would be even worse were I to do it today. We've got so wary of scam calls, texts and emails, we are immediately suspicious of anything that seems too good to be true.

We often refer to Christ's coming at Christmas in terms of gifts. The word became flesh and dwelt among us. Unbidden and unsought, Christ comes to earth to reveal what God is like in a way that eludes human reason. The Christian story is something no one could have made up as a recipe for a restored relationship with God. But gift and the allied term grace are what it is all about.

This Christmas we are acutely aware of life's intractable problems. How on earth are we to solve the climate crisis, the economic crisis, the international relations crisis brought on by the war in Ukraine? All these problems seem unsolvable given normal patterns of human behaviour. How can a baby born in the backwater of an ancient empire 2000 years ago have anything to say about any of them? But the gift of Jesus is simple without being simplistic. The heart of most problems is the problem of the human heart. Jesus offers us the gift that meets the needs we seek to fill with rapacious consumption. He offers the security that frees us to love. He offers us the peace that in trust releases generosity. He offers the forgiveness that releases us from defensiveness and self-justification. The Gospel is good news because it meets the deepest needs of the human heart. This is where the real transformation of individuals and society is to be found.

+Richard

Messy Church

We have had a Messy Church in St Mary's, Kington for about 18 months. We now meet monthly, usually after school on Wednesdays, at the new wonderful open space in the church. There are several of us who belong and are regulars, preparing the theme, the crafts and the meal each month. We believe that meeting together can be a powerful catalyst for faith. There is always something fun to do, something to learn and something to encourage.

Several people have asked me "What on earth is Messy Church"?

- Messy Church is its own congregation, gathered to get to know Jesus.
- Messy church is not just for children, it is for whole families and single people of any age.
- Messy Church always involves, creativity, celebration and hospitality. (a meal)
- It's not only called Messy Church because we usually make a mess. The name refers to our lives which are often messy. God loves us and longs to be part of our lives however messy they are.
- It is for people of all ages and all stages of their faith journey. New families are always welcome.

Do keep your eyes open for posters in town and FB posts. Let me know if you want to be added to our whatsapp group. Feel free to invite your friends. Our NEXT gathering is on SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER starting 11.30 it will include lunch and the theme is Christingle.

Trish MacCurrach 07791935955

View from the Vicarage

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS?



Dear Friends,

Are you looking forward to Christmas? The question seems almost as old as time itself, but it's one that's been posed and answered many millions of times across the globe and down the centuries.

The answer seems in the most part to depend on the age of the respondent. Most children answer in the affirmative while the majority of adults tend perhaps to be more circumspect and less enthusiastic in their response. The more effort that Christmas entails, the more likely you are to be somewhat less full of enthusiasm for the great celebration that Christmas is.

Behind all of the tinsel, glitter, parties, presents, trees and all of the trappings of a commercial modern western Christmas is the same old well-known and well-loved accounts of the birth of Jesus Christ. The story of an event which would shape and define the future of the world until the end of time. Surprising as it seems, this was an event which passed by largely unseen and unnoticed apart from a group of shepherd rustics and some bewildered travellers from the East, as astounding as it may seem, to most people alive at the time, this birth was a complete non-event.

That story of Heaven touching Earth in the birth of Jesus Christ is, it seems to me, one that our society and all societies across the world need to hear and particularly during a time of multiple global crises, such as the ones that the World is experiencing as we prepare for Christmas 2022.

For those fearful of the soaring costs of heating, we're reminded of a new-born baby sleeping in an animals' feeding trough; warmed against the worst excesses of the winter cold by hay, straw and the warmth of animals' breaths. Following his birth, St. Matthew tells us that the child and his parents are forced into exile away from their homeland by a cruel tyrant as so many others have been compelled to do this year.

The Magi with their strange and exotic but utterly impractical gifts, remind the powerful, the mighty and all of the rest of us too, of our need to reach out to the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalised and the weak providing practical help and support that will enable them to live with dignity. The Magi also remind those who govern and lead the nations of the imperative of responding constructively to changing circumstances. Through their knowledge of the cosmos, the Magi realised the significance of what they were seeing and acted accordingly, how wonderful it would be, if today's world leaders and global influencers were as responsive to the evidence that the World's climate is changing and fast. For those world leaders, in common with the Magi of old who live in large and luxurious homes, the modest home in Bethlehem is a powerful reminder that each and every human person wherever they live is a precious, valued child of God and of equal value to the dwellers of the most magnificent and opulent residences.

The ancient words of the Christmas story whether in the majestic language of the King James Bible or in one of the multiplicity of modern language translations now available lead us directly to the heart and centre of any authentic celebration of Christmas, not

(continued overleaf)

trees or parties, tinsel, presents or even Father Christmas himself. That God loves each and every human person so passionately and tenderly that in the child of Bethlehem he became one of us and one with us, so that we could become as he is, the very best version of ourselves, as the evangelist and writer J. John expresses it like this; “the hinge of history is to be found on the door of a Bethlehem stable.”

So, are you looking forward to Christmas? I do hope so!

Jean joins with me to wish you a happy, blessed and joyful Christmas and God’s most abundant blessings throughout 2023.

Ben.



THE MEMORY TREE RETURNS TO KINGTON - SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th at 4.00pm

Following its successful appearances over the past two years of the Coronavirus Pandemic and due to the fact that the Tree of Light services for the Hospice now only happen at Bartestree and Hereford Cathedral we’ve decided to continue with our own tradition of the Memory Tree in Kington Churchyard by the Garden of Remembrance.

As in the past two years, I’m inviting you to decorate the tree with the wonderful stars that Elio makes for us. Each star can bear a name or a short message in memory of a loved one who was or is a precious part of your life.

As in the past, the stars will cost £2.50 each and they will be available now. They can be obtained from Kington Vicarage 01544 230525 or Ann Edwards 01544 230271 or Gill Pennell 01544 230019.

The tree will be illuminated at a special indoor and outdoor carol service on Sunday December 11th at 4.00pm and I’m delighted to be able to inform you that Churches Together For Kington and District will be joining us for this joyful occasion. Be a star, please do spread the word and encourage as many people as possible to join with us.

THE TRAVELLING CRIB

One of our innovations from last year was we revived the custom of the travelling Crib; the figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey which are central to our Christmas Crib in Kington Church spent Advent moving from shop to shop and the Schools and Little Orchard Nursery. If you’d like to host them this year especially if you didn’t last year please do let me know.



With my love and prayers

Ben.

Kington Parishes Service Schedule for this month

*Dependant on Government announcements,
please see our website for up to date information.*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCho108zE6VUpNGQAmmfA9OA>

Sunday, December 4th: Advent II

<i>Isaiah 11: 1-10,</i>	<i>Psalm 72:1-7,</i>	<i>Romans 15: 4-13,</i>	<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Titley	
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kington	
11.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kinnerton	
6.00pm:	Holy Eucharist:	Old Radnor	

Sunday, December 11th: Advent III

<i>Isaiah 35:1-10,</i>	<i>Magnificat,</i>	<i>James 5:7-10,</i>	<i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Huntington	
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kington	
11:30am	Holy Eucharist	Kinnerton	
6.00pm:	Family Carol Service:	Old Radnor	

Saturday 17th December

3:00pm: Knights of St Lazarus Carol Service, Huntington

Sunday, December 18th: Advent IV

<i>Isaiah 7: 10-16,</i>	<i>Psalm 8:1-8,</i>	<i>Romans 1:1-7,</i>	<i>Matthew1: 18-end</i>
10.00am:	Morning Praise:	Kington	
10:00am:	Holy Eucharist	Kinnerton	
11:00am:	Carol Service:	Huntington	
6.00pm:	Carol Service:	Titley	

Friday, December 23rd

7.00pm: 9 Lessons & Carols: Kington

Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve.

4:00pm	Crib Service	Kington	
6:00pm	Crib Service	Kinnerton	
<i>Isaiah9:2-7,</i>	<i>Psalm 96,</i>	<i>Titus2:11-14,</i>	<i>Luke2 :1-14</i>
9.30pm:	Christmas Eucharist:	Old Radnor	
11.30pm:	Midnight Eucharist:	Kington	

Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day

<i>Isaiah 52: 7-10,</i>	<i>Psalm 98,</i>	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4,</i>	<i>John 1:1-14</i>
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist with Carols:	Huntington	
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist with Carols:	Kington	
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist with Carols:	Titley	

All services at Kington are live streamed.



MESSY CHURCH

Come and
join us for:



**Special Christingle Messy Church
at
St Mary's Church Kington
on
Saturday 17th December
starting at 11.30am**



**Activities, Stories
Songs, Music, Games
and a Special Lunch!**



All are very Welcome

St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

Christmas at St Mary's

A time for reunions, for fun, for happiness and kindness is fast approaching, yes I mean the great Festival of Christmas.

What does Christmas 2022 have in store for us and for many others? We would like to highlight just a few of the many special events at St. Mary's as we celebrate again the birth of Jesus Christ.

In his Christmas Message, The Rev. Ben has mentioned the Travelling Crib, watch the shop windows as this reminder of the true meaning of Christmas spreads through the town. Mentioned too is the Memory Tree which is becoming an annual feature of Christmas at our Parish Church. The stars are on sale as Ben's message tells us and once expenses have been covered the proceeds from the sale of these will go to St. Michael's Hospice.

This tree has been generously donated in memory of the late Mrs Margaret Jones who herself donated the Memory Trees and the former Trees of Light for many years. Please join us for a special outdoor service at 4p.m. on Sunday, December 11th. This tree will stand as a welcoming beacon to St Mary's for Christmas 2022

Christmas is a special time for children and we look forward to welcoming them as they to share their versions of the Christmas Story with us either they come as a school or to Messy Church's Activity Day on Saturday, December 17th starting at 11.30a.m. when the theme will be Christingle, they will be warmly welcomed. Lunch will be served and following that a Christingle Service which all are welcome to join.

We are pleased to host the Choral Society annual Christmas Concert with their performance of Bach's Magnificat on Saturday, December 10th and to welcome Kington Community Choir who are being joined by the Dolau Mixtures and our own St. Mary's Choir for a concert on Saturday, December 17th at 7p.m. We thank these choirs for sharing these concerts with us.

Details of other Christmas Services at St. Mary's can be found among the list of regular services and include The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which is on Friday, December 23rd at 7p.m. and of course The Crib Service on December 24th at 4p.m.

Rodney and I send greetings to you all for Christmas and 2023, may peace kindness and safety be at the heart of all our celebrations.

Rodney and Ann (Churchwardens)



Kington Tourist Group.

We shall open in Church Street on Saturday December 3rd for Kington Food Festival and shall be pleased to welcome visitors.

As a Group we send best wishes to you all for a happy, peaceful Christmas and New Year

Ann Edwards.

More Motoring Memories 1973 - 1979

We moved from Southampton to Ecchinswell in the early summer of 1973. Having sold the red Mini, we purchased a Ford Cortina, a relatively respectable car. Doris the £10.00 Morris 8 Series E was collected and driven the twenty-odd miles from Southampton to our new home. Shortly afterwards Doris refused to start. I removed the carburettor and discovered a pile of fine rust in the bowl. It remains an unexplained mystery that I was able to drive the car on our initial journey home without suffering from fuel starvation.



Doris proved to be utterly reliable thereafter, and it has always been useful as a standby vehicle. This was especially so when it was important to travel to early morning services or if you were called out on an emergency visit, often late at night.

Early in our time at Ecchinswell a friend gave me a Hamblin Cadet, complete with chassis, wheels and the cigarshaped fibre glass body. I set about collecting various Austin parts, including an engine and gearbox, and a chrome radiator. I modified the front suspension to include modern shock absorbers, and at this point pressure of work meant abandoning the project.

I soon tired of the Ford Cortina, and purchased a 1961 Rover 100. We had quite a few adventures in this car that cost £160. It was used mainly for family transport.

Our first major outing was a family holiday in Bodinnick, opposite Fowey in Cornwall.. We picked up Sonia's parents en route, with nothing untoward happening until we started up the steep hill to our holiday cottage (kindly loaned for two weeks by our local squire). The engine died, and we came to a sudden halt. The family abandoned the car in a hurry, and left me to cope with the problem. Leaving the car in gear and hoping the handbrake would hold, I gingerly opened the driver's side door, avoiding the handbrake (always in a curious position in the P4 Rovers, just by one's right leg). I was able to find a couple of rocks to lodge under the rear wheels.

Fortunately the local inn was open, and I received kind help from the landlord, who rang the local garage and explained my predicament. The car was collected, and I was asked to phone for a progress report in a couple of days. Another holiday, another breakdown — history repeating itself?

I phoned the garage, as requested, further bad news! The mechanic had been hit by a spark in his eye while welding a piece of machinery. We were without a car for a week, but this had its compensations. We were able to explore the local countryside, using the local ferries between Bodinnick, Fowey and Polruan. We enjoyed one particular walk from Polruan to our holiday cottage.

The car was returned during our second week. The fault was found in the copper fuel pipe from the petrol tank to the petrol pump. A tiny hole was causing an airlock in the system. We returned home without any further incidents.

Our next adventure came as we were driving into the vicarage following a pre-Christmas visit to Old Sodbury. A loud clunking noise was coming from under the bonnet. I switched off the ignition. At least we had made it safely home!

We had always said that if anything major happened to the Rover, we would have to scrap it. However, before taking such drastic action we would need to assess the damage, and the cost of repairs.

With the help of a fellow enthusiast, we removed the cylinder head, and found that an exhaust valve had jammed open. A visit was made to the splendid garage in Kingsclere with the cylinder head, and to report our narrow escape. Our good friend fitted a new valve and reground the remaining valves. If my memory is correct, the total cost was £35. We had saved our beloved Rover from the scrap yard. We enjoyed further travels in comfort, and with excellent reliability.

Tony Jardine

*We wish all our Parish News subscribers, advertisers and readers
A Very Happy Christmas*

and

A Healthy and Prosperous New Year

from

The Parish News Team



HIGH FIVES FOR NEW DANCE CLASS IN KINGTON!

In this class, there is no right or wrong way to dance, we simply move as the music takes us and/or follow our leader Elly if we wish. We can also dance seated if and when we need to, which I find very helpful in that, if I'm having a bad day and balance issues Parkinson's wise, I can still get some exercise! It's a relaxed and friendly group.

The class takes place at Marwick Hall on Thursdays at 2.00 – 3.00 pm. The cost is £7.50 per session. There is no charge for the first "taster session"

There is a class at a faster pace at the Parish House on Mondays at 7.00 -8.00 pm

I really enjoy the class and wholeheartedly recommend it! DO give me a ring if you'd like further information.

Kay Birchley Tel: 01544 230 718

Bill Preece - Ex organist and choirmaster of St Mary's Kington

Angeline and family would like to express their sincere appreciation for all the wonderful cards, memories and donations given following Bill's passing along with attendance to his service of Thanksgiving. We were truly overwhelmed by everyone's kind words and generosity.

Bill will be so missed by us all, those beautiful blue eyes, his enduring happy character and of course his musical talent. God bless Bill and thank you for the music.



An Evening of Christmas Song

Performed for you by

The Dolau Mixtures

Kington Community Choir

St. Mary's Church Choir

**7.00pm
Saturday 17th
December 2022**

**St Mary's Church,
Kington HR5 3AG**

**Mulled Wine
and
Mince Pies**

**Collection
in aid of
Charity**

ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

Remembrance Day Service:

The church was well attended for this special communion service led by Rev. Ben.

Following the Remembrance Day Service in Kington, Pauline Walker laid a wreath at the Kington War Memorial to represent the men from Huntington who lost their lives during the war.



Christmas Services:

Saturday 17th December – 3:00pm – Knights of St Lazarus Carol Service

Sunday 18th December – 11:00am – United Reform Church Carol Service (Joint)

St. Thomas à Becket parishioners will be attending a joint Carol Service at Huntington United Reform Church. A warm welcome will be extended to everyone who wishes to join us.

25 December – 8.30am – Christmas morning Holy Eucharist.

Silence and Prayer at Huntington Church

Silence and Prayer has now changed from Wednesday to Thursday at 3:00pm every other week.

Jam, Chutney & Honey:

Due to its popularity, we are continually replenishing our jam and chutney stand in church with new and varied supplies. These are all made from produce grown in Huntington gardens. There is also a limited supply of local Kington honey for sale. Whether you wish to treat yourself to something tasty, or give them as Christmas gifts, our church benefits from the money raised.

Village Hall Events - Dates for your Diary:

Christmas Lunch

There will be a Christmas lunch on Sunday 11th December at 12.30 in the village hall. Tickets are £15 per person for a three course meal, which should be purchased in advance from Pippa Lloyd - pippalloyde@btinternet.com There will be an opportunity to peruse the books of the history of Huntington which have been compiled over the years by Anne Hammond.

Flicks in the Sticks

Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7:30pm – Where the Crawdads Sing.

An American mystery thriller drama based on the popular novel by Delia Owens and directed by Reese Witherspoon. Follows the life of an abandoned girl (Kya), set in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina.

Susan Maiden

News from the Museum

The Museum has applied for and achieved from the West Midlands Arts Council the award of Accreditation. This demonstrates the Museum is managed to a high standard and caring for their artefacts in the recognised manner.

We have purchased three silver Roman Coins found at Lyonshall from the British Museum. The finder and landowner waived their fee to enable us to purchase at a very reasonable price. Thank you.

3rd December we will be open for the Kington Food Festival offering mulled wine and mince pies. Selling books as usual to raise funds.

Kington Clockmakers

Time stands still for no man. In Kington, we were fortunate to have 30 clockmakers over the centuries from 1690. Two such to be found in 1690 were a James Arundel, who made a turret clock for the church in Clun. He was also from a long line of blacksmiths and Ralf Sayer, son of the Reverend Ralf Sayers, Under Master of Lady Hawkins Charity School Kington, who was apprenticed to a London Clockmaker in 1749, returning to Kington on completion. The apprenticeship fee of £20 was paid by The Son's of Clergy Charity. His wife bequeathed Pentre Jack Estate in Brilley to fund a school for 25 poor children of Kington – a Dames School, this eventually merged with the National School. Today the income from Pentre Jack is paid to Kington Primary School. In 1794 a John Mason Watchmaker was made bankrupt.

The most famous of the Kington Clockmakers were the Skarratt Family for four generations they served Kington and were a relation of the Worcester Clockmakers. They sold mostly 30-hour long case clocks. In 1841 Henry Scarratt made from parts in his workshop, a gas clock, installed it in his shop window for public use, now on display. An expert on clocks visited the museum, me in my innocence asked the question "How did the mechanics of the clock run on gas?" After chuckling, he replied, it did not. The mechanism was the same as any other clock, the gas illuminated the dial for Kington citizens to note the time. Silly me! Apparently the town clock was unreliable. The dial is the oldest one we hold in our collection as the clock was made up of parts lying about the workshop. Recycling!

We display five clocks, some are Skarratt long case all in working order, with the maker's name on the dials.

We were offered a Scarratt long case clock made in 1700's as a donation. The couple, Mr & Mrs Giles, were both over 80 years lived in Kent, offering to deliver the clock. Setting off at 7.20am for the 240-mile journey, they eventually arrived in Kington at 2.30pm in the afternoon. The clock originally belonged to Mr Giles aunt, to where he was evacuated during the war, lived at Norton Wood for many years. Mr Giles inherited the clock and wanted to return it to its original home, where it would be appreciated and looked after in Kington for future generations.



Wendy Jones Secretary

ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS



Readers for December.

4th Dec J udith
18th Dec The Children
25th Dec Elizabeth

Harvest Festival.

The church was full for our Harvest Festival Service.

Ben was on a much deserved holiday so thanks to Rev Tony Jardine for taking the service. Everyone really enjoyed Tony's sermon and the children now realise why they have a half term in October!.

Thanks to all the children who took part in the service and for taking up the Harvest Baskets beautifully prepared by the children and Win.

Afterwards we all went to the village hall for a lovely Harvest Supper. £100 has been donated to St Michael's Hospice which was the proceeds of the supper.

Remembrance Sunday.

A good number of people gathered at the village war memorial for the act of remembrance. Our thanks to Rob for leading the service.

Christmas Lunch.

We are holding our village Christmas lunch again this year on Sunday 11th December. To book your place please ring Di Bayliss on 07456576548

Carol Service.

To confirm that the village carol service will take place in church at 6pm on Sunday 18th December. Please try and come along and join in the singing of some favourite carols. There's no better way to start Christmas.



Christmas Day Service.

Our Christmas day service will be at 10am with a service of Holy Communion.

It only remains on behalf of Ben and myself to thank you for all your help during the last year and to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Dick

A Bittern Sighted at Rushock

In the first week in October, a Bittern (a great bird rarity) was seen at Beech Grove Nursery. It was flying in a north easterly direction at 8.45am.

R Pye



Not a Proper Gardener (Part 25)

By the time this magazine is in circulation (29th November) we shall have Acer Tree Services busy in our front garden. Our beloved Mulberry Tree is in need of a bit of surgery. Sometime during the year the poor



tree's trunk has split into three parts, so that I now understand why we sing about going round the mulberry bush, except that you can't actually begin to dance round this one. Rather than cut the whole tree down we have opted to a cobra bracing system fitted half way up, pulling the three pieces closer together. At the same time the top will be thinned out by about 15%. We just hope that this treatment proves successful. Our four original traditional mediaeval herb garden trees have all suffered. The walnut I had to cut down just as it produced its first nut - I had planted it too close to the house; the medlar got seriously damaged, though this year it's produced a dozen medlars; the quince, variety Vranja, in spite of the drought, has produced the best crop ever, mostly given away, but the tree now needs propping up yet again before the next gales have a go at it. Oh but you should have caught the almost overwhelmingly wonderful scent which filled the garage when they were laid out to mature!

Autumn and winter in the garden are times for clearing up the mess and trips to compost heap and tip. Giles has been busy helping Emma gather up and bag all the fallen leaves to make nutritious leaf-mould for mulching. But also we need to be looking ahead, for as day follows night and death is followed by resurrection, we need to start preparing for the new life of spring. Are we in for a hard winter first, I wonder? Some plants benefit from a spell of frosty weather, black currants for example; and the flavour of parsnips is improved by a bit of frost. There was one year, not so long ago, when I was having to use a pickaxe to get some of those out of the ground. They were fine. And then some folk say we need a cold snap to kill lots of germs and bugs. But what about wildlife? Well, at least our two (or three?) hedgehogs are sensibly tucked up in their winter quarters, hibernating. Considering the quantities of Emma's calci worms they consumed they should be fine. There's something to be said for going to bed at Michaelmas like Moomins and not getting up until Lady Day.

Ever hopeful, we have planted out salads on one side in the greenhouse and broad beans on the other. And in the veg patch there's a healthy assortment of hardy winter greens, mostly protected from pigeons. (Giles and I delight in eating pigeon for Sunday lunch. It serves as a sort of revenge.) And we've plenty of apples in store. Remember I ate my last few Adam's Pearmain during the first week of May this year. Otherwise, of course, there's all the frozen and bottled stuff. How productive a small garden can be. And on the non-edible side I've some sweet-pea plants started off and I'm going to grow cosmos again this year. They've made a wonderful long-flowering show.

Huckleberries, common in America and possibly sometimes called whortleberries, grow like weeds in our garden. I originally cultivated some in my Rectory garden and some seeds must have travelled with us into Herefordshire in a pot with some plant deliberately brought with us, perhaps with our wineberries, another unusual plant which we have, growing and fruiting on a bit of trellis. Anyway, these huckleberries self seed every year and, if we're kind to them, produce berries which might easily be confused if you didn't know, with deadly nightshade (which happily they are not.) This year we left some to mature and gathered enough to make a huckleberry tart to enjoy with ice-cream. They have an unusual rather peppery flavour. Now I don't like everything that comes out of

America, but these are rather special and, being a weed (!) are no trouble to grow!

Recently, the starlings have turned up early in the morning to eat any calci worms still to be found. I've always likened them to military police, somehow rather bossy and determined and afraid of none of the other garden birds.

The old wheelbarrow has served its turn all right, being put out by the front gate a number of times with surplus apples for folk to help themselves, and in addition there were plenty of rejects for me to make into a few gallons of cider – waste not, want not! And on an October visit up to the Hergest Kitchen Garden Giles and I sat on our usual seat in the middle of a carpet of lovely apples, several hundred I should say. On the gate visitors were invited to pick their own apples for £2 a bagful, (bags supplied). But now, in the middle of November, all the seats have been removed, probably for a bit of T.L.C. during the winter. Happy Christmas.

Denis Parry.

Community Shop Dates

30 Nov - 6 Dec	Newchurch Church
7 Dec - 13 Dec	Bleddfa Church
14 Dec - 20 Dec	Pentre Farm CiC
Christmas - New Year	Closed
4 Jan - 10 Jan	Vacant
11 Jan - 17 Jan	Vacant
18 Jan - 24 Jan	St Mary's Church PCC
25 Jan - 31 Jan	Kington Lions



Kington Community Shop Update

With a different group bringing fresh stock in, every week, it is one of the most interesting shops, anywhere? You never know what you will find in there! It is a wonder of re-use and a brilliant example of the “local multiplier” effect; keeping more of our money in the community. 50 local organisations raise a grand total of over £60,000 each year!

Our Committee rents the whole shop on behalf of all the groups who use it. We pay the bills including insurance, cleaning, PAT testing, keep accounts & take care of maintenance. Each organisation pays a share of these costs (currently £130) and will normally “keep their week” in a rolling calendar.

For various reasons, several old groups have not come back at all, including: Kington Tourist Group, Yardro Church, Radnor Valley School, Kinnersley Church, the Leg Club, Golf Club, XYZ Club, St. John's Ambulance & Cadets, Kington Car Share Club and the Twinning Association.

However, we are now being joined by several new groups as we have found dates for everyone, including all the groups that were on the waiting list. Groups will normally “keep” their week in a rolling calendar.

Please get in touch if your group is within a 10 mile radius of Kington and would like to be added to a small waiting list who will be offered any vacancies as they arise. Email: kingtoncommunityshop@outlook.com

I hope you all like using the lovely old wooden till I donated in memory of my mom. I had realised that every year, hundreds of volunteers used the till and I thought we all deserved to enjoy the experience – so now, every time the bell rings.

Richie

A Message of Thanks

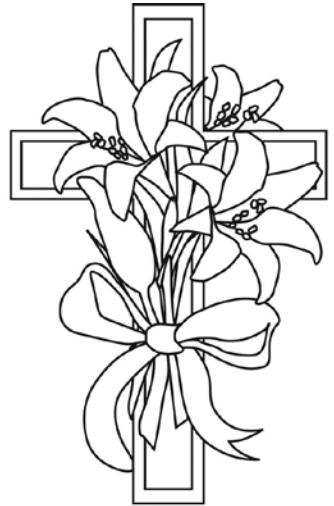
The family of the late Geoff Marshall would like to thank A W Hughes for their compassionate care over the death of Geoff.

Also, our thanks go to Rev. Tony Jardine for the beautifully conducted funeral service on the 25th of October and also at the crematorium on the following day.

We would also like to thank Choir Master Philip Sell and the Choir for leading us in the hymns, and for the beautiful rendition of 'May the Lord Bless You'.

Finally, thank you to all those who attended the service, some having come quite a distance, and for the generous donations which amounted to over £350, to be divided between the Dog's Trust and British Heart Foundation.

Nick and Chris Marshall and Jenny Matthews.



Begin the festive season here in Kington.

100 Food and Drink exhibitors

Music with local choirs and street entertainers.

**Free event Park and Ride
Free parking**

A Kington Chamber of Trade event.

Computer and Internet Basics

A free and friendly 4 week mini course for absolute beginners At Kington Library

Third session: 1st December 2pm to 4pm

To include:

- * Using a keyboard and mouse
- * What's on the screen (icons and shortcuts)
- * Connecting to the internet
- * Searching for information on the internet - safely
- * Email - how to get an email address

Book at Kington Library or on 01432 260600 or kingtonlibrary@herefordshire.govuk or www.hfdslibraries.eventbrite.com

The Tiny Woodland with a Big Heart

Since 2016, a group of friends & I have been restoring this half-acre hazel coppice with standards, alongside the Offa's Dyke path, at Bradnor Green, just 10 minutes' walk from Kington. Coppicing creates a sustainable supply of small wood in a symbiotic relationship with nature.

This year we managed to buy it, with contributions from 13 generous supporters. We welcome



visitors and invite local people to get involved with the winter work and learn more about this ancient craft. The views are pretty good too.

Contact: Richie Cotterill 07777 661252 or email via kingtonkleen@gmail.com



Kington Tourist Group

On November 6th, Kington Tourist Group, held their Annual Lunch at the Burton Hotel, and this year it was marked by the retirement of the Chairman, Miss Ann Edwards, who had held the post for the last 20 years.

After a delicious meal, Ann made her parting speech, saying how much she had enjoyed her involvement with the Tourist Group in Kington.

A message of thanks to Ann for all her hard work and dedication over the years was given by Mrs Elizabeth Banks, and Ann was then presented with a farewell gift and a bunch of flowers on behalf of the group.



Kington Trefoil Guild wish to thank everyone who attended ,donated and helped at our Macmillan coffee morning on Fri 30th Sept at Shelia Diggorys house in Headbrook We managed to raise £480 a little shy of last years total but still a huge effort in these difficult economic times. We hope to see you all again next year so watch this space for a date time and place.

Many thanks again from all of us in Kington Trefoil Guild.

Reader Writes

The old King quietly left his palace, as he liked to do when troubled, and took himself along one of the many garden terraces overlooking the forest below. These barons, they were enough to test the patience of any king; greedy, mendacious, entirely self-serving etc. He'll certainly put a stop to their plans for his forests. But for now there was a more eternal and important spiritual question on his heart; it was the Christmas season, and he wanted to think through what the coming of the Christ child really meant. Why this wondrous event? An eagle called above on great feather-fingered wings drifting towards the mountain meadows. It was decided; he would go on down and find Father Mattei.

Taking himself straight to the scriptorium, sure enough there was his old studious friend apparently deeply engrossed in a novel of a language he couldn't identify; Russian perhaps? After warm greetings and the coffee pot was nestled in the embers of the fire, the old King presented his seasonal thicket of uncertainties. Now Father Mattei, please tell me in simple terms and in our own sweet language, what is the significance of the coming of the Christ child, born of a young girl in an ordinary stable in far off Bethlehem?

Settled by the fire, cradling strong coffee in their old hands, Father Mattei stared into the friendly embers and suggested that the letter to the Hebrews was a good pasture to hunt for the answer. God is the Great Rescuer; we go wrong all the time and fall far short of his just requirements, but despite knowing well the darkness in our hearts, he loves us and is determined to rescue us. Thank you Lord, said the King. Yes, God sent his child to our world to become a sacrifice, punished in our place for eternal salvation. But that's not all, said the old monk.

God himself, in the form of a man, came into this world and shared our pain, our shame, the abject failures deep in our hearts. He was tempted like us, and suffered like us, therefore he is able to help those who are being tempted. God has been there before us; the woman bullied and pilloried, the leper cast out from community, the beggar ignored in his filth. Leaning back, Father Mattei, quoting (and translating?) heaven knows what, was clearly deeply moved. In the heart's wild excess and among the wisps of straw, what in the end binds us to one another? The cross? No. the child's birthcord, our common humanity.

The King returned home up the many steps, taking in diversions and enjoying the peace of a sharply cold winter evening. Owls made blood-curdling calls below; yes, it's a fallen world all right. No need to ask the mice. But God walks with us and has shared our world; he has redeemed us, and he calls us to walk with him through it. We are bound together, and we must share our burdens and rejoice together in God's rescue of us. The deep bass call of an eagle-owl echoed off a mountain cliff; God often speaks to us in delightful ways thought the King. His troubles had slipped away. Then he heard the clear sweet voice of his wife singing up above him; what a lucky man he was!

Robert MacCurrach

Kington WI

On Wednesday 9th November we held our monthly meeting in the Markwick Hall!

Janet welcomed the members and was especially pleased to welcome Chris and Jenny two new members to our Institute! Bronwen was serenaded on her birthday!

The highlight of the meeting was an enthralling talk by Wilma Hughes on the life of Captain Flora Sandes. Flora was the only woman soldier to fight in the First World War! She fought with the Serbian Army in the Balkan Campaign! A most remarkable woman - truly inspiring and respected by the men she led! She fought, smoked and drank her way to 80 years of age - no mean feat when most of her life was spent under harsh and sometimes hungry, cold and deprived conditions. Wilma was an engaging speaker and had obviously spent many hours researching Flora's adventurous life.

Our next meeting will be the Christmas Party . See you in the New Year!

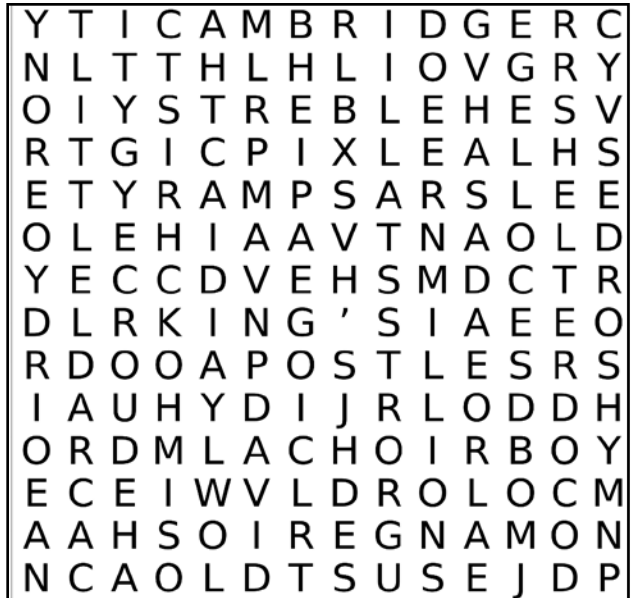
Janet Forrest



Wordsearch for December : Once, in Royal David's City

How will Christmas begin for you this year? For millions of radio listeners, it will begin on Christmas Eve with the clear treble voice of a single Cambridge choirboy. As has happened every year since 1919, he will begin the hymn 'Once, in Royal David's City' at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast from King's College Chapel. The hymn was written by a Mrs Alexander in 1848, who was inspired by the Apostles' Creed: '....born of the virgin Mary.' It is a superb introduction to Christmas: 'Once, in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle-shed, where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all; and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.'

- Christmas
- Millions
- Radio
- Eve
- Treble
- Cambridge
- Choirboy
- Royal
- Hymn
- David
- City
- King's
- College
- Chapel
- Alexander
- Apostles
- Creed
- Virgin
- Mary
- Jesus
- Christ
- Little
- Child
- Earth
- Heaven
- Lord
- Manger
- Stall
- Shelter
- Cradle
- Poor
- Mean



Standing on Aberyscir Hill by Allan Lloyd

Proceeds from the sale of this book go to St Michael's Hospice, and at the present time well over £4,000 has been so donated to the hospice. Below is an extract from the book. Copies are available from Logaston Press, price £10, or directly from Allan - which he would sign and deliver personally. He can be contacted at : Swanclose, 25 Hergest Road, Kington HR5 3EL 01544 230408

Extract from: Standing on Aberyscir Hill

'How terrifying as a five year old, at the first part of World War II, being forcibly encouraged to put on my comical Mickey Mouse gas mask for the first time, then escorted into a smoke-filled outdoor boys' toilet block in the school yard, and told to find my way out at the other end, disorientated and totally confused.

How awesome, or so it seemed at the time, seeing the beam of a searchlight follow a fighter plane clearly identified with a black swastika, with fire billowing from the fuselage, which exploded as it hit the ground in the near distance. Was it my imagination or did I really see the silhouette of the doomed German pilot in the small domed cockpit? I truly believe I did. What adventures, with pedals spinning on my solid-tyre, second-hand red bicycle, discovering houses destroyed during the previous night's blitz – a young and impressionable child's escapade. That was until the morning I discovered smouldering rubble resulting from the devastation of an incendiary bomb. It was there that I found a child's charred, red money box, with five cartwheel pennies inside, fused together by the intense heat. It was then, previously so innocent, that I realised with horror that this mountain of destruction had been a home of a living, young family and not just a pile of treasure trove rubble. Life had suddenly become an awful reality – ugly, dangerous and frightening to a then inquisitive and innocent six-year-old boy.'

Kington Community Lunch



Christmas Lunch
12.30pm
Wednesday
14th December

If you would like a hot meal and company please join us at the Parish House.

Contact 230683

"P & Q's" Psalms & Questions

with tea and biscuits
on Friday afternoons
at 4 pm

**Kington Baptist
Church**
Bridge Street



“Pinafore”, a Review

Kington has recently enjoyed a production of “HMS Pinafore”, a musical play originating from the second half of Queen Victoria’s reign, during which the empire spread across the globe. One of the characters featured a lot was a middle aged gentleman who styled himself as the “Ruler of the Queen’s Navee”.

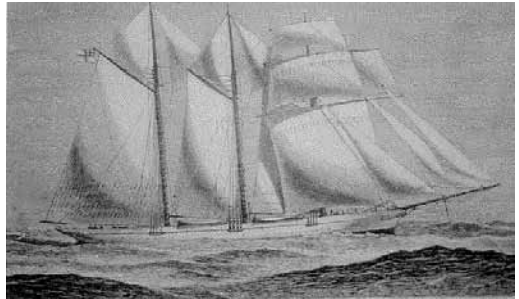
We were able to relate to him in reality, from our previous time in the midlands – having met members of his family and getting to know the glorious mews that he had eventually acquired in the late 1800’s – Apethorpe Hall.

His proper name was Lord Brassey, whose father was an important railway contractor in the early 1800’s, well acquainted with Kington’s friend James Watt.

After school, he worked on the South Coast, at Portsmouth, where he developed a love of the sea and ships. Later he entered the Law Service and politics, and became an MP for Hastings, and wrote and studied a lot of naval affairs. He was eventually made a baron, which led to him joining the Board of the Admiralty as a civil lord.

He had acquired a sailboat named “the Sunbeam”, which he and his family sailed across the world in the summer, and included a long visit to Jamaica.

Later in the century, he acquired this lovely Tudor age mews in the midlands – which we had been able to visit, and which was known as a place often visited by King James I, as a half-way house on trips between London and Scotland, and could have a spot of hunting then.



“Sunbeam” became a hospital ship in World War One.

John Rerrie

Easy Sudoku

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

Intermediate Sudoku

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

Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley & Michaelchurch Village Hall

Thursday 1st December: The Phantom of the Open (PG)

The remarkable true story of Maurice Flitcroft, a crane operator and optimistic dreamer from Barrow-in-Furness who, with the support of his family and friends, managed to gain entry to the 1976 British Open, despite never playing a round of golf before. With pluckiness and unwavering self-belief, Maurice pulls off a series of stunning, hilarious and heartwarming attempts to compete at the highest level of professional golf, drawing the ire of the golfing elite but becoming a British folk hero in the process.

Thursday 5th January at 7.30pm: West Side Story (12A)

Manhattan, Upper West Side, 1957. Against the backdrop of the decaying tenements in the San Juan Hill neighbourhood and the constant threat of the wrecking ball, two warring gangs - tough Riff's Jets and swaggering Bernardo's Puerto Rican Sharks - fight for supremacy. Now, with a once-and-for-all, winner-takes-all rumble on the cards, an unexpected whirlwind romance at the high-school dance between former Jet brawler Tony and Bernardo's delicate little sister María sets the stage for an all-out turf war. But what's a gang without its territory? Above all, when the future is uncertain, what's hope without love?

Tickets (£5) in advance only via www.pay-brilley.co.uk Please note that if you do not get an almost immediate email confirmation, then your payment has not gone through and you will need to try again! Brilley Village Hall doors open 7pm. Don't forget to bring your own refreshments!

Kington Arts and Craft Christmas Markets

Saturday 10th and 17th December 9:30am – 3.30pm

Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines

December is here and time is ticking by. It won't be long before Christmas! So, if you are still looking for that unique special gift or card why not pop along to the Kington Art and Craft Christmas Markets on Dec 10th and 17th 9.30 – 3.30 at the Market Hall. We have a range of stalls offering different crafts and artwork from local makers.

Cards for all occasions Pottery Handcrafted ironware
Alpaca wool products Wood Turning Art Papercrafts
Knitted, woven & crocheted items Basketry Wax melts
Sewn products Wide range of different crafts

Dec 10th and 17th are the last markets for the year, we will be returning on April 15th 2023.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the Art and Craft Market in 2022 and wish you All a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in April.

Anna King - AK Crafts anna@akcrafts.co.uk 0797978676

“No Father Christmas for you my lad!” Life during the War, Part Two.

And so we moved to Tankerton and my dad rented a 4-bedroomed semi in Pier Avenue. There were plenty of empty houses, as many people had moved away to safer places, and so shortly, helped by a loan from grandpa, he bought it for £800. That proved sensible, for when, war eventually over, we had to move to Fleet, he sold it for £3,100. I cycled day by day to school in Whitstable while John, who was almost 4 years older than I, travelled by steam train to Faversham Grammar where I was shortly to join him.



And now, not so long after we had settled in, we two boys, returning from the woods whither we had gone to pick bluebells, discovered we had gained a brother, a tiny utility baby! a fact announced to the whole neighbourhood by me, skipping round our garden singing at the top of my voice, *“For unto us a child is born”* from Handel’s *“Messiah.”* Ours was, after all, a musical family. Mum and dad would waft us to sleep at night by singing together downstairs, mum accompanying and both singing: *“Watchman, what of the night?”* and so on. And John and I were constantly making music, he very competent on piano and I warbling bits of the *“Messiah”* and songs from *“Snow White”* etc.

I had always loved singing. At the age of two, when we lived in Crowborough, mum had once taken me along to a hall where she accompanied me as I sang *“My Bonny lies over the Ocean”* though I’d no idea what a bonny was - some sort of pillow perhaps? and I vaguely remember being taken once to a Methodist Church where my parents had used to worship and where we all sang a hymn in which, to the words *“Day by day we magnify thee”* I added, *“with a magnifying glass.”*

Moving house, my parents had lost touch with church, but now in Tankerton they sent John and me to a local Free Church Sunday School where we sang Mr Love’s favourite chorus, *“Safe am I, safe am I, in the hollow of his hand.”* John wrote a poem entitled *“The Cow’s Bottom, written while sitting behind Mrs X in Sunday School,”* Happily we two were rescued from all this when the Vicar of All Saints Whitstable came canvassing for choristers, bless him!

Meanwhile the war was raging on: sirens warning us to take cover, planes and searchlights and anti-aircraft guns firing away, and the occasional bomb in the locality making the windows rattle and leaving another crater or worse, a piece of destroyed property. The doodlebugs on their way towards London *brum, brum, brumming* overhead taught my mother to swear. Turning off the light and pulling back the black-out she would shake her fist up to the sky and shout *“Go home, you buggers, go home!”* And our under-the-desk drill in school proved its worth when the ceiling came down over us one day. I was in the scholarship class where Pimp, as he was nicknamed, would read us *“A Christmas Carol”* during the last week of the winter term. Once let out, we would race to the local bakery where we were allowed a crumpet, off ration, for a farthing, something to eat as I cycled home. Those doodlebugs were frightening though. If the engine suddenly stopped,

as was wont sometimes, you held your breath waiting for the explosion as the monster fell to the ground. Many folk had obtained Anderson Shelters, setting them up outside, ready to enter whenever the siren sounded, but our mum wisely said that if we were to be killed, she'd rather we all died tucked up in bed.

We were not long worshipping in All Saints. I had somehow heard that the organist of St Peter's, a Miss George, had had a row with the vicar, Canon Horsley, and walked out, so that he was looking for an organist, and I told my headmaster that my brother was a good pianist. The upshot was that he told the vicar, who invited John to come and see him. Asked to play something, John played "Country Gardens" I think it was, and was offered the job. He was only just 14 years old at the time. His pay was to be ten shillings a week and a lesson from Dr Blackall at Canterbury Cathedral on the organ (the one in the crypt during wartime, the proper one having been dismantled and put into storage). So once every week, whatever the weather, he cycled over to the bomb-scarred city, right through Blean Wood for his lesson, and thereafter, at St Peter's, played the organ for choir practice, (I in the choir taken by the vicar, "*Look at your books and open your mouths*",) and two services on Sundays – high church Eucharist and Evensong.

Canon Horsley was a proper character and very good with us choirboys. For an Easter offering, I recall, the congregation gave him an old car, and one day, he took three of us on an outing. We went to Dover. He would drive for a bit at about five miles an hour, asking us whether we thought we could run as fast as that, and then at fifty, showing us how fast it could go, and so on. No traffic on the roads those days, nor any MOT. During a service in church he would occasionally sneak to John and to me copies of Bach's "*Jesu, joy of man's desiring*", whispering, "*Sing this, Denis, instead of the next hymn.*"

His was one of the only sermons I remember. It was All Saints. Suddenly, pointing at the East window's stained glass saints, he shouted. "That's not what I mean by saints. there's old Mrs X just up the road who has been nursing a sick husband for years and years, and there's Mr Y who gives his meat ration and clothing coupons to his neighbour who's trying to feed and clothe three growing boys. They're the saints I'm thinking of."

When little Bob was going on for two years old, we had, obtained from heaven knows where, a little donkey on wheels which had helped him to walk and on which he now delighted to ride. And I loved taking him out on it. We walked miles and miles! Indeed, one Christmas Eve afternoon, I pushed him all the way to Whitstable harbour and, as it was getting dark, my worried father arrived in his car. He had been searching for us and I was told off – **No Father Christmas for you, my lad!**

Denis Parry





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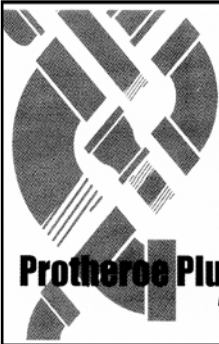
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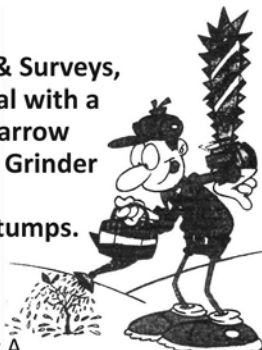
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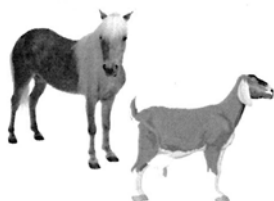
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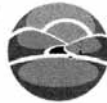


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Sat 3 Dec	9.30-3pm	Kington Festive Food & Drink Festival
Sat 10 Dec	9.30-3.30 11.30am	Art & Craft Fair Market at the Market Hall Messy Church at St Mary's Church KCS concert at St Mary's Church
Sun 11 Dec	12.30 12.30	Christmas Lunch at Huntington VH Christmas Lunch at Titley VH
Wed 14 Dec	12.30	Community Lunch at the Parish House
Sat 17 Dec	9.30-3.30 3pm 7pm	Art & Craft Fair Market at the Market Hall Knights of St Lazarus Carol Service, at Huntington Church Carol Concert at St Mary's Church

MATERIAL FOR THE JANUARY 2023 PARISH NEWS

by

15th 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