

Parish News

Kington, Huntington & Titley

December 2021



SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

FROM 3rd September 2020

email: mike@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	Sat/Hol	Sch	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	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

TOWN SERVICE

Tue & Fri Arrives Serves all areas of Kington
DOCTOR'S SURGERY 10.02 & 11.20

ARROW VIEW

Tue & Fri Departs Kington Museum 9.20 11.15
Departs Arrow View 9.30 RQ

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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Vicar's email: vicar@kingtonparishes.org.uk
Parish Office email: office@kingtonparishes.org.uk

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READER

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Mr Peter Kelly 01544 370266
Greenfield Farm, Huntington, Kington HR5 3PZ

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Mrs Rosemary Watkins 01544 230174
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Kinnerton Mrs Ruth Jones: 01547 560207
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St. Mary's, Kington PCC is a registered charity and its number is 1185453

Letter from the Bishop of Hereford

In his letter to the Philippians, St Paul said that Jesus Christ was God in very nature.

In the recent COP26 Conference run-up, some of us have been planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project. It is a fitting way of marking Her Majesty's 70 years as sovereign, and the tree-planting project acquires an urgent relevance in the light of the climate crisis. Gardeners will have collected seeds to multiply their stocks. It is a longer-term view and cheaper way than buying established plants from our suppliers.

Seeds are remarkable things. There is little correlation between their size and the size of the plant that emerges. What is more extraordinary is that the complete blueprint for the established plant resides in such a small package. Every detail is written in the DNA, ready to emerge when the conditions are suitable for germination. The seed is as much the plant as the tree is, despite their very different appearance.

All metaphors have their limitations. But when we contemplate the events of Christmas and the reality of God's incarnation in Christ, the seed to plant metaphor can be helpful. In his letter to the Philippians, St Paul said that Jesus Christ was God in very nature. In Jesus, God reveals himself not just as the creative hand behind all that is but also as personal. The human (albeit extraordinary) attributes of personality we see in Jesus are the characteristics of God himself. Paul is essentially saying that because Jesus was God, he took the lowest place, showed humility, and gave himself up for others. Appearing in human form, born as the infant Jesus was not a disguise for God, but God in his very essence.

The humble familiarity of the Christmas story reminds us that we can know God. The good news is that knowledge can be transformative as we enter into a relationship with him. I pray that we all enter afresh into this reality and prepare to celebrate his coming to us.

+Richard

Kington Community Lunch



**12.30pm
Wednesday
15th December**

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

KINGTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Annual Lunch
on
Sunday 5th December
Burton Hotel 12.30 for 1pm
Names and numbers now please
D W Phillips 230683



View from the Vicarage

“Christmas is cancelled: or is it?”

Dear Friends

*“I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”*



This is the opening stanza of a poem, perhaps unsurprisingly entitled “Christmas Bells” by H.W. Longfellow. If you believe, at least some of, the hype and hyperbole of the recent months then you would doubtless be utterly convinced that those bells won't ring out either literally or metaphorically this month because apparently Christmas is cancelled this year. That apparently is the conclusion reached by many of the headline writers and social media influencers having observed the recent disruption to commercial supply chains that Christmas 2021 is cancelled.

Let's be in no doubt at all Christmas isn't cancelled, hasn't been cancelled; won't be cancelled and can't be cancelled! Even Alan Rickman's infamous Sheriff of Nottingham's lines in the film Robin Hood Prince of Thieves: “Cancel Christmas” couldn't actually happen, however repressive the government might be. Even the 17th Century Commonwealth Governments didn't attempt to cancel Christmas! Doubtless understanding the matter more thoroughly than contemporary headline writers and scriptwriters do, they did, however, endeavour to ban the celebration of Christmas, which is, of course, an entirely different proposition all together!

It's entirely possible that disruption to some commercial and industrial supply chains may mean that some of the items that we've become accustomed to enjoying as part of our Christmas celebrations may not be available this year but that categorically does not mean that Christmas itself will be in any danger whatsoever of cancellation. If, as a nation, our celebration of Christmas 2021 becomes more like the rather more homespun celebrations which many of us will remember from our childhoods, is that really a bad thing?

As a child of the 1960s, I am, of course, a child of the television age. I can never remember living in a house without a television set. I do, however, remember one Christmas of my childhood when the television set in our house, there was only one, broke down probably on Christmas Eve or the day before. A palpable sense of gloom settled over the whole family as we all imagined that without what we all expected to watch on the television, Christmas would be ruined.

As you can doubtless imagine when we looked back afterwards we realised that rather than being the worst Christmas any of us could remember, it had actually been the best. All of us had done things together that we wouldn't otherwise have done. I'm sure that the playing of boardgames and other games together was a large part of that wonderful Christmas.

Not even the horror and calamity of warfare can cause Christmas to be cancelled, although as Longfellow observes in the poem with which we begun, it can cause us to rethink it.

*“Then from each black accursed mouth
The canon thundered in the South
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.”*

The poem was written during the American Civil War in which Longfellow’s own son served, so the agony implicit in these lines clearly reflects the dreadful fear and anxiety of a parent for a child in imminent danger. Amidst the cataclysm of war, the poet realises that not even the devastation of war can completely expunge the good news of Christmas, the sound of the guns drowns the sound of the Christmas Bells it doesn’t silence them.

The eternal message of Christmas, the golden truth which underpins and gives meaning to all of the rest is the message of the angels who sung over Bethlehem on the night of Christ’s birth: “peace on earth good will to all people.” Nothing, not wars, viruses, shortages in shops can completely obscure or eliminate that.

The true meaning of Christmas lies within the hearts of each and every human person and for as long as people of good will are prepared not merely to proclaim but far more importantly to live it then Christmas will survive as Longfellow reminds us in the final stanza of the poem.

*“Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”*

With that Jean, Linda and Paul, join me to wish you all a happy, blessed and joyful Christmas and God’s most abundant blessings throughout the coming year.

Ben.

Christmas with Covid-19

As I write this in November, the Covid-19 infection rates across central Europe look horrifying and it seems reasonable to assume that what happens in Europe today could be happening here tomorrow. When you see the dates and times of our Advent & Christmas services please work on the principle that this is when services will happen, it’s quite likely that some events may have to be moved outside! We’ll endeavour to keep updating the website and facebook pages but if not you’re planning to join us, please dress warmly as we might be outside!!

Please do advertise our services as widely as you can so that we can welcome as many people as we safely can to share this holy time with us.


Memory Tree in Kington

Following our successful Memory Tree in Kington Churchyard last year we’re planning to repeat it this year. The tree will be illuminated and dedicated during an outdoor carol service on December 12th at 4.00pm.

Please see the Kington Church page for details of the stars and how to obtain them.

Christmas Outdoors

Our churches and churchyards were all wonderfully decorated to remind anyone passing of the real meaning of Christmas from the star that shone above Old Radnor to the lights at Titley, the Tree and the Crib at Kington and so on. Please do look out for them again this year; you never know what you might see!



The Donkey’s Christmas Story
**A Christmas
Musical Entertainment
for all the family**
St Mary’s Church
4pm Tuesday 21st December

Narrated by Ben Griffith
Carols played by Fandango Handbells

Free Admission Everyone Welcome
Retiring collection for the Children’s Society

Book Review Seven Sacred Spaces by George Lings

The author’s search for a balanced Christian life has lead him to look closely at the different sacred spaces in the monastic tradition. Each one of these architectural places he has linked to a spiritual discipline which we can find in our own lives and in the lives of our churches today. For instance Cell equates to being alone with God. Chapel is corporate public worship, Scriptorium is study and knowledge and so on. The whole concept is quite easy to grasp but it depends on how you follow through as to whether this will be a life changing book for you or not.

Which is your favourite sacred space where you feel the most comfortable? Which sacred space do you rarely inhabit and would benefit from trying it out? Which space do you inhabit but not include God in? These questions have led me to visit a sacred space that I am often reluctant to enter.

Once you have held the idea up beside your life you can hold it up beside the life of the church.....not necessarily your own but the church in general. You may see that the church has chosen perhaps only 4-5 of the spaces for church life. How can we enlarge our own practice of faith and encourage that of our fellow travellers. Read this book and you might get one or two ideas.

You can borrow our copy. 07791935955

Trish MacCurrach



Praying the alphabet

In this month of December we will be praying the letter G. The first word that comes to mind is Gratitude. We are so grateful to our father God for sending Jesus to be our friend and saviour. This month we celebrate and remember his birth in Bethlehem all those years ago.

We came up with quite a few ideas for our prayers starting with Grandparents, geologists, goldfinches, gardeners, Germany, gorillas and those who are grieving. Many of us have friends with relatives who have died during lockdown. It has been a sad time for many people. Let's pray that God will draw near to them and comfort them as they remember their loved ones.

There are several special events for children and families during December, starting with our next Messy Church event, on November 24th 3.45 St Mary's. On December 18th there will be a Messy Christingle. Keep your eye on the www.kingtonparishes.org.com

If you would like anyone to pray for you or with you contact Rev Ben 01544 230525 Rev Linda 01544 239395 or Trish 01544 231848

St. Mary's Church, Kington

Come and join us for:



Messy Church



Activities



Songs



Food



Crafts



Games



Stories

Saturday 18th December from 3:45pm

Followed by Christingle Service

Kington Parishes Service Schedule for this month

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

All services in Kington marked * below will be available via livestream at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCho108zE6VUpNGQAmmfA90A>

Sunday, December 5th: Advent II

<i>Malachi</i> 3:1-4,	<i>Benedictus,</i>	<i>Philippians</i> :3-11,	<i>Luke</i> 3:1-6
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:		Titley
*10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:		Kington
11.30am:	Holy Eucharist:		Kinnerton
6.00pm:	Holy Eucharist:		Old Radnor

Sunday, December 12th: Advent III

<i>Zephaniah</i> 3:14-end,	<i>Isaiah</i> 12:2-end,	<i>Phillipians</i> 4:4-7,	<i>Luke</i> 3: 77-18
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:		Huntington
*10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:		Kington
6.00pm:	Family Carol Service:		Old Radnor

Friday, December 17th 6.00pm: Family Carol Service: Titley

Saturday, December 18th 3:45 pm Messy Christingle Christmas Kington



Sunday, December 19th: Advent IV

<i>Micah</i> 5: 2-5a,	<i>Magnificat,</i>	<i>Hebrews</i> 10: 5-10,	<i>Luke</i> 1 39-45
*10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:		Kington
6.00pm:	Joint Carol Service:		Huntington
6.00pm:	Carol Service:		Kinnerton

Tuesday December 21st 4pm The Donkey Story Kington

Wednesday, December 22nd 6.00pm: 9 Lessons & Carols: Kington

Friday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

<i>Isaiah</i> 9:2-7,	<i>Psalms</i> 96,	<i>Titus</i> 2:11-14,	<i>Luke</i> 2:1-14.
9.30pm:	Christmas Eucharist:		Old Radnor
*11.30pm:	Midnight Eucharist:		Kington

Saturday, December 25th: Christmas Day

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



Sunday, December 26th: St. Stephen

<i>2Chronicles</i> 24:20-22,	<i>Psalms</i> 119:161-168,	<i>Acts</i> 7:51-end,	<i>Matthew</i> 10:17-22
11.00am:	Group Eucharist with Carols:		Old Radnor

* services live-streamed

St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

The great Festival of Christmas is fast approaching, a traditional time for reunion, for fun, for kindness and for happiness for many.

Covid made Christmas 2020 a different kind of festival. What does Christmas 2021 promise for each of us and in particular what does Christmas 2021 at St. Mary's hold in store for us? I want to highlight just one of many services which will take place.

Reflecting on times enjoyed over the years at Christmas may seem a more attractive option than either the present or the future, but the underlying message of Christmas remains steadfast and we know that the opportunities to celebrate the great Festival will be there even though, perhaps. In somewhat different ways

Unable to gather in numbers or sing inside the Church in 2020 and so unable to hold our traditional Tree of light Service in support of St. Michael's Hospice, we decided to remove our "Remembering Tree" into the Churchyard close to the Garden of Remembrance.

You can probably guess what I am going to say next, yes, we are going to repeat the venture for Christmas 2021. Stars shed light, a reminder of "Jesus, Light of the World", the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. We therefore invite you to decorate the tree with wooden stars, specially designed and made for us by Elio.

Each star can bear a name and /or a short message in memory of a loved one, of someone who has been or still is very special in your life.

The stars cost £2.50 each and can be ordered anytime from December 1st by contacting :Kington Vicarage 01544 230525, Ann Edwards, 01544 230271 or Gill Pennell 01544 230019.

We invite you to join us for **"Carols Outdoors" on December 12th at 4pm.**

At this event the Memory Tree will come to life as the lights are switched on and the tree is dedicated. Please support this venture and help us to establish a star studded Memory Tree which will become a thing of beauty against the backdrop of our Parish Church and a welcoming beacon to St. Mary's for Christmas 2021.

We, of course, look forward to many other Christmas Services at St. Mary's details of which you can read in this Parish News.

Rodney and I send greetings to you all for 2022, may peace, kindness, integrity and safety be at the heart of our lives and worship.

Ann Edwards.

Community Shop

The Friends of St Mary's Church will be running the CommunityShop from Saturday, November 27th to December 4th inclusive from 9am. to 4.30pm. Please support them. Monies raised will be used to help maintain the fabric of Kington's Parish Church.



Dear Friends

I have just sent out letters to all of the generous and kind people who I know have, over the years, given generously to St Mary's. This letter is addressed to those I cannot write to personally because they choose to remain anonymous or whose addresses I don't have.

Here is the wording of the letter that I sent out:

"The reason for writing this letter to you is to thank you for your generosity to St. Mary's. It is only through such acts by so many in the town and beyond that we are still proud to have a beautiful church building and a hard working vicar and curate to look after us all. The Church is not about money but we do need to keep the roof on and pay the vicar, so your donations continue to be important to everything that we do.

Once again: Thank You.

Nick Cooke

Treasurer to the PCC of St Mary's Parish Church, Kington"

If you need to get in touch with me for any reason do phone 01544 230805 or email me at st.marys.kington.treasurer@gmail.com *Nick*

Christmas word Ladders

Turn the top word in each ladder into the bottom word by changing one letter in the word each time. Each time you must make a sensible word. The first one is done for you.

bell	gold
call	food
hope	give
care	nice
card	list
give	card

ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

Thank You:

Jane would like to express her sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to everyone who has sent cards, letters or telephoned to express their sympathy following her mother Pamela May's death last month.

An article will follow in next month's Parish News about Pamela's life over the past 50 years at The Swan, Huntington and her life beforehand in Hampshire.



Service Change:

There will be no Evening Prayer Service on Sunday 28th November. However, a Holy Eucharist Service will be held at 10:00am on this day.

Jam & Chutney:

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. Whether you wish to treat yourself to something tasty, or give them as Christmas gifts, our church benefits from the money raised.

Christmas Services:

Carol Service:

We are provisionally planning to hold a Carol Service at St Thomas a Becket on Sunday 19th December commencing at 6:00pm. This will obviously depend on the Covid situation and a final decision will be made nearer the time.

Christmas Day:

A service will be held on Christmas Day commencing at 8:30am. Please ensure you wear a mask when you come into church – thank you.

Susan Maiden

REMINDER - Advent Soup Kitchen: Advent Fridays from 10:30 - Place de Marines, Kington St Thomas a Becket will again be running the fantastic soup kitchen in the Place de Marines during Advent this year. Starting on Friday 26th November, and the following three Fridays between 10:30 - 13:00, we will be serving hot soup and a roll either to eat around the kotlich fire or (with a lid) to take home and enjoy.

We will also be selling locally made cakes, jam, chutneys and wreaths in aid of St Mary's Kington and St Thomas a Becket Huntington. Please come along and support our churches.

Fiona Shone



More Motoring Memories of the 1960's

After selling the Morris 8 (The 20 bob job) I part exchanged my AJS motor cycle for a 1947 Ford Prefect. The dealer valued my motor cycle at £12.50 against the total of £25 for the car. In those days, with limited cash available, I was always dealing with dealers at the lower end of the market! I later saw the AJS marked up at £27!!

I made the commute to the Birmingham for the next two terms, from January 1965 through to the end of June 1965. I only remember one journey of note travelling from Birmingham to Bristol with a double mattress tied to the roof, dropping it off at a fellow student's home.

I sold the Ford at Chichester Market and remained without transport for a couple of months. Returning to college for my second year of studies, my records reveal following up an advert in the Exchange and Mart. A 1932 Austin 7 saloon was purchased from Mr McGroves of 148 Heath End Road, Nuneaton for £25.

Notes: General condition - good. Body - good Tyres - good. Interior-refurbished. Engine- sounding like a typical Austin 7 (likened to a sack full of empty bean cans rattling around.)

We towed the car back to college and with the use of the empty stable, a fellow student with an engineering background volunteered to help rebuild the engine and to carry out further repairs!

We had a four-week deadline, working every afternoon and into the early hours after Compline (The final service of the day ending at 10pm) in order to have Jane Mk III up and running in time for the pantomime, Cinderella- no coach and horses, but a black and yellow Austin 7. I also needed the car for the journey home at the end of term.

Somehow or other we completed the task of re-building the engine along with attention to the brakes. Well done, Jane on passing the M.O.T text.

The panto was a great success. Jane was parked in the car park near the entrance to the hall. The scene was set in the kitchen with Cinderella desperate to attend the ball. In the centre of the stage stood an old-fashioned kitchen range, cleverly hinged so as they lights went out, the fairy Godmother waved her wand with a puff of magic dust, the kitchen range was transformed into Jane Mark III. I explained to Cinderella how we were going to drive to the ball. She walked round the back of the car and took the driver's seat. As the curtains closed a recording of Jane driving around the car park was played. Fortunately, this was all made possible by some behind the scenes magic. It was also helped that Peter (The fairy godmother) was a member of the magic circle.

The next deadline came at the end of term and Jane's maiden voyage.

Tony Jardine



The KLEEN Kington Car share club is back - and now with the long awaited all electric car

-As COP26 comes to an end have you thought about helping with further the solution?

-Are you fed up with escalating petrol and diesel prices?

-If you need a car only 2 or 3 times a week then you can halve your costs – most members save much more.

Have use of a recent electric car without hassle, no tax, insurance, depreciation or repair bills With support from grant funding organised via Herefordshire County Council and Malvern Hills Cars share club we are now able to offer the hire of a Renault Zoe to people who join up to be members of the car share club. The car we have has a range of between 160 to 200miles and it is the most popular second hand electric car in the UK at the moment as on many people discover its ideal for their use. Support will be given by local EV drivers in how to use it – but it is really easy !

What will it cost ?

Costs for membership will be £7.50 per month, with a £20 initial joining fee, but note this is per household. Costs per mile will be 13p, and of course there will be an hourly/daily usage fee as well.

After a cross check, and confirmation of the drivers details from the household, members will be able to book and use the car. This could also include occasional visitors to your home who would like the use of a car while visiting. Costs per mile and per hour are kept to a minimum for members from the local community by this being run by volunteer members (all drivers will need to be at least 25 due to insurance restrictions).

All routine running costs will be covered by the membership and usage fees

The car will have a dedicated parking place in central Kington.

Maybe this will enable you to not need two cars?

Perhaps you would like a long term trial of an electric car to see how it suits your needs?

Malvern Hills car share club have now grown to 17 vehicles and we can increase to more in future as the demand arises in this area.

So you will soon be able to have a fossil fuel free journey in the car - it generally brings a big smile to people's faces when they realise how well electric cars can work !

Any further questions please contact Gordon Coppock on 01544 232722 or gjcoppock@hotmail.com

Saturday 11 December, 7.30pm.

Music in New Radnor - Syrinx Ensemble

A delightfully delicious evening of light classical music from this professional wind and piano quintet, founded by oboist Jane Finch in 2000. Music with a Christmas theme, a few surprises and humour for good measure.

After all – 'tis the season of good will.

Tickets £12 / £3 from 01544 350268.

New Radnor Community Hall, Hall Lane, New Radnor, Powys, LD8 2SW.

Pre-booking essential. Doors will open before 7pm for a 7.30 start, to avoid queues at the door. Welsh covid-safe rules will apply and we ask you to wear face masks



ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

Remembrance Sunday.

It was lovely to have Ben lead us in worship on Remembrance Sunday in the church and at the war memorial. A lot of people of all ages came to pay their respects to those from Titley who gave their lives for us. We will remember them.



Christmas Wreath.

As mentioned in last month's magazine. Win Dowdswell is again making Christmas Wreaths and the proceeds going to church funds. If you would like on please ring her before 12th December to order yours.

Carol Service.

Again a reminder that our carol service takes place at 7pm on Friday 17th December. Hopefully see you there!

December Services.

As well as our carol service there will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.30am on Sunday 5th December .

Our Christmas Day service will take place at 10am.

Finally on behalf of all the clergy and Titley PCC we wish you all a very merry christmas and hopefully a much happier new year than the year we have just had.

Dick



Leg Café Open Day

Kington GP Surgery
7th of December 2021
10am – 2pm



Drop in & meet the team

We are really excited to see you all at the new leg café!

We are pleased to be able to continue with teas, coffees and biscuits while you chat to fellow members but the new clinic also offers you some privacy for your clinical appointment.

Jo the Lower Limb Specialist Nurse will be at the Leg Café each week along with the District Nurses and some of the Volunteers that you are used to seeing.

Not a Proper Gardener (Part 13)

I'm writing this during the second week of November. We've just harvested the last few of our mini cucumbers which have been so plentiful, and we've cleaned out and disinfected the greenhouse with Jeyes, ready for any trays and pots of overwintering seedlings including the sweet-peas which I sowed last month. There are still a few hanging basket tomatoes ripening; and Emma is picking, every other day, almost a punnet of autumn raspberries for us to share as dessert.



Well, happily we have not yet had more than the merest touch of frost. We also have plenty of vegetables including a few yellow courgettes from the plants I sowed late. And there are beetroot, parsnips and just a few carrots (You can't win 'em all!)

As some of you know, every day (often at teatime) Emma and I watch on YouTube a short Morning Prayer from the garden of Canterbury Cathedral. Dean Robert Willis' Reflections range far and wide, skilfully illustrated by his colleague, Fletcher. Together these two manage the 1.5 acre garden just as Proper Gardeners should, and the Dean moves from place to place to support our reading from Exodus. (Currently we are travelling through the wilderness). But at present he is linking all that with the daily themes from COP26. On 6th this was land use, agriculture etc. And I do commend that one to any who have YouTube and an hour or so to spare.

I have always believed that if I have responsibility for a bit of planet earth I should at least treat it with respect and, if I choose to use it productively, I should do so as ecologically as I can, using chemicals sparingly, avoiding the use of products that contain peat, perhaps using nematodes for slug and pest control, trying companion planting, practising crop rotation (as St Benedict taught) and encouraging wild life by not shaving grass too closely and by leaving a wild patch, and planting to attract bees and butterflies; and making compost, avoiding waste as far as possible. All this and more one incidentally sees being put into practice by the Dean and Fletcher as day by day throughout the year they move around their lovely garden.

And what satisfaction and delight one can experience by seeing the birds, even our naughty sparrows and, for us at present, 2 or possibly 3 hedgehogs coming for a bedtime snack of calci worms every evening. And the friendly chirpy robin which turns up wherever we are working and keeps us company, just as does the Dean's robin in the Deanery garden. St Francis, for whom Christmas Day was the "Feast of Feasts" insisted that we should not forget to include the birds by putting out a double measure of grain for them on that day. Happy Christmas,

Denis Parry



A Christmas Hymn (Suggested tune, Noel - It came upon the midnight clear)

This candle flame, like praying hands,
dark-centred, shines so bright,
offering to God both pain and joy,
both sorrow and delight.
It shines into the darkness as
it burns itself away
in giving life to others, turns
their night-time into day.



These Christmas days of freedom, won
from commerce, profit, trade,
are filled with festive joy, a break
from toil and work is made;
for Christ is come among us, bringing
joy that has no end,
whose holidays are holy days
for all who so intend.

But Christmas time is not for all
just pleasure and excess;
for some its tinselled merriments
just sicken and distress,
exacerbate the poignancy
of memories and pain,
of loneliness and sadness which
they struggle with in vain.

But by exchanging Christmas cards
with family and friends,
we keep ourselves in constant touch
with all whose love extends
to bless us over many years,
from near or far away,
whereby our mutual influence made
us what we are today.

No one an island is, we are
not meant to be alone.
Joys shared are doubled, sorrows halved
as God in love has shown
by sending us Emmanuel
to be our constant friend,
who walks beside, and blesses us
with joy, world without end. *Denis Parry*



**Seasons Greetings to all our readers
and
Best Wishes for the New Year
from
The Parish News Team**

A Tour Manager's Summer

Some of you will know from a previous article that I have been lucky enough to travel fairly widely by train, especially in Europe, over the past few years as I accompany clients on their travels. Barely any European travel was possible in 2020 for obvious reasons, and only recently, starting in September, did group travel return, albeit in a fairly limited programme. I chose not to venture into mainland Europe this year, but I have travelled a little within the British Isles since early summer, of course abiding by both the national and local restrictions which have applied us all.

At the very end of June, the Isle of Man lifted many travel restrictions to/from mainland UK provided you had had both Covid jabs, and could provide evidence of this. I took the first tour of 24 people on a 5-day break, sailing from Heysham. We were made very welcome at our base in Douglas, staying in a hotel on the sea front, and we undertook several excursions as we explored the Island. There are a number of heritage railways which the Island is justly proud of, as well as many museums, Celtic burial grounds & castles, among others. So much history but we only had a few days! Our first day took us to Tynwald Hill, the home of the Manx parliament, and then onward to Peel, with its ruined open-air Castle. I should have paid more attention to the sign which read "Beware of the Gulls", as I must have strayed too close to a nest, and received a peck on the head from a divebombing gull, losing my cap in the process. Nobody was very sympathetic, and I had a lump for days! The town is also famous for its crab sandwiches, which I recommend. The coach then took us via the famous TT course to Ramsey, from where we caught the electric tram back into Douglas, hugging the coast as it did.

Another occasion saw us in Port Erin via the Isle of Man Steam Railway, and then on to lovely Castletown, the original capital of the Island. A highlight was the old House of Keys (former Victorian Parliament) where we were able to participate in a mock debate. Did you know that in 1881 the Isle of Man was the first national parliament to give women the vote in a general election? No visit to the Island is complete without seeing Snaefell, accessed via the mountain railway. It was mostly clouded over unfortunately on our trip, but on a good day you can see England, Ireland, and Scotland. You can spend a lovely hour or two in Laxey on the trip back down the mountain and visit the famous Victorian water wheel.

My second tour at the end of August took me as far as...Llandrindod Wells! Yes really...! The Metropole Hotel is used by my company as a base to explore some of the heritage railways of Central Wales, as well as other lovely locations, some of which you will know much better than me. Needless to say, I had the shortest journey ever to get to the hotel, which was a bonus. We had a tour on the Vale of Rheidol Railway, between Devil's Bridge and Aberystwyth, a coach excursion in the Elan Valley, and stops at both a sunny Aberdovey as well as Aberystwyth itself. Other railways we took were the Rheilffordd Talyllyn Railway, between Abergynolwyn and Tywyn Wharf. At Tywyn there is a super railway museum, well worth the visit, not to mention the café! Slightly further afield, but very popular with clients were Aberglasney Gardens, in the Tywi valley of Carmarthenshire. It was the focus of a BBC TV programme "A Garden Lost in Time", which was produced in the late 1990's, and which closely followed the restoration. At its heart is a stunning and unique Elizabethan cloister garden.

At the end of September, I went slightly further from home, staying in a Victorian Castle on the shores of Loch Fyne in Argyll & Bute. The tour started in Glasgow, and a highlight was the train journey of about 3.5 hours up to Oban, passing along the Clyde to Helensburgh, & then along Loch Lomond and Loch Long. The weather was kind to us as we explored the area,

visiting the castle of Inveraray on Loch Fyne, & a number of other pretty fishing villages on the Kintyre peninsula. We caught a local ferry over to visit the Isle of Bute, and the stunning Mount Stuart house. It is a mix of Georgian and Victorian architecture, and the interiors are filled with craftsmanship and design. As we took the crossing back that evening, some of us were lucky to spot porpoises swimming alongside the ferry. The hotel laid on an instructive and immersive whisky tasting session for clients, which was enjoyed by the majority, but of course, as I was working then I wasn't able to participate!

I am looking forward to more tours next season, and hopeful that European travel will be a little easier.

Paul MacDermott

Kington WI

Our meeting was held as usual on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Markwick Hall.

After the business meeting members enjoyed a very interesting illustrated talk entitled 'The Fascinating World of Fungi' given by Tim Kaye. There are 12,000 species of fungi in the UK, and 1.5 million in the world, and 10% of the biomass of woodlands is made up of fungi. Lichens are also technically fungi. 9 out of 10 plants would not survive without fungi, relying on the fungal mycorrhizal network under the soil to support their roots. In woodlands trees and fungi live in a symbiotic relationship with each other, transporting sugars, minerals and water between them. Fungi are also vital in breaking down plant material such as leaves and wood, as well as bone, and also even plastics and oil, as part of the nutrient cycles of the world's ecosystems.

Members then enjoyed refreshments provided by Jenny R and Margaret. The competition, 'Fungi in any medium' was won by Margaret, with Janet 2nd.

The next meeting is the Christmas tea party on Wednesday 8th December at 2.30pm in Markwick Hall.

Margaret Cooke

KINGTON GIVES THANKS 11th December 2021

From Ben Griffith, Bob Widdowson and Kay Birchley

With much regret, we write to inform you that the thanksgiving service planned to mark the installation of the commemorative bench in the garden of remembrance at St. Mary's is cancelled.

We are very concerned that the level of new cases of covid in Herefordshire is high, and although falling, as of 1st November, remains above the average for England. We appreciate that it is more than 4 weeks before the event and the situation might improve, but equally it might not. Additionally we have taken into account other risk factors such as winter flu and falls, and, to summarise, we feel that holding an indoor service at this stage presents too great a risk of covid or other infection. We are mindful also that as a community we are desperate to spend time with our nearest and dearest this Christmas, to get back to normal so to speak, and we wouldn't wish to do anything that might impede this.

The PPG are organising a "thank you gift" to the Practice. (for details see: In Touch – News from Kington Medical Practice). We plan to collate patients' messages into a book, which will be presented to the Practice to mark the unveiling of the commemorative bench.

Provided Covid regulations allow, we plan a short (15 minutes), outdoor, mask wearing, occasion to celebrate the installation of the bench, which will be convened as and when the bench is ready.

Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley Village Hall

2nd December: Knives Out (cert 12A) 7.30.p.m

When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is mysteriously enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's untimely death.

Although the government has removed all restrictions on indoor activities, we will still be restricting numbers. We therefore ask that people pre-book their tickets by emailing fionaritchie54@gmail.com or telephone 01544 327227. (Tickets can be paid for on the door and are still only £5). Or you can book online at www.artsalive.co.uk

We also ask that people are considerate of others and wear face masks on entry and when leaving or moving around the building.

Don't forget to bring your own refreshments. Doors open at 7pm.

If you're an unpaid carer CarerLinks can help!

Crossroads Together (registered charity) launched a CarerLinks service in Herefordshire commissioned by Herefordshire Council in April 2019. CarerLinks Herefordshire work in local communities to identify hidden carers or carers needing support aiming to help carers protect their health and well-being and sustain their caring role.



CarerLinks can help Carers by:

- understanding the needs of all carers; parent carers, adult carers and young carers
- listening - our volunteering team have recently launched a new initiative called 'Care to Chat' offering Carers a listening ear for 30 minutes each week (up to 12 weeks).

"You are the first person who has really listened to me and understood my situation"

- offering 1:1 support (12 weeks) support to help carers improve their health and wellbeing
- "I have found that completing the Carers Star, has been incredibly helpful. I've been able to see all the areas of my life and what I can change. This has provided me with motivation to make changes and the courage to set boundaries... I need to focus on my children's needs and my own, value the life we have together and do things that we enjoy and that matters to us as a family"*

- signposting Carers to other local sources of help and support

"It will be great to connect with others like me who are caring!"

- providing: information, advice and advocacy
- offering information on carer related benefits and signposting Carers to the appropriate organisations for support with completing applications

"Thank you for all of your support with my appeal for PIP. I have been awarded the highest level for life and been awarded £5,000 back pay! I can now buy myself some trousers"

- applying for grants (up to £300, from Carers Trust – means tested) for Carers to purchase: white goods, tablets/laptops, furniture as well as funding for courses/training/education and even driving lessons.

- applying for grants for respite

The CarerLinks team operates 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday and is contactable on 01432 663057 or via email to herefordshire@crossroadstogether.org.uk.

To find out more about CarerLinks visit our website <https://www.crossroadstogether.org.uk/our-services/carerlinks/carerlinks-herefordshire/>

IN TOUCH - NEWS FROM KINGTON MEDICAL PRACTICE Issue no 2 December 2021

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRACTICE on winning the Hereford Times GP PRACTICE OF THE YEAR award!

This wonderful news came too late to be included in December editions of Parish Magazines. From subsequent conversations with patients I'm increasingly aware of how very appreciative patients are of the work of the Practice, particularly during the last exceedingly challenging 18 months or so. Several patients having asked whether a "thank you gift" was planned, I've consulted the staff who have said they would love to have a picnic bench where they can sit and have their lunch when the sun shines!

If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of this bench please could you kindly;

- Put cash or a cheque in an envelope marked FAO Kay Birchley, CO Reception and post to/leave at Reception. Cheques should be made payable to PRACTICE DONATIONS ACCOUNT.
- To safeguard patient confidentiality we do not have a record of patients' addresses, so please include an email or postal address if you would like a receipt.
- Any money surplus to the purchase of the bench will be held in the Patient Fund in a ring fenced staff welfare account, to be used at the discretion of the staff e.g. they may wish to buy sun umbrellas.

If you'd like to include a personal message or a child's drawing, please do so (unsigned please so I don't fall foul of data protection regulations). I plan to collate these messages into a book which we can hopefully present to the practice as and when we are able to mark the installation of the commemorative bench in the churchyard of St. Mary's church.

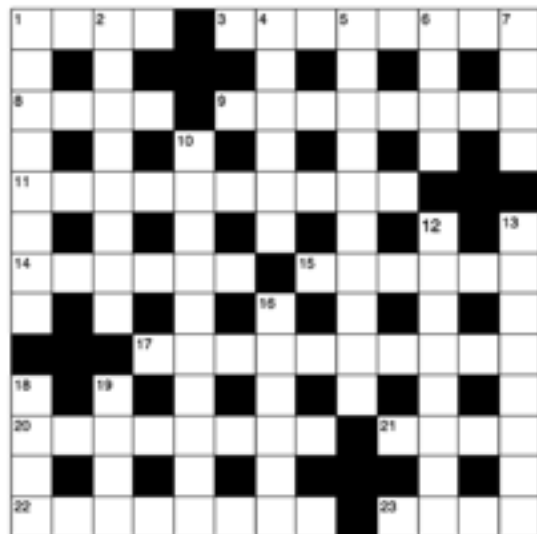
Christmas and New Year : Surgery closures

Please note the surgery will be closed on: 25th - 28th December, Monday 3rd January

Kay Birchley



December Crossword



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
21 Rite (anag.) (4)
22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

Answers to November Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.
DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

Reader Writes

The old king took leave of his family who had been enjoying a leisurely breakfast, and went out onto the palace walls. A golden early winter sun had already climbed over the shoulder of the mountain and was warming the old stone of the walls. A peregrine yikkered above, followed by furious protesting from the crows; the king looked up. Yes, not one but a pair of young falcons were being harassed by the corvids. Clearly one of his doves had been taken; they were welcome, but the crows didn't agree! The king dragged his attention back to the issue of the day; what is Christmas all about? The people, including his family, had turned it into a merry circus. But the king felt they were missing something, and so it was Father Matej he needed to consult.

Presently he found Father Matej busy in his herbarium packing and bottling his season's teas and medicines in a cloud of Ottoman smoke; that was only one of the dubious habits he had acquired from his time in Constantinople. Another of course was strong Turkish coffee which he immediately poured for his friend the king. So help me, Father Matej, what am I to make of Christmas? Can I find help there, or is it just a circus, another church holy day?

Tapping out his noxious pipe so that he could at last see the king, and taking a long sip of that black thick coffee, he searched for the telling words among the over-familiar. Let's call it what it is, he began, the incarnation. As the writer to the Hebrews put it, "Long ago and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son." God told us many times that he would send us a Saviour, a high priest, able to take upon himself the sins of the whole world once for ever. That is why he is called our Rock and our Redeemer. Between the blood of the birth cord and the blood of the cross, God made himself man to share our world and to die on the cross. And the world has never been the same, Oh King!

But more than that, insisted Father Matej the theologian, Christ was the agent of creation of the whole world. Everything was created 'through him and for him', as Paul puts it in his letter to the Colossians; those peregrines making a racket this morning, the sparkling streams that water our gardens, and the forests the barons want to cut down, the whole works. Here the old friends shared common passions; if God created all things through Christ, the Son, if Christ made peace with the earth by the blood of the cross, then how dare we misuse the world Christ died for?!

The pipe was refilled and the coffee pot drained; neatly labelled jars of herbs filled the shelves. The earth was the Lord's, and all things and people therein. We celebrate the light, muttered Father Matej; "the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not." The light gives us a sure hope. The king climbed the many steps back up to the palace; no peregrines, but a black woodpecker yaffled in the forest below. Thankyou Lord!

Robert MacCurrach

Christians are Crackers.

Or, as St Paul puts it in his first letter to the Corinthians, The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom.



So the crackers I made with my Compass Club youth group years ago were designed to put the Christ back into Christmas. I sourced a kit, possibly from Oxfam (though they are widely available now from various firms if you want to try this.) And we talked about how we might adapt a traditional cracker to make it fit for purpose.

1. We noted that a cracker wears a badge, so the ones in the kit needed to be replaced by a Christian symbol or nativity scene perhaps. (And we remembered that as Christians we all wear a badge, invisibly on our forehead, the cross made there when we were baptised.) Otherwise these crackers are fairly ordinary, this one much like the next, outwardly at least like people, like Jesus the carpenter after all, who didn't wear a halo, but came to live in an ordinary world and rubbed shoulders with ordinary people like you and me. Ordinary, yet each unique.
2. We noted that crackers have to be pulled. They can't pull themselves. We too need to be 'pulled' at a party. We're not made to exist in isolation. At Christmas the Church is our party. Lockdown made that a bit difficult last year; but this year?
3. They are called crackers because they explode. Dynamite and dynamo come from the Greek word for power. The disciples at Pentecost exploded when the Holy Spirit came upon them. We too, like these crackers, each have a bit of that dynamite, God's breath, God's explosive Holy Spirit in us, making each of us unique.
4. Like crackers too, we all have gifts, God-given and needing to be unwrapped and used and shared to build up community. And one such gift may be a novelty, something new. Jesus gave us a new commandment, good news, Gospel. What gifts can we include, fit for purpose, to make each cracker unique?
5. Then there's usually a hat. Our crackers could contain a crown, to remind us that the baby born at Christmas is to be a King, not just a figurehead monarch and certainly not a despot or tyrant, but a shepherd king. So perhaps we should make it a shepherd's hat. That would also remind us of the shepherds visiting the stable.
6. Then there is usually a motto or joke. Originally this would have been a wise saying or moral sentiment like "Early to bed, early to rise makes you healthy, wealthy and wise," or "The wise old owl sat in the oak, the more he saw the less he spoke; the less he spoke the more he heard, he is guided by this wise old bird." Or perhaps we might use a beatitude or other saying of Jesus.
7. Finally, where do we expect to find crackers but at a feast? Our Christmas dinner is what early Christians called an agape (pronounced ag-a-pay). The word means love. It's a feast where everyone is friendly and happy, perhaps a foretaste of that feast often hinted at in the Bible, a feast prepared for us in the Kingdom of Heaven. The Compass Club distributed their wonderful creations at a Family Service on Christmas afternoon, and there were just enough to go round.

Emma and I have twice made crackers like that since living here, once for Kington and once for a Christmas Family Service at Shobdon which I was taking during an interregnum. Mention of that "wedding cake church" reminds me of a funny incident which occurred one Sunday when I cycled there, wearing shorts, to take matins. On opening my case I discovered only a surplice, and there was no cassock available. And they do say, you know, that a cassock hides a multitude of sins! However, wearing just that surplice over my shorts, clerical shirt and dog-collar, I must have looked like a fallen angel modelling a new sartorial summer fashion for clergy! But, due to much laughter, I'm afraid there was nothing for it but to return to mufti.

The Song of the Christmas Crackers

It's lonely lying here and waiting
arrayed in red funereal crêpe;
We crackers should be celebrating,
but from ourselves we can't escape.

My friends, why don't you pull each other
and from your 'prisonment break free?
For every Cracker has a brother;
open yourself to him, and see.

A dozen Crackers' dynamite
explodes. The winds from heaven blow.
The upper room is filled with light
from Spirit-driven dynamo.

We come with novelties in hand,
wise mottoes too, and gifts we bring.
We enter Topsy-turvy land
with crowns to crown a baby king.

"You must be tipsy!" comes the cry;
"your speech is strange, your actions odd."
"Not drunk, just Crackers," we reply,
"touched by the foolishness of God"

So stand not there with mouths agape,
but pull each other, friends, and pray
that each may from himself escape
to join our Christmas agape.

That's it for now. Have a very happy Christmas, Crackers and all.

Denis Parry

Easy Sudoku

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

Intermediate Sudoku

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

A Word from St Hugh's December 2021

This time of year can be difficult for many people for numerous reasons. Weather patterns and limited hours of daylight are not always uplifting for mind or body. Dull, foggy days seem to dampen spirits, and it seems as if bright days are needed on a regular basis.

Here at St. Hugh's the words of Scripture often lead Worship in the way of giving thanks to God always. The habit of looking on the bright side of life is not necessarily easy though. However, at this time of year the focus is on the tiny Christchild, arriving among ordinary people whilst at the same time being announced by angels. The Nunc Dimittis said at Evening or Night Prayer are the words of a very elderly Simeon when he holds the long awaited Christ in his arms. He recognises the wondrous event as being one which will bring light to all.

Shortly there will be celebrations proclaiming the miracle at the heart of the Christian Faith. That miracle continues as God's Love is shown through the smiles, kind words and caring actions of people everywhere. In other words they represent The Light. Through the dark days of winter, and in fact throughout the year, the light of love shines everywhere.

The words of the Nunc Dimittis from The Book of Common Prayer may seem somewhat old fashioned but sum up the message of Light in Darkness.

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles (All people) and to be the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen."

Please feel free to contact us for specific prayers or queries about St. Hugh's.

Peter and Pauline Swain. Tel. 01544 230999 Mobile 07890 877916

Email: pandpswain@gmail.com

Kington Art and Craft Christmas Market

Looking for that Unusual and Special Christmas Present for someone?
Then why not pop along to the Kington Art and Craft Christmas Markets
on

December 11th and 18th.

We have a selection of stalls offering a wide range of handcrafted and unique crafts, as well as several artists.
So, whatever you're looking for be it a card or gift, pop along and see us.
9.30am - 3.00pm in Kington Market Hall.

Supporting local Artist and Crafters
Dec 18th is our last market for this year.
We will be returning on April 16th.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the market in 2021
Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

KINGTON Festive Foods from the Borders. SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 2021. 9.30 - 3.30

A Gastronomic inspiration of Food and Drink from the Marches.

A lovely day to begin the Festive season.

Covid regulations will be in place for a safe and enjoyable day.

Free event in the centre of town.



Kington & District Community Shop

27th November - 4th December	Friends of St. Mary's (Kington)
6th - 10th December	CLOSED
11th - 18th December	Walton Village Hall
19th December	CLOSED for Christmas & New Year

We plan to start 2022 with a return to groups changing over weekly especially since there is no longer any requirement to quarantine stock. It is also clear that customers and volunteer staff are all behaving sensibly. The shop is as popular as ever and groups have raised an average of about £1,400 since it re-opened in May.

Groups will change-over on Tuesdays and a typical week will look like this:

- Stock-up after 6pm on Tuesday evening (or asap)
- Open from Wednesday
- Clear-out by mid-day next Tuesday (by the latest)
- Cleaning on Tuesday afternoon

Richie will be contacting groups individually to sort out dates.

The shop's many volunteers are now enjoying a lovely old wooden till which I have provided in happy memory of my mom Dorothy, who enjoyed volunteering in her local Age Concern charity shop in Birmingham, for many years. There is a "knack" to opening the draw using your thumb on a disguised lock (secret instructions provided). Best of all it's little bell makes a very satisfying "ting!" every time it is used.

Best Wishes for 2022

Richie

Tales from the Chalk Face (10): A Beacon on the Hill (contd)

My tenure at Archbishop Benson was marked by a number of 'big events' and anniversaries. The eclipse was itself eclipsed by three major events. The first, was the start of a new millennium in 2000- huge parties and concerts, fireworks and a Kernow Bysvyken (Cornwall Forever) book for every child. During the spring of that year, the Cathedral organised a series of Lent Lectures, with some very high-profile people taking one of the sentences of the Millennium Prayer as the theme for their talk. The lecture was then followed by a service of Compline. For some reason, I was asked to speak on 'delight in the good' in the context of education- and to bring in the research work I was doing in Cambridge. My thesis was all about exploring and comparing views of quality in schools. The week came and I gave my lecture in the cathedral. However, that day the organist had injured his hand, and so they invited me to play the organ for the service that followed.

2001 was the 125th anniversary of the Diocese. There were special events for all the church schools, and to mark the occasion, there was a special ale brewed by Skinners Brewery in Truro. That year was also the 25th Anniversary of the school. So, we had a busy year. During our anniversary year, the diocese helped fund a major rebuild of the staff room and library. Both very inadequate for the school. We ended up with a fantastic staff suite, huge meeting room, kitchen, store room and a work room all built over the ground floor classrooms. The development included a balcony with brilliant view towards the cathedral.

In July 2001 we held a huge anniversary service in the cathedral. It was a grand occasion with both Bishops and the Dean in attendance. The school choirs and orchestra performed and the organ thundered as our 450 children, 60 staff, 20 governors and about 1000 parents and ex pupils sang heartily, songs of praise and thanksgiving. The founding Head and Chair of Governors told how they went with the Bishop of the day, to cut the first turf on the farm which was to be the new school site. They were both rather concerned that the Bishop might step in something undesirable, as the field was still occupied by cows at the time. To mark our 25th Anniversary we had a competition to design a roof boss to go into St Mary's Chapel in the Cathedral. The winning design was made and blessed, censed and dedicated, then processed into the chapel at the end of the service. You can see it in the roof today. It's the one with a football, treble clef and globe on it. At the end of the service, we all went back to school and the Bishop of Truro opened the new extension, we ate cake and drank tea and had a jolly time.

2002 was the year of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Her majesty began her jubilee tour with a service at Truro Cathedral. For some reason our school was chosen to present flowers to Her Majesty as she arrived in the cathedral precincts. The DDE at the time suggested we chose the two children with birthdays closest to Her Majesty's. This being done, when the day arrived, I was to escort them to a certain place near the steps of the cathedral. I was told I would be presented to the Queen by the Dean; the children would then present the flowers and the Queen would then proceed into the Cathedral for the service. Her Majesty asked me several things about the school and about Archbishop Benson, the Dean began to explain about Bishop Benson and the 9 lessons, and him being the first Bishop of Truro, but she cut him short and made it clear that she knew all about it already. Just after the Queen, came the Duke of Edinburgh. He spotted my tie, and dashed over to tell me he liked it (it was a Union Jack print). I said, "Thank you Sir, but I expect you have seen this pattern a few times before!". At which point we roared with laughter and dashed off to catch up with her Majesty.

I should have mentioned that the Chair of the PTA was a good friend of the owner of the brewery and he arranged that we should have a school beer. We held a competition to find a



name and to design a label. The winner was BENSON'S BEST. Hundreds of bottles duly arrived and year 6 spent an hour or so gluing labels on to the bottles which were sold to parents /staff and friends. A good sum was raised for school funds. However, I am not sure how Ofsted would have viewed that enterprise.

When Ofsted came in 2003 they said that "Archbishop Benson was a very good school, with many outstanding features. The Headteacher leads with imagination and a sense of purpose. The school has flourished under his inspired leadership", etc That was good enough I thought, but it wasn't about me- we had a brilliant team of people and so many, many things to be proud of:

- Our school choir had flourished. We were often asked to sing at big events in the city. For example, occasionally, we would get a booking for a big mid-week day time service, when the cathedral choir were not available.
- At one time 6 of the 12 Choristers in the Cathedral choir were ex- Benson boys.
- The school ruby and football teams did so well that, not only did they become County Champions, they went on to the regional, then the national finals. AMAZING !!
- I introduced an annual ARTS Festival Week at the school. Also verse speaking contests. Year 6 enterprise projects, music competitions and our reputation in the arts grew.
- On Several occasions I was invited to speak on the regional radio/tv about the importance of the arts in the curriculum. I was also interviewed on radio about a newly introduced personal relationship education programme, which had caused a bit of a stir.

In 2003 I was invited to stand as a local councillor. I stood against six other candidates and was duly elected with a huge majority as Ward Member for my home area , Moresk, in Truro. I served on both the City and District Council. Subsequently, I was appointed to the Port Health Authority (which involved, amongst other things, inspecting the Oyster beds in the River Fal), the Planning Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I became Vice Chair of the Park's Committee and the District Council rep on the Court of Exeter University. I was also appointed Chair of the Liberal Democrat group (the ruling party for both councils)

Bishop Bill was a regular visitor to the school. He took assemblies and the occasional school Eucharist. One year he took up 'residence' in the parish during Holy Week and led all the services. That particular year we were still in school until Maundy Thursday. So, we organised our usual end of term service for the juniors in St Paul's, our parish church. I had saved the trunk from the huge Christmas tree we'd had in the school hall, and it was cut to form a large cross, about 10ft long. As we walked down to the church, Bishop Bill, two teachers and myself carried it on our shoulders. It was stood up at the font of the church. Then, as each class came forward to tell their part of the Easter story, they placed fresh flowers on to the dead cross and bought it to life. At the end we processed the cross in full bloom and stood it at the school gates for all to see.

As well as end of term services in the local church, we also celebrated such times All Saints Day and Ascension Day. I had a plan, and decided that after the Ascensional Day service we would walk back to school and the normal school timetable would be abandoned. Instead, we would spend the whole day having fun and looking up into the sky...for Up, up and away on Ascension Day. The children made kites, hot air balloons, water rockets and parachutes. They carried out all sorts of experiments shooting things into the air, testing their parachutes dropped from the staff room balcony. To crown the day, one of the parents, a pilot from RAF Culdrose, arranged for us to be allowed to send up a flare, and for the coast guard to come and hover over the main field, drop down a guy on a rope, then land ... a great end to a day looking up to heaven. Now- as the children had been looking up, I had been looking on and talking and praying about what might happen next. (More to follow)

Philip Sell

What's on at the Cathedral

DAILY EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to join any of the acts of worship that take place at the cathedral. Services are normally held at the following times:

Monday – Saturday

8 am – Morning Prayer

11.15 am – Eucharist (8.30 am on a Saturday)

5.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

Sunday

8 am – Holy Communion

10 am – Cathedral Eucharist (this service is also live streamed)

11.30 am – Morning Prayer

3.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

EXHIBITIONS

Lost & Found Exhibition Monday 26 July to Friday 31 December, Mon – Sat, 10am – 5pm

Why have things gone missing from the Cathedral over the years? The latest exhibition in the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library follows the story of things lost but later found and of some special things lost but not found... yet!

Admission charges apply

EVENTS

Christmas Tours on selected dates between Monday 6 – Friday 31 December

Join us for a journey of festive discovery as we explore Christmas through the ages. These tours are a wonderful way to discover more about Hereford Cathedral during this very special season as our experienced guides share snippets of Christmas knowledge. Tickets £7.50 available via the cathedral website. Ticket price includes a mince pie and hot drink from the Cathedral Café to be enjoyed after the tour.

Christmas Sparkle Organ Concert Saturday 4 December, 1.15 pm

Lunchtime organ recital of Advent and Christmas favourites given by Peter Dyke, with large screen projection. Admission is free but booking is required via herefordcathedral.org. There will be a retiring collection in support of Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust.

The First Celebration of Nine Lessons with Carols Lecture Wednesday 8 December, 7 pm

In this lecture, Howard Tomlinson will explore the service's origins and setting; its content and structure; and how it was adapted by Dean Milner-White at King's. The talk is based on new material from the Cornish archives at Kresen Kernow.

Tickets cost £8, available to buy online: www.herefordcathedral.org/events

Ex Cathedra: Christmas Music By Candlelight Thursday 9 December, 7.30 pm

Ex Cathedra return to Hereford Cathedral with a concert of much-loved favourites, little-known gems and stunning new works. These are accompanied by a selection of readings, which together capture the meaning – and humour – of the season.

Tickets from Birmingham Symphony Hall Box Office 0121 780 3333, Courtyard Hereford 01432 340 555 or Cathedral Shop 01432 374 210.

Hereford Choral Society: Handel's Messiah Saturday 11 December, 7.30 pm

A special candlelit performance by Hereford Choral Society with Marches Baroque. Tickets available from: herefordchoralsociety.org/tickets

ABF The Soldiers' Charity Christmas Concert Tuesday 14 December, 7 pm

ABF's annual Christmas concert returns in all its glory, with school choirs, bands and even a guest appearance by members of a former rock band.

Tickets will be available from the Cathedral Shop, Tel 01432 374 210 and The Courtyard Box Office www.courtyard.org.uk/abf.

Hereford Cathedral Christmas Fair Saturday 18 December, 9.30 am – 4 pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Fair with over forty stalls selling a range of festive produce. Admission free, with a collection to support the work of Hereford Cathedral. We will not be holding the Carols for Shoppers service this year but join us in the Cathedral Close at 12 noon for carol singing.

St Michael's Hospice 'Light Up A Life' Service Sunday 19 December, 5.30 pm

Everyone welcome. Please visit st-michaels-hospice.org.uk for more information.

Christingle Nativity Service Christmas Eve, 2.30 pm

A celebration of Christmas light for children and families, with the telling of the Christmas story and the distribution of Christingles. Admission is free with a retiring collection for The Children's Society.

Due to its popularity, this year's service is ticketed to help manage numbers, please book via the cathedral website: www.herefordcathedral.org/events

Choral Evensong Christmas Eve, 5.30 pm

With Blessing of the Crib.

Tickets are required for this service: application forms can be collected from the cathedral or downloaded from herefordcathedral.org

Christmas Day Holy Communion with hymns, 8 am

Cathedral Eucharist*, 10 am *Tickets are required for this service: application forms can be collected from the cathedral or downloaded from herefordcathedral.org

Choral Matins, 11.30 am Choral Evensong, 3.30 pm

Holy Innocents' Day Saturday 28 December, 3.30 pm

A quiet service of remembrance for parents and families who have suffered the loss of a child, whether recently or long ago. All welcome.

Epiphany Carol Service Sunday 9 January 2022, 3.30 pm

Sung by Hereford Cathedral Voluntary Choir, celebrating the veneration of the Christ-Child by the Magi. Tickets are required for this service: application forms can be collected from the cathedral or downloaded from herefordcathedral.org

More Tales of Narrowboat Theodora News from Theodora - A brief interruption.

30th April 2008

One of the things that I like about owning an old boat is that there is lots of interesting work to do. This is good as long as you are capable of doing the work yourself. Today's interruption has been brewing up for a day or two but came to a head last night when dear Theodora took up chain smoking. Chain smoking as we all know is an expensive way to die so we proceeded up the Isis from Newbridge to Shifford at a stately pace so that she did not run out of breath. If you are sufficiently interested to remember from an email sent in the early part of March then you will recall that we have been here before but on that occasion we had to turn back through lack of fuel. The weather on the way up this time bore some resemblance to the rain that we had last but the wind was less and the river was not as high.

I called up RCR (River and Canal Rescue) and had a long talk with the engineer who will visit us later on today with a spare impeller for the raw water cooling pump. I hope that is the cause of the smoke.

A word about Shifford: it is one of the most lovely places on the Thames, in the middle of a nature reserve with woods surrounding the lock house. I could not have wished for a better place to break down apart for the difficulty that the engineer had in getting to us. As it happened it threw it down all morning so the enforced lack of boating was not at all annoying. We spent the morning reading and relaxing.

Some days later...

In the event it was not the raw water impeller. The chap on the phone was wrong. We had a different nice man call on us from Uxbridge some 57 miles away and he diagnosed water in the fuel. He could not fit us a new fuel filter but cleaned out the old one and gave me a lesson in changing the filter when I could find a supplier. The smoke problem was cured (mostly) and we proceeded with caution.

(A technical detail added much later in the light of experience: The raw water impeller was a more likely explanation. The smoke was not smoke it was condensation. The condensation occurred because of the high humidity what with the heavy rain and a hard working engine producing lots of heat. In fact there was nothing wrong! The reason that it appeared that the cleaning of the fuel filter had done the trick was that the engine had been stopped and had cooled down.)

Lechlade is a lovely Cotswold town built in the local honey grey limestone. It has a remarkable bridge with the radial stones which make up the arch being followed with further stones in the same orientation to create a sunburst effect which I hadn't seen before. We went on through Lechlade right up to the furthest point upstream that we could take Theodora and then turned around and moored just below the bridge. We had been told by Peter, the lock keeper, at St John's Lock that there was an Ascension Day service at the Trout in and we would be welcome. So we went, and we were, and there were nice eats after the service.



There are lots of swans on the river in Lechlade. They graze in the field against which we were moored. Holly likes chasing ducks off the banks of canals and rivers and, of course, a swan is merely a large form of duck. Holly spotted the swans from a hundred yards away and chased a dozen of them off the bank and into the water. The swans rapidly waddled to the bank, jumped

in and swam off with offended looks. This really should not happen. Swans are graceful creatures and should not be made to waddle by a disreputable terrier. They are the property of the Crown, for Heaven's sake and Mrs Windsor would give me a disapproving look if she knew. I bet corgis don't chase swans. One day Holly will try that with a cob guarding a nest and she will get her comeuppance. I remonstrated in severe terms. The following day we had a lovely walk around Lechlade in the sunshine, did some shopping and left in the afternoon.



Bringing you up to date (8th May) is soon achieved. Theodora whizzed down the Isis (Thames) to Oxford, slowly ambled her way northward back up the Oxford Canal and we are now heading west along the Grand Union. The plan is to pass through Warwick and to go down the Stratford Canal to Stratford, after that the Avon to Tewkesbury.

Oh, yes. I bought two fuel filters at Aynho and fitted one of them. No smoke. Theodora is now a healthy and clean running boat.

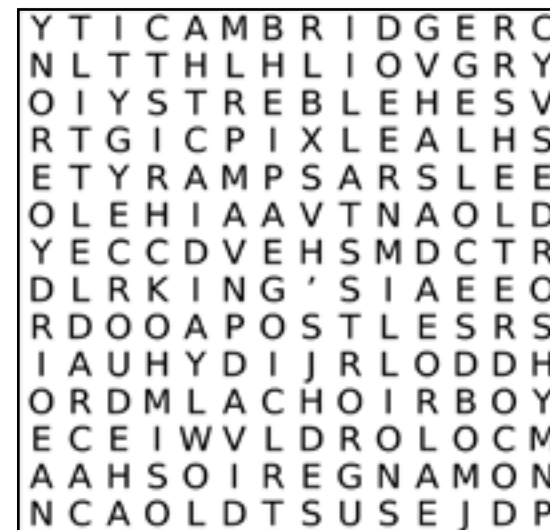
I nearly forgot to mention that the weather for the past three days has been as near to perfect as I could wish. The weatherbeaten look will be turning into a real sun tan at this rate!

Nick

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



Christmas Jokes

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas Quacker!

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

What do snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps!

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite!

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars? Their days are numbered!

How did Scrooge win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed!

What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? Cross-mouse cards!

What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree? Nice gnawing you!

What does Miley Cyrus have at Christmas? Twerky!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy!

What do snowmen have for breakfast? Snowflakes!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

How does Christmas Day end? With the letter Y!

What do snowmen eat for lunch? Icebergers!

Who delivers presents to cats? Santa Paws!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective? Santa Clues!

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party? Because he had no body to go with!

How does Darth Vader enjoy his Christmas Turkey? On the dark side!

What do monkeys sing at Christmas? Jungle bells!

Ho!

Ho!

Ho!



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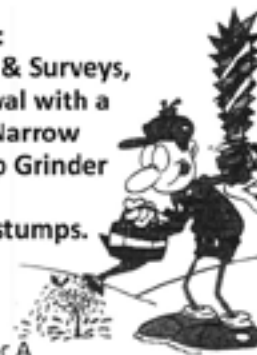
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Forthcoming Events



Sat 30 Nov	5pm	Kington Museum AGM at the Burton Hotel
Thu 2 Dec	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley Village Hall
Fri 3 Dec	10.30 - 1pm	Advent Soup Kitchen at Place de Marines
Sat 4 Dec	9.30 - 3.30pm	Festive Food in Kington
Sun 5 Dec	12.30pm	Horticultural Society Annual Lunch at the Burton Hotel
Tue 7 Dec	10 - 2pm	Leg Café Open Day at Kington GP Surgery
Wed 8 Dec	2.30pm	Kington WI at Markwick Hall
Fri 10 Dec	10.30 - 1pm	Advent Soup Kitchen at Place de Marines
Sat 11 Dec	9.30 - 3pm 7.30pm	Art & Craft Market at Kington Market Place Music in New Radnor
Wed 15 Dec	12.30pm	Community Lunch at the Parish House
Fri 18 Dec	10.30 - 1pm 3.45pm	Advent Soup Kitchen at Place de Marines Messy Church and Christingle at St Mary's church
Tue 21 Dec	4pm	The Donkey's Christmas Story at St Mary's church



MATERIAL FOR THE JANUARY 2022 PARISH NEWS

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 in December is earlier than usual
to allow for the holiday period.**

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