

# Parish News

*Kington, Huntington & Titley*

January 2023



# **SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON**

From 1st January 2022

email: [office@sargeantsbros.com](mailto: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](http://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

**Rev Ben Griffith**      The Vicarage, Church Road, Kington HR5 3AG      01544 230525  
Vicar's email: vicar@kingtonparishes.org.uk  
Parish Office email: office@kingtonparishes.org.uk

**Rev Denis Parry**      33 Mill Street, Kington HR5 3AL      01544 230550  
**Rev Tony Jardine**      9 Park Green, Kington      01544 239160  
**Rev Paul Buckingham**      The Cottage, Prospect Lane, Kington HR5 3BE      01544 231357

## READER

**Rob MacCurrach**      33 Cutterbach Lane, Kington, HR5 3EH      01544 231848

## CHURCHWARDENS

**Kington**      Miss Ann Edwards      01544 230271  
6 Headbrook, Kington HR5 3DZ  
Mr Rodney Bowdler      01544 231501  
Bridge House, Bridge St, Kington HR5 3DW

**Huntington**      Mrs Fiona Shone      01544 370391  
Huntington Court, Huntington, Kington, HR5 3PZ  
Mr Peter Kelly      01544 370266  
Greenfield Farm, Huntington, Kington HR5 3PZ

**Old Radnor**      Mr Michael Jones      01544 370259  
Weythel Farm, Old Radnor, Presteigne LD8 2RR  
Mrs Rosemary Watkins      01544 230174  
Dunfield Bungalow, Stanner Rd, Kington HR5 3NN

**Kinnerton**      Mrs Ruth Jones:      01547 560207  
Upper House, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE  
Mrs Sue Thompson      01547 560333  
Court Farm, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE

**Titley**      Mr Dick Allford      01544 231052  
Pinecroft, Titley, Kington, HR5 3RL

## MAGAZINE EDITOR

Miss Freda Lymath      [freda@sparkiesofkington.com](mailto:freda@sparkiesofkington.com)  
Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Rd, Kington HR5 3HD      01544 231780

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

## *Letter from the Cathedral*

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year*

*'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied,*

*'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

These words have become well known because King George VI used them in his Christmas message in December 1939 as the country found itself once more at war. They were actually written by Minnie Haskell who was a Bristolian by birth and who had travelled to India as a mission partner with the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. She went on to work as a tutor at the London School of Economics where she was a pioneer of Industrial relations and was committed to a spirit of cooperation between worker and employer.

The words seemed rather apt as we stand at the beginning of a New Year with the war in Ukraine still raging, COVID still causing problems, rising heating costs, strikes and economic turbulence all impacting our lives. If 2022 seemed to be to quote the late Queen an 'annus horribilis' it might seem that 2023 feels all rather uncertain and unpredictable. As humans, we struggle with change and uncertainty and the last year has added to a sense that we are no longer in control of our world. Interestingly, as Christians, we know that we are not in control, so we approach things from a different perspective. The poem captures something of God's promises to us that we will never be left on our own and that God will walk with us through the difficult moments of life.

The Message Bible puts it rather well:

*"Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," we can boldly quote, 'God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?'"*

*Hebrews 13:5-6 Message*

Alongside the sense that we will never be on our own is that we have a God who cares and listens. One of the positive things in our Diocese this year will be our Year of Prayer which if nothing else reminds us that at the heart of our faith is our relationship with God who longs to hear our prayers and who loves us without measure. As we begin a New Year, the one thing we can all do is pray and bring to God our communities, our concerns, doubts and fears knowing that whatever comes our way in 2023 can never overwhelm us or separate us from Jesus.

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.:"*

*Romans 8:38-9*

As we begin the New Year let us pause to give thanks for what has been a momentous year and offer to God all the possibilities that the unknown future holds, knowing that as Minnie Haskell put it there is a safe path:

*'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'*

## View from the Vicarage

### CHANGE, WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT CHANGE?

*Dear Friends,*

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023. I'm sure that you all know by now that this is going to be a year of quite fundamental change for Jean and I and therefore also for the Kington Parishes too. At some point, probably in late February, after just over seven very happy years while I've been Vicar here we shall be moving to a new home in North Wales. On 22nd March I will be formally installed as Vicar and Ministry Area Leader of Bro Ardudwy. This is a beautiful area of the country, a broad coastal strip from Barmouth up to just beyond Harlech, bounded on the east by the Rhinog Mountains and on the west by the Irish Sea, quite different from Kington and the Marches where we've lived and ministered for so long. It is where part of my family originates and more importantly an experience which Jean is willing to share with me.

Change however it comes is both exciting and enervating but it can also be quite frankly terrifying and I am experiencing the whole spectrum of those emotions. This change for us inevitably means change is coming here as well; it means that when I leave the Kington Parishes will become vacant and the churchwardens and Rural Dean will have the responsibility of maintaining the life of the Church and its service and witness to these communities as well as negotiating the process of appointing a successor, please do all that you can to support and encourage them in this, as someone who's seen it from both sides of the clerical divide it can be a daunting task.

It seems to me that the dawn of a new year is a time when quite naturally we find ourselves looking in both directions to see where we have changed in the past year and what change lies before us in the year ahead.

Over the next few months we will inevitably spend some time considering where the Spirit has been leading and guiding the Church during the past 7 years that I've been Vicar here. There will, I hope, be opportunities to give thanks for all of the blessings that the Spirit has lavished upon us as individuals and as a Family of Churches. These, of course, are tempered by moments of sorrow and lament, because life's like that.

The Good News which is the Christian Gospel is an account of supreme joy such as Christmas, Epiphany and Easter combined with the profound sorrow and grief of Good Friday, because Christ came to share in the whole of human life, the good, the bad, the indifferent and all of the rest and we do exactly the same as we endeavour as faithfully and falteringly to follow in his steps.

As we stand at the dawn of what will be a year of profound change for Jean and I but I'm sure for all of you as well, we can do no better than repeat the words of Dag Hammarskjöld, the first Secretary General of the United Nations; *"For all that has been, Thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!"*

That certainly is my prayer as I embark on the great adventure that 2023 will be and I wish it most fervently to you as well.

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, January 1st: Octave of St. Thomas Becket**

*1John 2: 3-11, Psalm 96: 1-4, Luke2: 22-35*

11.00am: Group Patronal Eucharist: Huntington

### **Sunday, January 8th: The Epiphany of our Lord**

*Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:10-15, Ephesians3:1-12,  
Matthew2:1-12*

8.30am: Holy Eucharist: Huntington

10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington

11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Old Radnor

6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Kinnerton



### **Sunday, January 15th Epiphany II**

*Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm40:1-12, 1Corinthians1:1-19,  
John1: 29-42*

10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Titley

10.00am: Morning Praise: Kington

6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Old Radnor

### **Sunday, January 22nd : Epiphany III**

*Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-12, 1Corinthians1:10-18,*

*Matthew4: 12-23*

10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington

10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kinnerton

6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Huntington

### **Sunday, January 29th: CANDLEMAS**

*Malachi 3:1-5, Psalm 24:7-end, Hebrews2:14-end,  
Luke2: 22-40*

10am: Group Eucharist: Kington

4.00pm: Songs of Praise: Titley



All services at Kington are live streamed.

*Now, Master, you can  
dismiss your servant in peace*

## St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

### Late December News

What a strange countdown to Christmas we have had in 2022 - so many people unwell, extra extreme weather for our country which few, if any of us, really enjoyed, strikes and of course the very sad news that Ben and Jean are heading for pastures new once we have settled into a new year, and now Christmas is really just round the corner.



Saint Mary's stands ready to welcome visitors, we have three beautifully decorated trees, each kindly donated, and special thanks go to all who bought stars to hang on the Memory Tree which stands as a beacon of light and hope near the Garden of Remembrance. Your generous buying of stars means that we have, currently, just over £325 to send to St Michael's Hospice to help in the valuable work they do there.

Christmas is such a special time for each of us in many different ways. For many it is a time to spend with friends and family, and to enjoy each others love and company. It is also a time when we remember and thank God for his blessings on us as we welcome and recall the birth of the Christ child. We look forward to welcoming you to our services as once again we celebrate the wonderful Festival of Christmas. I will write about the events that have taken place at St Mary's this Christmas in my contribution to the February Parish News.

Rodney and I send greetings to you all for 2023. May peace, safety, kindness and integrity be at the heart of our lives and worship.

*Ann Edwards.*

### Community Shop

Once again we are fortunate to be able to man the Kington Community shop to raise money for St Mary's general fund. Our week runs from 18th to 24th January and we look forward to receiving goods and offers of help over this period. A list for volunteers to man the shop will be in St Mary's during the early part of January - please sign up if you can help. We shall appreciate very much your help in stocking the shelves with good, useful items, as well as raffle prizes which will be most welcome.



If you have any electrical goods to give please can we have these on the Tuesday evening so that they can be PAT tested ready for sale on the day we open.

If you have any queries regarding this or problems in getting items to the shop then please contact me on 01544 230271 or Eileen on 01544 230859 and we will do our best to help.

*Ann Edwards.*

### Messy Church

There will be no Messy Church in January. However, there will be a Messy Church in February - Wednesday 22nd activity day with Pancakes!

### Lego Club

There will be the Kington Creations Lego Club on Wed 11th January at 3.30 - 5.00 in the church - See boxed advertisement on page 9 for details.

## Christingle Messy Church

We started with what should have been chocolate dipped fruit/marshmallows, reminding us that like presents, we can be the same on the outside but different inside. However the chocolate over melted in the microwave and so went solid and lumpy again! We still had fun trying to make it work and the marshmallows were soon consumed chocolate or not.

From there everyone migrated onto the craft activities. There were fingerprint cards, decorating a paper bag, participating in creating a beautiful Christmas collage and of course making the Christingle candles for the Christingle. 45 minutes later there were a variety of fabulous cards, beautiful bags, a completed collage and plenty of Christingles. However not all the sweets made it onto the cocktail sticks!

While the creativity area was being cleared away, children and adults went on a journey to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph would have had a tough journey to make and so did our active participants. Wending their way through the pews, they climbed over rough terrain, crossed a river on stepping stones, avoided bandits by forward rolls, crawled through a narrow pass, stopped to build a fire, slept in a cave, rode a donkey and balanced over a swampy area. Eventually they reached 'Bethlehem'. The first few helped create the stable by filling the area with shredded paper, adding a crib and being 'Mary and Joseph'. As others arrived they dressed up as those others who also travelled to Bethlehem, the sheppards, wise men and (stretching it a bit) angels. We ended up with a unique nativity scene until paper got thrown everywhere and various members disappeared to do the course again!!

Food was the lure needed to entice them over and we all settled down to enjoy a buffet lunch. I don't think there was anything left by the end.

This then nicely led onto the Christingle service led by vicar Ben who wonderfully adapted it to keep the children interactive and involved. We finished by all taking a Christingle candle, lighting it and then circling the front part of the church and singing 'Away in a Manger'. It was beautifully atmospheric and wonderful to all be together.

Our next Messy Church will be on the Wednesday of half term ...Wednesday 22nd February - activity day with Pancakes!

We have decided over the winter months while the evenings are so dark, we shall keep Messy Church for half term and Easter.

*Elaine Roche*





## Three Choirs Festival comes to Kington

At St Mary's church on 18th December we had our very own Three Choirs Festival when singers from the Kington Community Choir and members of the Dolau Mixtures joined the choir of St Mary's in a very successful concert of Christmas music.

Each choir sang their own individual items, and there were several where everyone joined in together - including the ever popular "O Holy Night".

It was a very entertaining evening, enjoyed by choir members and audience alike, and we look forward to it becoming a traditional event in the future.



### Kington Creations

## St Mary's Lego Club

Wednesday 11th January from 3.30pm - 5.00pm  
at St Mary's Church

Thousands of bricks - Lots of mini figures - loads of fun  
Children to be accompanied by an adult please  
Refreshments available

legoclub.Kington@gmail.com



### Message from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Parish News over the past nearly eighteen years that I have edited the magazine. It is the news that comes in that makes it the successful and interesting magazine that it is. However, we need more people to contribute so that it appeals to a wider audience. It would be nice to include monthly gardening tips, or seasonal recipes, or favourite walks, or accounts of local history, or ..... the list goes on and on.

If you feel able to write an account that would be of interest to other readers, please send it to me in an email (address on page 3) clearly marked "Parish News" and, if suitable, I will include it. I look forward to receiving your news.

The annual subscription for the Parish News, has been fixed at £6 per year since 2013. It has been decided that in these difficult financial times that it will remain at £6 for 2023.

I wish all of our readers a very happy and healthy 2023

*Freda Lymath (editor)*

## More Motoring Memories of the 1970's

Keeping the Rover 100 for what we called our luxury motoring, Doris the Morris 8 provided the ideal transport for local trips for the family. For parish use I continued to use the LE Velocette. Then one day we were made an offer for Doris of £75, thus showing a handsome profit, quite a rare occurrence in dealings with our various vehicles.



Doris was quickly replaced by a Morris Minor Traveller, purchased for £50. This was the start of a long association with the marque, though never totally replacing our affection for the Austin 7!

The next vehicle, though not owned personally, came in the form of a Bedford Fire Tender. It became the Parish Mini Bus through an opportunity not to be missed.

We had formed a strong choir to sing at Sunday Services, and needed to provide members with suitable attire. At this point the local pub, a true village centre, organized a sponsored walk around the lanes. It obviously helped that the landlady's son was a member of the choir! The event raised the magnificent sum of £400. After purchasing the choir robes there was a balance of £90 left in the kitty. With common consent, we would put the money towards a mini bus.

A chance conversation with yet another useful contact (what would we do without our network of motoring enthusiasts?) enabled us to purchase the Bedford for £90.

We made a quick trip to a school friend of mine in Chipping Sodbury who ran a scrap yard, where we found a J4 BMC mini bus. We removed and purchased a set of alloy framed windows. Returning home, we were told about a firm that scrapped double decker buses. I remember the trip to Reading, and that while we were removing seats Concorde flew overhead on one of its first flights from Heathrow. More history in the making.

With windows and seats fitted, the vehicle was transformed. We held a competition to name the mini bus. It was given the name 'Barnabus'!

As a reward for their singing, we organised regular outings for the choir, visiting among other places the steam railway centre at Didcot, the annual steam rally at Blandford etc. We usually stopped off at a transport café on our journey home. I would go into the café and ask if it would be okay to bring in 18 hungry children. All was well, and I was surprised when coming to pay for my food, having settled the children, to be told no charge, it was driver's perks. Wow, a free meal!

Another great pleasure came from the spontaneous singing of well-known songs. With the windows open I often wonder what people thought as we drove hope through towns and villages en route. A happy band of travellers in a converted Fire Tender! Those were the days never to be forgotten. Our escapades even made the 'Church Times'.

*Tony Jardine*

### Hereford Diocesan Guild

On Sunday, 27 November 2022 in 45m

Kington, Herefordshire St Mary

Tenor: 11-0-23 in F

1260 Doubles (3m)

240 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place, 480 Plain Bob and 540 Grandsire.

1 Diane J Pritchard

4 W John Clayton

2 Fran Watkins

5 Andrew Watkins (C)

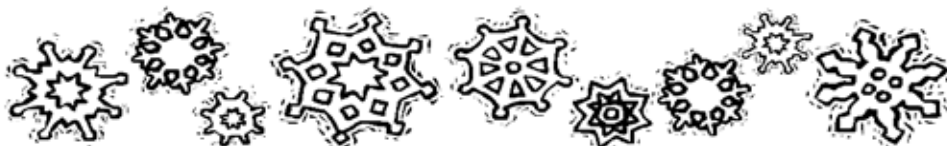
3 Christopher English

6 Roger G Bowen

Rung before Morning Service in Thanksgiving

for the life of Bill Preece.

Bill learned to ring at Lyonshall, and served as a ringer and organist at Kington for over 50 years.



## KINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

next meeting

**THURS 19th January**

**7.30pm**

**‘Rhododendrons at Hergest Croft’**

with Rowan Griffith

**at the Masonic Hall**

**Headbrook**

**All Welcome**



## ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

### 2023 Parish News Annual Subscription Renewal:

The annual subscription of £6.00 is now due for the 2023 Parish News magazine.

Would you please put cash in a sealed envelope, with your name on the outside, and drop it in to Peter Kelly at Greenfield Farm, Huntington, as soon as you can. Alternatively, if you would prefer to pay by BACS transfer, please e-mail Peter, who will forward Bank details to you.



The Parish News will continue to be left in the telephone box outside the Old Post Office (Geoff's house), for collection. An e-mail will let us know when copies have been left there, usually after the 4th Sunday in the month. Should you have any queries regarding the Parish News for Huntington please contact Peter Kelly – Tel.No: 01544 370266 or e-mail: peterbkelly642@hotmail.com

### Mahollam School:

Susan Taylor recently contacted the parish, via our website, to talk about the memories of her grandmother (Doris), of local life stretching back to the 1920s. She then sent a copy of the recollections below and has kindly given us permission to publish them in the Parish News. If they provoke memories or questions you'd like to share, please email these to info@huntingtionchurch.co.uk

*Susan Maiden*

### Mahollam School:

*These are the recollections of John Albert Townsend, his sister Doris (my grandmother), together with the Marshall cousins (Charles and Bessie).*

Florence (Flo) Helen Gertrude Marshall was born on 22nd July 1902. She lived with her parents John Frederick and Rosetta Kate Marshall in Mill Street Hereford, with older siblings Norman, Cyril, Ernest, Leslie and Ruby. Another sister, Doris, died in childhood and Norman was killed in WW1. The Marshalls were a musical family (John was a professor of music) and they later moved to St Nicholas Street. Ruby was widowed and took her three young children to live there too.

Flo trained at Hereford Teacher Training College in the 1920s and straightaway secured a position at Brinsop School. In 1928, she became Headmistress of Mahollam School near Kington, Herefordshire.

The buildings included an attractive school house but with absolutely no 'mod cons'. It had a well in the kitchen, but it was covered, so all water had to be carried up the hill from a spring by the side of the River Arrow. As no services were connected, there were earth closets for the school, chamber pots for the house and jugs and basins for washing. A farm hand emptied the ditch at regular intervals. As there was no electricity either, lighting was achieved by Aladdin lamps downstairs and candles upstairs. There were open fires and a reflector in the living room grate always had a kettle on it. All meals were cooked on the kitchen range, sometimes helped by Flo's maid, Maisie Thomas.

The school was remote. It served a wide rural community, mostly farming families. There were just two classes; pupils started at five and those that did not get their 11plus stayed

on until fourteen. Flo taught them all apart from the smallest ones who were under the tutelage of Mrs Marsden. There was a huge stove in the schoolroom. It was particularly useful in wet weather when it was used to dry clothes; winter weeks saw many pupils trailing miles through snow. The Wellson family lived near Hergest Ridge and often came to school on horses, overseen by 'The Three Shepherds' - trees topping the ridge. Flo visited the Hereford family at weekends and took nephews Norman and John (who were taught by their aunt at Mahollam) together with Maisie, who had great fun with the Marshall maid, Hilda. They travelled on a Yeoman's bus from Kington, with a 2.5 walk at each end.

The young Miss Marshall was an educated, inspirational and forward-thinking woman, a competent pianist, excellent seamstress and well-travelled. She returned from a 1937 trip to Germany appalled by the Hitler Youth movement and convinced that war was brewing.

Each school day began with an assembly with a hymn, prayers and a Bible reading. Huntington was the nearest church and children went to Harvest Festivals and fetes. (Flo was also a member of the local GFS (Girls Friendly Society) and made their banner. Discipline was keen and, as with most schools of the age, the cane made regular outings.

As well as painting and drawing, Flo taught the boys carpentry while the girls became accomplished needlewomen. Photographs record the clothes - skirts, blouses and dresses - they made. One project was to make a dolls' house; the boys constructed the house and furniture, while the girls sewed curtains and bedcovers. No equal opportunities in the 1930s, but nepotism was alive and well as the finished product was gifted to Doris!

The young Head placed great emphasis on physical fitness. She had played for teams at Hereford College and PE in the yard, adjacent field and brook became a regular occurrence.



PE in the school yard



Flo in River Wye

There are records of football, rounders, tennis, aerobics and swimming. Music and Drama also featured large in the Mahollam curriculum. Plays performed included 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' and 'The Maid', with handwritten scripts. There were countless successes in choir, elocution and recorder categories at Hereford Music Festivals, held in The Shire Hall.

*Susan Taylor*

*(to be continued next month)*

## I Spy at Huntington

Sweeping leaves in our Churchyard recently I was again surprised by how many visitors we have to our remote church, not only coming to tend graves, or on organised walks, but just happening upon us.

Our Geocach has consistently attracted families, but generally after they've found the treasure, use the composting loo, maybe have a picnic and then leave, especially if they include younger children.

I decided we needed to offer younger visitors more than just looking at graves and an old cold building. So we've developed an I-Spy sheet aimed at primary school age children. Costing 50p we hope that it will offer at least half an hour of concentrated and perhaps educational running around.

So if you fancy an afternoon out consider visiting St Thomas a Becket Huntington and after you've filled in the I Spy sheet perhaps take a stroll around Huntington Castle (open every day until dusk).

*Fiona Shone*



## Kington Youth Club

We are excited to be close to opening a new Youth Club in Kington but also being careful to get all our ducks safely in a row before we can open the doors in earnest. We have set-up as Kington Youth Hub CiC and have worked hard to establish our policies and procedures. The Youth Club will provide a safe space for 10 -16 year olds, in school years 6 - 10. There is table tennis; pool, table football, sofas, art & craft materials.

Our agreement with the Baptist Church for use of the Old School Room is initially rent-free for 3 months. Enter through the side gate to the left of the Baptist Church on Bridge Street and come up the stairs on the left at the end of the alleyway.

We still need more Volunteers to help run the club sessions for which training and support will be provided. There will also be a little “Wishing Tree” of gifts we would like for the Youth Club like board games, curtains, art materials and other equipment.

In the New Year we will invite families to complete membership agreements

Recruitment Week from 9th – 14th January 2023

Monday to Friday 3:30 – 6:30pm and Saturday 10:30am – 1:30pm

We want to get to the point where the young people feel like some kind of group who can begin to make it into their own club. Then, with sufficient funds, a Youth Worker job (or three) can be advertised locally with the young people involved in their selection.

We look forward to collaborating with the Youth Project at the Oxford Arms this exciting Community Pub purchase has now been agreed.

*Richie Cotterill*

*Email: [admin@kingtonyouthhub.org](mailto:admin@kingtonyouthhub.org)*

*Or: [members@kingtonyouthclub.org](mailto:members@kingtonyouthclub.org)*

## ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

### Readers.

Sunday 1st Jan (no service at Titley. Group Service at 11am at Huntington)

Sunday 15th Jan Win.



### Christmas Lunch.

What a great day we had for our Village Christmas Lunch the other Sunday. The hall was full of children and grown ups and the atmosphere was lovely. We had a welcome glass of mulled wine as we entered to warm us up, and then sat down to a lovely meal supplied by Heggies from Hereford. On behalf of everyone who was there a huge thank you to Di and her team for putting on the day and to everyone who donated prizes for all the super hampers which were in the grand draw.

### Titley Songs of Praise.

I am sure you will have all read the Vicar's letter in this magazine and like me have a heavy heart that Ben and Jean are moving on to pastures new. The building of the Easter Garden at Titley and the Easter Egg Hunt will never quite be the same. All we can hope is that we can "clone" Ben before he goes so his predecessor will be as equally as good.

Titley is saying "thank you" to Ben with a special Songs of Praise at 4pm on Sunday 29th January followed by tea in the village hall. We are going to contact everyone that Ben has had dealings with at Titley since he came to us so we can all say a fond farewell to him.

Please come to this service and raise the roof with our singing. If you have a particular favourite hymn please do let Dick know, also if you would like to make a donation towards a present for Ben please let me have this.

For catering purposes please let Win know if you are coming to the tea on 01544 267342

Many thanks and a happy new year to you all.

*Dick*

### A Message of Thanks

The family of Dr Anne Caunt would like to thank Rev. Ben Griffith and Dick Allford of Oak Tree Funeral Services for all the guidance and help preparing her service of commemoration on the 10th of November.

We thank you all for your messages of sympathy, and for coming to the service both in person and online.

Thank you to all those who have helped Anne as her health declined, neighbours, and the carers from Border Care and Sun Care over that last few years. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Your very generous donations of over £700, have been gratefully received by St Michael's Hospice.



## Not a Proper Gardener (Part 26)

*“January brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow.”* (Flanders & Swan)

Maybe, but how I look forward to the first snowdrops and then to sheets of them all over the countryside, a sign that the days are beginning to get longer and life returning. Resurrection! And already the daffodils are coming into bud and the early ones will be in flower before the end of the month. Signs of the new life of spring everywhere.

And in the vegetable garden the parsnips are at their best, and there are winter greens to cut, and Jerusalem artichokes for soup (Some folk spell them with an F!, I wonder why?) Sadly, we’ve finished the carrots and the stored beetroot. We’ve still plenty of eating apples though, which is fortunate, as Giles will eat four or five small ones during one of our walks.

It is as well, then, that ours are organic, for I’ve just been browsing through a book Emma gave me called *The Garden Jungle* by Dave Goulson. He says he is obsessed with apples. Quoting the adage an apple a day keeps the doctor away, he warns us against those rosy, shiny apples grown commercially, by adding, “but if you really want to look after your health and the environment, you might think about buying the slightly less glossy and more expensive apples from the organic section, or better still, grow your own.” He mentions a report from DEFRA which revealed that the average Cox apple orchard in 2004 received 13 fungicide sprays, five sprays of insecticides, 2 herbicide sprays and one spray with urea. These sprays were made up of 42 different chemicals, including some potentially very dangerous even to human health, and incidentally injurious to useful insect life, including bees. (If you enjoy horror stories, this is the book for you!)

He writes at length and in detail about this in a chapter entitled *Earwigs in my Orchard* where he explains that these creatures are valuable and highly beneficial predators whose favourite food is aphids. Like ladybirds (not the horrid non-native harlequin ones) earwigs are excellent pest destroyers. But also along with so many pollinators including bees, they are commonly being exterminated when various pests are being sprayed. In fact, Dave Goulson, in a chapter called *Gardening to Save the Planet*, claims that “There is absolutely no need to use fertilizers or pesticides in the garden.”

Well, I understand where he’s coming from and take on board all that he’s saying, and I’m glad that our apples are organic; but I can’t follow him all the way. What about these wretched slugs, for example? Yes, our hedgehogs probably do their bit, and we’re careful in our use of slug pellets; but perhaps I should try nematodes once again, in the veg plot anyway, watered in when the soil has warmed up a bit – they’re just a bit expensive. However, I’m quite happy to let our garden be inviting for wildlife (but not cats for the sake of the birds) and as we know all too well, Emma loves the birds and hedgehogs and pollinators, if not so fond of cabbage whites – but as I discovered and wrote about in a poem, the wasps can take care of them – but who wants to be infested with wasps?

Anyway, during the winter we’ve still plenty to do in the garden without doing damage to the environment and yet without turning it into more of a jungle than it already is. We shall refrain from cutting the grass too short, so threatening the insects that live there including certain types of bumble and other bees, and we shall continue to leave an untidy





patch for nettles, hedgehogs and so on. Lots of large twigs are waiting to be put through the shredder and added to the compost along with all the swill from the kitchen, fallen leaves, non-perennial weeds etc. to make good compost. I may not be a proper gardener, but with the help of Emma and Giles I can try to be a good one!!

*Denis Parry.*

### Community Shop Dates

|                 |                                                                  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 Jan - 10 Jan  | Vacant                                                           |
| 11 Jan - 17 Jan | Vacant                                                           |
| 18 Jan - 24 Jan | St Mary's Church PCC                                             |
| 25 Jan - 31 Jan | Radnor Arms<br>Refurbishment Fund<br>- Community Benefit Society |



### January Wordsearch

See if you can find the words given below in the Wordsearch grid. They are all connected with the season of Epiphany as well as possible New Year resolutions.



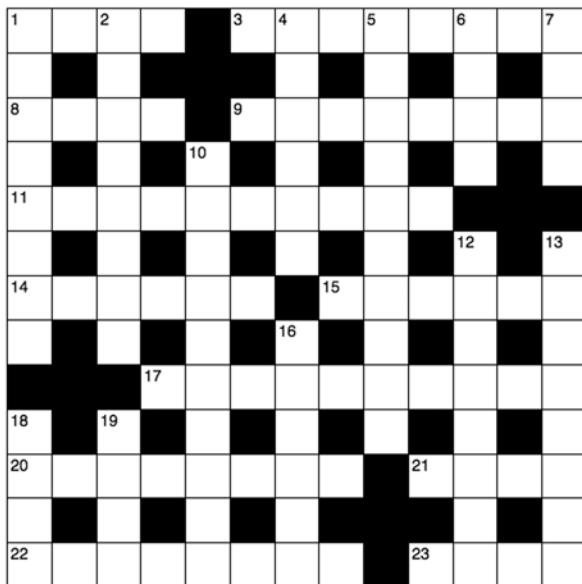
- Epiphany
- Wise
- Men
- Camels
- Baby
- Jesus
- Star
- Herod
- Worship
- Gold
- Frankincense
- Myrrh
- New
- Resolutions
- Bills
- Work
- Study
- Running
- Gym



## January Crossword

### Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)



### Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

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

## News From the Museum

The Kington Food Festival was a very successful day with 493 visitors, 41 of whom were children. The mulled apple juice and mince pies, donated by the Co-op were much appreciated.

### Ye Old Tavern

The Jone's family of Ye Old Tavern, The Tavern, The Railway Inn, The Inn in the Fields – a very interesting business family devoted to the running of their Tavern but keeping up with the times. A popular inn with the Meredith Foundry workers, travellers and still is today. Not your usual style of tavern, but a glimpse into the past. A young customer asked for a bottle of beer stating he did not require a glass, the reply was "if you drink in my pub, you use a glass".

If only walls could talk! Many people have tales to tell about the folks at the Tavern. The Tavern was a very sociable place, holding meetings for the Royal British Legion, the Otter Hounds and after-market day discussions for the farmers.

Miss May spoke to me of her childhood memories of Kington. Of the farmers carts driven into Kington with dressed poultry on straw in the back, along with butter, cheese, and eggs. Loving her music gained certificates at the Royal School of Music. Very knowledgeable about her nursing career during the war but was happiest at the Tavern working with the family. Although Win and Fred Gittoes ran the Tavern in the latter years, Miss May always checked the accounts and made surprised visits.



Although not quite so flamboyant as her siblings Miss Gertrude quietly carried out her duties. Apparently, Fred bought a WW1 army dispatch motor bike, it was said with his demob money. His pride and joy. Fred was seen riding about the countryside and as men do, spent his spare hours tinkering with it.

A certain Peter Ward of Malvern, a family friend had his eye on this Herefordshire registered motor bike, giving a hand with the mechanics when necessary. Eventually after the bike had been left in the kitchen for a while, Fred decided to sell to Peter, who was a very proud owner.

Where is the bike now? Someone will know, alas not I.

*Wendy Jones Secretary*

## *Reader Writes*

Dear Granny and Grampa (sic), Well, Happy New Year! You'll be a little surprised to receive this letter. I am wondering myself how this is going to work since I am writing to you from the year 2099; and I'm now roughly the age you both passed away some 70 years ago. Yes, you have both been gone a long time now, but I feel confident that somehow you will know what I want to say to you. Of course, first, thank you over and over again, both to you and to my parents, for what you meant to them, and to our wider family. We somehow became pretty adaptable and managed to cope with the serious challenges this century has given my generation.



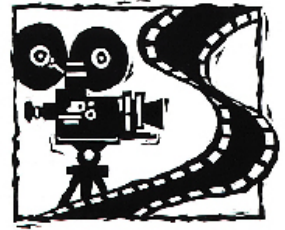
At the risk of saying the blindingly obvious, but none the less for the record, it must be faced that your generation failed to save our one and only planet from biodiversity and climate disaster. Astonishingly and shamefully there were climate protesters back in the twenties who were put in prison for causing public inconvenience when they disrupted "life as normal". The succession of COP summits failed to agree life-saving measures to reduce carbon emissions, let alone take sufficient practical steps. Even worse, political leaders entertained fossil fuel lobbyists and wilfully hid behind "green-wash". Short term expediencies compromised the vital imperative of carbon reduction. There was even a new coal mine approved by your government in 2022 at the very moment the world was waking up to reality!

Very shockingly and painfully our planet became uninhabitable for more than a billion of us; sea-level rise, polar ice and glacier melt, extreme drought, violent storms, floods and fires both. Existential threats for those of us fortunate enough to be living in more temperate climates included food shortage, mass climate immigration and extreme weather events. That was the well anticipated consequence of letting our mean temperature increase by 3 degC, and rising. If you had mobilised to treat the situation with the huge urgency it required, you would have set an example and exercised radical carbon restraint. It was so perverse that saving our planet meant changing life-styles in ways far far less costly than coping with the wreckage my generation lives with now. Air travel; do you need it? Shipping across the world; was that safe? Eating so much meat? (Don't worry farmers, we need you more than ever.) Building with cement? What we all really value, beyond the trivia of needless consumption, are our families, our friends, our communities; and of course even more essentially, our faith in God who made the earth and called us to enjoy it and care for it.

Well, I've had a moan at you all from 2099. If only we could just wonderfully turn the clock back to the twenties. We would have shouted "wake up grand-people!" and start leading by doing. Put consumption restraint into law; tax carbon, prohibit avoidable emissions, just stop new oil (and of course new coal). It was partly thanks to you that I became a believer; and like you I trust in eternal life. Through Jesus Christ our spiritual destination is certain; and one day he will return and transform our damaged and exhausted world. We'll come home to a new Eden where God, the Creator, intends for us to belong.

*Robert MacCurrach*

## Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley & Michaelchurch Village Hall



### 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?

### Thursday 2nd February at 7.30pm: Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (PG)

In partnership with the House of Dior, "Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris" tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides that she must have one of her own. After she works, starves, and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris which will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior.

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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 Community Lunch



**12.30pm  
Wednesday  
18th January**

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

Contact 230683



### Life during the war Part 3 (Final) “Yes, we have no bananas.”

Living by the sea offered us boys much fun. We could climb through the barbed wire along the top of the slopes and clamber down to swim or sail the wonderful model boats John made, or we could hire a rowing boat from Whitstable, an hour for half a crown, which I could well afford, for we both did a paper round each morning before breakfast, and, on Saturday mornings, I was filling in at Surman’s for the butcher’s boy who was sick. I would wrap and label the scraggy joints of hated foreign pork and then, using his butcher-bike deliver it around. I was paid half a crown, plus, of course, a few pennies in tips from customers.



Other sources of fun included going out to play tin can wobbler with friends or letting off bird-scarers under treacle tins, or making fireworks for Nov. 5th. One could buy small amounts of various chemicals from the chemist’s selection of jars and we found a few empty battery cells or cartridges to stuff with various mixtures and fuse with saltpetre. John loved to explore some of these mixtures and once he was deaf for two days having hammered something on the garage floor. We also once found an old door and decided to build a boat. We obtained some elm planks from a local wood yard with which to build sides and ends and, when this shrank, caulked the joints with strips of cloth soaked in tar stolen from the road and melted in a tin over the ideal boiler. Eventually it was finished after a fashion and named The Pronk. We staggered with it down to the sea, having negotiated the barbed wire, and launched it, whereupon it immediately sank like lead. Ah well, you can’t win ‘em all!

Of course domestic life was, in modern terms, primitive: no central heating, fridge, telephone, washing machine, television, computer, internet...(Just imagine!) But we did have the wireless with its two programmes, the Light and the Home Service with their morale-boosting broadcasts: It’s That Man Again (“This is Funf speaking”) Gracie Fields, (Sally, Sally, Pride of our Alley) Vera Lynn, of course, and Isabel Bailey, whose voice, our headmaster said, was like a boy’s voice. And there was always Monday Night at Eight or a family game of Monopoly. And, of course, the songs: Teddy Bears’ Picnic etc., and Yes, we have no bananas. But rationing, although unpleasant, kept us healthier as a nation than ever before or since – with the help of the Radio Doctor’s frequent advice. Clothing coupons meant handouts for growing boys like us, and probably no football boots; but I had a new eleven plus suit. And there was always the British Restaurant set up in a hall in Whitstable, where you could get a supposedly nutritious, if unappetizing meal for the required ration points and sixpence. (Perhaps such restaurants should be reintroduced today?)

When somebody asks me whether I smoke, I reply “No, I gave it up when I was ten.” I and the boy from next door, Roy Newman, whom I sometimes helped chip the potatoes for his father’s fish and chip shop, bought a packet of ten Woodbines on the pretext that they were a birthday present for someone. We then took them down the slopes behind one of the many deserted beach huts and smoked five each (not properly). It gave me no pleasure and I never wanted to smoke one again. At the same shop, to her surprise, I bought my mother, who was more or less teetotal, a bottle of ersatz port wine. Well, at

least it was a gift with a difference – not the usual boring Californian Poppy scent. Perhaps I was trying to make up for having, with John, smashed most of her wedding crocks by lowering and raising them from our bedroom window using the electrically driven crane John had cleverly constructed from his beloved Meccano.

The schools kept a four term year, so during the holiday months of June and September we boys were able to earn a bit of pocket money picking peas locally, or better, cherries (One in the basket, two in the mouth!) And from time to time as a family we were invited to tea by Mrs Palmer, farmer’s wife a few miles away: tea in a room loud with the buzzing of house flies, all the food covered, and sticky twists, black with the things, hanging from the ceiling. On these occasions I was always obliged to sing the song *“Bless this house, O Lord we pray.....,”* brother John accompanying on the honky-tonk piano. We gratefully always came away though, with a generous quantity of gooseberries or whatever was in season.

And the war went on. Every street was lined with rows of military vehicles in preparation for D-day I believe, and my dad was a member of the Home Guard (Dads’ Army) on duty most nights and, when it was quiet, playing billiards on Mr Jay’s full size table. Doodlebugs had been replaced by V1 and V2 rockets and rationing and queuing were getting steadily tighter and, Yes, we had no bananas. How we missed those! On my way cycling home from school each day I collected, from Miss Mac’s smallholding, a refilled bottle of fresh goat milk for a consumptive young man who lived over the road from us. Sometimes Miss Mac, bearded, dressed in sacking and smelling of goats, would give me some apples saying *“‘Tis an ill wind blows nobody any good.”*

As a family these few years were, in spite of the war, for us a time of great happiness. Yes, there was a nagging fear present in the background, as it were, and some times of hardship, and yes, no bananas! But we were fortunate, escaping any serious loss and living together as loving family. How lucky we three boys were! And for much of this time, holy Denis secretly wore round his neck a little crucifix, purchased from Pearson’s, the local junk shop, for sixpence - presaging a clerical future? God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform.

*Denis Parry*

### Easy Sudoku

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

### Intermediate Sudoku

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



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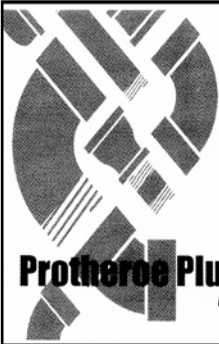
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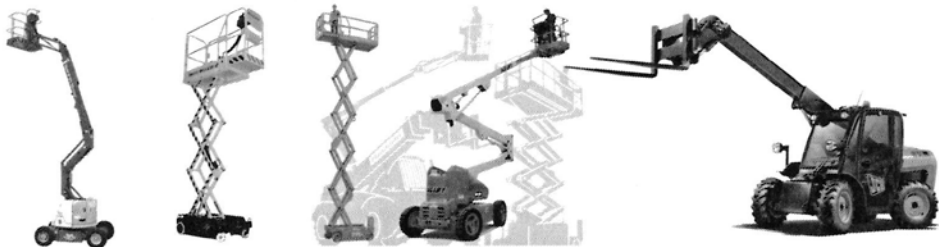
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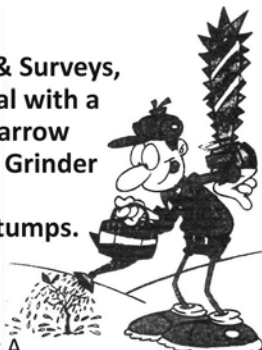
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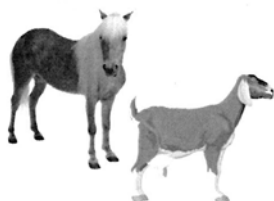
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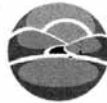


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- Mon 9 Jan 3.30 pm Start of recruitment for Kington Youth Club
- Wed 11 Jan 3.30 - 5pm Lego Club at St Mary's church
- Sun 15Jan Cut-off date for February Parish News
- Wed 18 Jan 9am Start of St Mary's week in the Community shop  
12.30 Kington Community Lunch at the Parish House
- Thu 19 Jan 7.30pm Horticultural Society meeting at Masonic Hall, Headbrook
- Thu 2 Feb 7.30pm Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley village hall
- Wed 22 Feb 3.30 - 5pm Messy church with pancakes at St Mary's Church



# Happy New Year to all our readers

**MATERIAL FOR THE FEBRUARY 2023 PARISH NEWS**

by

**15th January please**

to

The Parish News Editor

Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Road, Kington HR5 3HD

or email: [freda@sparkiesofkington.com](mailto:freda@sparkiesofkington.com)

**Note: The cut-off date is always the 15th of the previous month**

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