

# Parish News

*Kington, Huntington & Titley*

January 2024



# **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
<i>Mon-Fri</i>	0645	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1540	1710
<i>Saturday</i>	-	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	
<i>Mon-Fri</i>	0748	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1615	1700	1815
<i>Saturday</i>	-	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
<i>M-F Coll Days</i>	0600	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
<i>M-F Coll Hols</i>	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
<i>Sat</i>	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810

**Returns from Railway Station, LLANDRINDOD WELLS**

	461	461	461	462	461	463	462	461	461	
<i>M-F Coll Days</i>	0638	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1600	1708	1808	1850
<i>Sat&amp; Coll Hols</i>	-	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1605	1708	1808	1850

**KNIGHTON Route 41**

**Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON**

<i>M-F</i>	0610	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730
<i>Sat</i>	-	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730

**Departs Bus Station, KNIGHTON**

<i>M-F</i>	0642	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805
<i>Sat</i>	-	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805

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# 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](http://www.kingtonparishes.org.uk)

## CLERGY

### Vacancy

The Revd Prebendary Michael Kneen, Rural Dean of Kington and Weobley      07979-852733  
Enquiries contact:      Parish Office      email: [office@kingtonparishes.org.uk](mailto:office@kingtonparishes.org.uk)

## ASSISTANT CLERGY

**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  
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**Huntington**      Mrs Fiona Shone      01544 370391  
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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  
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**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  
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## 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*

Unfortunately there does not appear to be any type of letter written for the January newsletters in the diocese. This may be because we seem to be one of the few church magazines that have a separate January edition. I have therefore selected the following item from the cathedral website which I hope you will find interesting. *Freda*

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### **Hereford Cathedral's Chained Library**

The Chained Library at Hereford Cathedral is a unique and fascinating treasure in Britain's rich heritage of library history; there were books at Hereford Cathedral long before there was a 'library' in the modern sense.

The cathedral's earliest and most important book is the 8th-century Hereford Gospels; it is one of 229 medieval manuscripts which now occupy two bays of the Chained Library.

The chaining of books was the most widespread and effective security system in European libraries from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, and Hereford Cathedral's 17th-century Chained Library is the largest to survive with all its chains, rods and locks intact.

A chain is attached at one end to the front cover of each book; the other end is slotted on to a rod running along the bottom of each shelf. The system allows a book to be taken from the shelf and read at the desk, but not to be removed from the bookcase.

The books are shelved with their foreedges, rather than their spines, facing the reader (the wrong way round to us); this allows the book to be lifted down and opened without needing to be turned around – thus avoiding tangling the chain.

The specially designed chamber in the New Library Building not only means that the whole library can now be seen in its original arrangement as it was from 1611 to 1841, but also allows the books to be kept in controlled environmental conditions according to modern standards of presentation.

There has been a working theological library at the cathedral since the 12th century, and the whole library continues to serve the cathedral's work and witness both as a research centre and as a tourist attraction.

[www.herefordcathedral.org/chained-library](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/chained-library)

# Views in a Vacancy

## Christmas

For most people Christmas is over for another year, but for others of us the earliest celebration is probably not in August (!) but perhaps 6th December, feast day of Santa Claus = St Nicolas, and goes on at least until 6th January, the Epiphany, when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi or Three Kings as they are popularly called, or even to Candlemas, Feb 2nd. But whatever would winter be like for us if there were nothing to look forward to and lighten up the dark days of mid-winter? So does it matter too much that this wonderful story of the incarnation we love so much has actually partly been influenced, from an anonymous second century fancifully inaccurate 'novel' very popular at that time,

For who doesn't enjoy crib services and the nativity plays involving children dressed up in dressing gowns, and a possibly surly innkeeper; or the show put on by the Vicar of Dibley in a farmyard with her assistant actually giving birth on the stage? But it's probably not a bad thing also to recognise that it wasn't all quite as bad and difficult for the parental couple as these traditions suggest...



Some years ago now, possibly during an earlier interregnum (some may recall) I put on a nativity play with a difference. It was called "Open Hearts in Bethlehem" written by Kenneth Bailey, author of an excellent book, "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes." I hoicked up from the crypt the staging stored there, and set up a stage at the front of the nave. Members of the choir, always ready for anything like this, together with a youngster or two, acted it out rather well. It was based on Bailey's findings described in that book. In a chapter entitled "The story of Jesus' Birth" he explains what Luke 2. 1-20 really says. Here's the gist of it:

1. Joseph was returning to his natal town, where lots of his family still lived. He would have been recognised and made very welcome. He was, after all, of the royal line of David, and this was Bethlehem, *the City of David*.
2. There was no inn in Bethlehem. The word *katalyma* that Luke uses actually means *guest-room*. The whole community, traditionally hospitable, would have bent over backwards to help a pregnant woman and provide for Joseph suitable accommodation for the birthing which, by the way, was not imminent. Luke says that *while they were there the days were accomplished that she should be delivered*.
3. Mary's relatives, Zechariah and Elizabeth, whom Mary had only recently visited, lived but a short distance from Bethlehem and would have been readily available to help if needed.

So here's my short few verses based on these findings:

Welcome, dear Joseph, to your natal town,  
and welcome your betrothed, so great with child.  
You find the city crowded, all have come  
so that the census tax may be compiled

Since there's no inn in Bethlehem as yet,  
this influx of extended family  
is having to rely, for bed and board  
on our traditional hospitality

I am your second cousin twice removed,  
and marvel how the years have slipped away.  
I knew you as apprentice carpenter;  
how good to meet with you again today.

Then welcome, Joseph, to our humble house.  
The guest room's full, and noisy as you see;  
but in the adjoining stable, cleaned and warm,  
you shall find comfort, peace and privacy.

The ox and ass will keep you company.  
Each is secured quite safely in its stall.  
We take them out to graze during the day;  
I'm sure they will not trouble you at all.

There Mary (for her time is surely nigh)  
shall birth in peace, and lay her babe to rest,  
snug in this manger filled with scented hay,  
our newest and most honoured little guest.

Midwives there are, and many friends to help,  
some, members of the families you knew.  
so make yourselves at home as best you can,  
and may God bless, I pray, all three of you

*GO ON HAVING A HAPPY & JOYFUL CHRISTMAS and a blessed NEW YEAR, Denis*

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## **Price rise tips**

Are you bemoaning the rising price of Olive Oil? Why not try Rapeseed Oil? On its own or mixed with an equal quantity of unsalted butter it's an excellent cooking medium and it's British! Instead of ready made chips try fried potato slices. Boil peeled quartered potatoes, strain while still firm, cool, slice and fry, not letting the oil & butter get too hot before starting. Turn once, drain on kitchen paper and serve. And not only are the potatoes British, but excellent ones are grown right here in Herefordshire.

*Eileen Kite*

## St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

### Christmas at St Mary's

With Christmas still six days away we look forward to the events planned for this week.

St Mary's stands beautifully decorated and we thank Gill and all who worked to make it so and give special thanks to Richard for the fine trees he produced for us.



We moved the Memory Tree indoors this year and thank the many who purchased stars and inscribed them. Stars are still being bought so how much money we have to send to the Hospice will be recorded in the February News.

We look forward to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and hope that families who come to Messy Church will take up the invitation to join us for that event.

The Lego Club meets on Wednesday the 20th December, and we hope that we shall have a display of Christmas related models from that to display in the north aisle. Thank you for the help so many give quietly and in a variety of ways

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas events planned to take place this week. Rodney and I wish you all a happy peaceful Christmas and a new year when fellowship is at the heart of our worship as we continue to seek a new Vicar for our Benefice

*Ann Edwards*

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### What's the point of Prayer?

In December Archbishop Justin Welby visited Hereford and held a public conversation with Bishop Richard on prayer. Here are a few snippets.

The Archbishop explained that he had accumulated a prayer tool-box over the years. He rises early, reads his bible closely, listening to God, and prays for the day and its challenges, and especially for the people he's working with. He praises God frequently and prays loudly during his many car journeys!

"So, what is the point of prayer?" asked Bishop Richard. The Archbishop responded, "As I go on longer, I find prayer is implicitly saying, I can't live without you. I am totally dependent on you. We get caught up with being loved and we have faith because we find that God is faithful." Bishop Richard added "We are seeking to lay the foundation, our relationship with God, from which everything else flows. Yes, everything depends on God, it is the work of His Holy Spirit that brings people to spiritual life."

They then had a helpful exchange about the psalms; Archbishop Justin reads and prays in the psalms every day. "All psalms are useful even the most horrific ones. They prompt us so we can pray for the drama around the world and they take us into the life of God. The psalms reflect the reality of difficult encounters, horror and failure. We know we can come to God and we don't have to hide anything, because He knows everything about us already."

If you want to keep up with different Diocesan events in 2024, especially the programmed Year of Faith, go to [www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org) or follow Hereford Diocese on facebook.

*Trish MacCurrach*

## 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 31st December

### Christmas 1

*Isaiah61:10- 62:3, Psalm148, Galatians4:4-7, Luke2:15-21*

10:00am Group Eucharist: Huntington

### Sunday, 7th January:

### Epiphany

*Isaiah60:1-6, Psalm72; 10\_15, Ephesians3:1-12, Matthew2:1-12*

8.30am: Holy Eucharist: Titley  
10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington  
11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Kinnerton  
6.00pm: Junior Praise: Old Radnor



### Sunday,14th January

### Plough Sunday/2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Special readings for Plough Sunday

8.30am: Holy Eucharist: Huntington  
10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington  
11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Old Radnor  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Kinnerton

### Sunday, 21st January:

### Third Sunday of Epiphany

*Genesis14:17-20, Psalm128, Revelation19:6-10, John2:1-11*

10.00am: Morning Praise: Kington  
10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Titley  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Old Radnor

### Sunday, 28th January:

### Candlemass/Presentation of Christ in the Temple

*Malachi3:1-5, Psalm24:7-end, Hebrews2:14-end, Luke2:22-40*

10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Kinnerton  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Huntington



All services at St Mary's are live streamed



## St Mary's Organ Appeal

December 2023.

Hoorah! We have now received the Faculty notice from the Diocesan Chancellor giving permission for the work to start. After a recent conversation with the organ builder, we have agreed that contracts will be signed straight after Christmas and work will commence on 1st February.

Thanks to the generous support of so many people, we have now managed to find sponsorship for all of the 30 pipes of the new trombone section in the pedals. That is wonderful. Thank you all so much. Thanks too to all who have given towards the general cost of the project, especially to Dennis Phillips and family who designated the organ fund for donations in memory of Irene.

It isn't too late for you to be involved in the project! So please do get in touch if you would like to make a donation to help us reach the target. Every donation is very welcome.

Once the organ restoration is complete, we hope to launch the new sounding organ at a special service and with a series of organ recitals given by local and international organists! 2024 is going to be a year to remember!

Let the merry organ play .

*Philip J G Sell (Director of Music)*



**KINGTON  
&  
DISTRICT  
Community  
Shop**

### Community Shop Dates

27 December - 2 January	CLOSED
9 January - 15 January	Self-Help Community Shop Fundraising (see page 23)
17 January - 23 January	Kington St.Mary's Church PCC
24 January - 30 January	Kington Lions Club

## *Reader Writes*

The old king was itching to be up and out; they were safely into the new year, days short but surely brighter. At last the sun was shining; warming rays were reaching into some of the bitterly cold corners around the palace where snow lay resolute. He left his wife to her breakfast, pulled on his longest sheepskin and stepped outside. A black redstart sang musically from the roof before hiding again behind a chimney. A solitary thrush sang determinedly from a large oak below the castle walls; let the sun but shine and birds were staking out their territories. The churring fieldfares and chattering redwings had fled to milder climes weeks ago.

Ah ha, a falcon called above him in the pale cold sky; clipping wings powering away on some hunt for pigeons. Then almost at his feet a dunnock sang from the depths of the frosted rose bushes beside his path; how he loved them all! But why, he had been asking himself, did the natural world of marvels and beauty not matter as much to God as miserable humanity with its endless greed. Just look at the barons! If he hadn't put his foot down, they would have been cutting down the forests without heed for game or foragers. No, this can't be right! I shall go and see Father Tadde this very morning, and I know where I'll find him!

And indeed there he was, at work in his apothecary, sorting dried herbs and medicines, putting them in jars. Father Tadde and the old king pulled their seats up to the fire and settled a Turkish coffee pot in the embers. They sat in silence for a while, happy in each other's company. Father Tadde teased the old King a little; how could he possibly think that God didn't value the whole of his creation?! Just because strange ideas came up their forested valleys from far off Rome, that didn't make them right. Just look in scripture; and here of course, the King well knew, Father Tadde was rather proud of his translations from the Hebrew and Greek into the poetic and beautiful language of their countrymen.

No, said Father Tadde emphatically, God cared for the whole of creation, both man and nature. Not only did he create it and make it "very good", as recorded in Genesis, but the "whole earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and all who dwell therein"(Ps24). This means of course that all mankind -monks, bishops, barons, commoners- has a duty to care for God's world in its glorious entirety. Coffee was poured, the aroma mingling with the sweet tang of wood smoke, and after those first delicious sips, they turned together to Paul's letter to the Colossians. Christ "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for by him all things were created". All things! A small glass of rakija, some bread and sheep's cheese, and the old king toiled his way slowly and thoughtfully back up the winding paths to the palace. Cold already, sun well behind the mountain. A wren sang with heart-breaking beauty somewhere from the wreckage of winter's undergrowth. So the whole earth is the Lord's, he agreed with the wren, and we shall indeed care for it, love it, and restrain our greed.

*Robert MacCurrach*

## ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS



### **Village Hall News:**

The Christmas Afternoon Tea, held on Sunday 3rd December, was a great success. Ruth & Alan Griffiths decorated a beautiful Christmas tree and all the tables were full of Christmas treats. Pippa Lloyd served warming mulled wine, which was very much appreciated. Just under 40 people attended and the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you to Pippa, Ruth and everyone who worked so hard to make it such a successful afternoon.

### **Future dates for your diary:**

Curry night will be held on Saturday 24th February at 7pm. Come and enjoy a wide variety of curries with all the accompaniments. Please book in advance with Pippa Lloyd – pippalloyd@btinternet.com or Tel.No: 01544 370693. Tickets cost £10.00 per person.

### **Film Night:**

The next film night will be held on Thursday 1st February 2024.

*Gigi Luscombe*

### **Knights of St Lazarus Carol Service:**

The Knights of St Lazarus have held their annual Carol Service at St Thomas a Becket church for many years. This year the Knights of St Lazarus were joined by member of both Huntington URC and St Thomas a Becket churches. The service was well attended and all the popular carols were sung after each reading from the Bible. The church was festively decorated, together with a Christmas tree and the nativity crib scene, which was knitted by Fiona and Pauline quite a few years ago, but still looks amazing each year. The service was followed by sherry, coffee and mince pies.

### **2024 Parish News Annual Subscription Renewal:**

The annual subscription of £8.00 is now due for the 2024 Parish News magazine. This has been increased from £6.00 – please see Freda's note in the December 2023 Parish News regarding the increase. 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: peterkelly642@hotmail.com

### **Christmas Greetings:**

The PCC would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2024.

*Susan Maiden*

## 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 (Matt 6:6) (6)

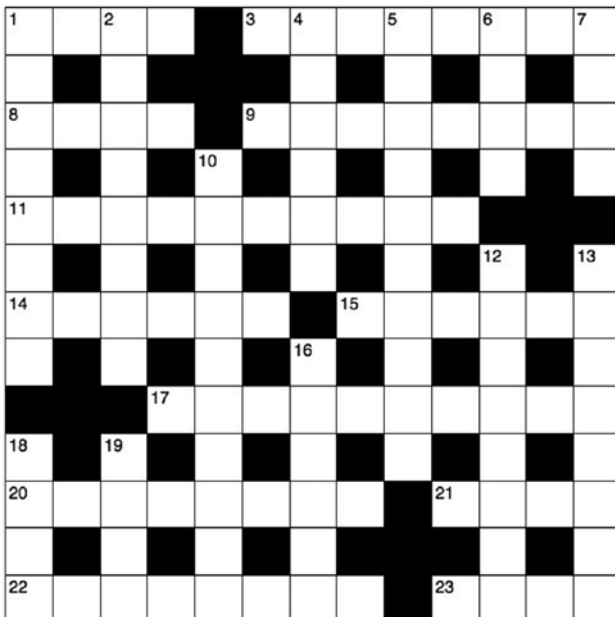
17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Rev 16:16) (10)

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 December Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement. DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

## Titley Church News

### Readers

Sunday 7th January

Dick

Sunday 21st January

Judith.



### ***“Let there be Light!”***

I have received so many favourable comments about how lovely the church looks after we have installed some portable lighting to light up the church over the Christmas period. This has only been possible due to the generous donation following the funeral of Phyllis Lewis. It was Phyllis’s wish that the church which she loved should shine out to everyone who passed by. Her children Sue and David were present on 9th December which would have been Phyllis’s 90th birthday to switch on the lights and afterward we drank a toast in memory of “Mrs Titley”

### **Village Christmas Party.**

On Sunday 10th December over 100 of us sat down to a lovely meal and entertainment which had been organised by Di Bayliss and her willing group of volunteers. It was a great community event and enjoyed by all who were there. On behalf of everyone a special thanks goes to Di and her team for another great party.

### **Carol Service.**

The church was packed on Sunday 17th December for our annual Carol Service which was led by Rev Tony Jardine. The children again played a most important role, and we were treated to a very special duet by Gemma and Lucy Sankey. The evening ended with a glass of hot mulled wine and mince pies. A perfect start to the Christmas Festivities. Special thanks are extended to Philip Sell who played the organ at such short notice.

### **New Vicar.**

I reported last month that it was hoped that I would be able to announce the appointment of a new vicar to our group of parishes. Sadly this is not the case. Interviews were held in December but no one was appointed. This means that the whole process to appoint a new vicar will start again in January. I will keep you updated on the progress. *Dick*

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## Message of Thanks

David Hill

Sarah and family would like to thank everyone who supported and guided them during Dad's illness and following his death. His funeral at St Mary's in September was a true celebration of his life and contribution to his community. Paul, Tony and Jon spoke brilliantly and movingly, as did the ensemble who read a special poem. Thanks to all who helped to organise the service, to those who attended and to so many others who sent messages of sympathy and shared happy memories. Your overwhelmingly generous donations have been shared between Friends of Kington and District Care in the Community and St Michael's Hospice. He is, and will be, greatly missed.



## A to Z of God C is for Curtain.

We shouldn't be surprised to find a great deal of curtain-hanging prescribed in detail in the Old Testament. Poor old Moses was given a very trying list of things to be included in the building of the tabernacle, a sort of holy tent where God would meet Moses in person, and the high priest would dare to approach on the people's behalf. But curtains are about hiding, covering, privacy, keeping the light out or in, so it sounds at odds with a God who reaches out and calls us to him. The reason is simple and fundamental. God is holy; that means utterly separate and distinct from his creation, and separate from man his wonderful but frail creature. The curtain in the tabernacle that the wandering children of Israel built in the desert ritualised and symbolised this separation.

And so in the great temple in Jerusalem at the time of our Lord, the holy inner room was separated by a ceiling to floor heavy curtain. Here the high priest could approach God the holy, and through the medium of sacrifices make atonement for his own sin and for those of the people, including even unintentional mistakes. Only through blood could atonement be made. And as the prophets revealed, especially Isaiah, God planned to send a son as the ultimate sacrifice. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews put it thus; he sent "a great high priest for ever" who would enter through the curtain on our behalf reconciling us to God.

Think of the symbolism of the heavy separating curtain. When Jesus died on the cross, an atoning sacrifice once for all reconciling us to a holy God, the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom. The ransom had been paid. No more separation. No more was access to God mediated by a high priest or any priest. We all now have access to God. The richly braided curtain of ritual was torn asunder and the Light of the World shines freely into our darkness.

Robert MacCurrach

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## Not a Proper Gardener (Part 38)

Emma is becoming almost as obsessed with hedgehogs as Giles is with buses; so I've asked her to write a note about the situation now, as we enter Advent, and snowfall declares that winter is truly here. So....



*Surprisingly, despite the snow and frost, the three hedgehogs (yes, three!) continue to make their regular appearance in the early evening. The snow enabled us to see their tracks, and confirmed that they all head off in different directions when they have finished eating. One of them was sensible enough to find the water left for it right by the house, where there was more chance of its being thawed. The middle sized hedgehog sat on top of the frosted water near the raspberry canes. Perhaps it was trying to thaw it out with its body heat? Once they have eaten, they lift their bodies up on strikingly long legs, like Baba Yaga's hut turning round, and they hurry off. By the way, while we are on the subject of obsessions, it must be noted that Denis has been as preoccupied as the rest of us in this house. It is a long story, but we have heard enough about chocolate Father Christmases to last us for a*

very long time. Giles says, "There is one double decker bus and it got here at a quarter to six." Emma says, "There are three hedgehogs, and the littlest one arrived before the end of The Archers." And Denis says, "I have got another dozen chocolate Santas..."

I'm writing this on 7th December, St Ambrose Day, he whose mellifluous voice, it is said, derived from the fact that, when as yet still a baby lying in his cradle, a swarm of bees settled on his mouth. Ambrosia was the name given to the food of the gods, and much later chosen by a certain firm for tins of a milky product you may find on the shelf of any supermarket today.

And, of course, bees and other pollinators are very important to gardeners, farmers and fruit growers, especially these days when there are so many dangers facing them. But then, as Dave Goulson writes in a book to which I've already several times referred (this at the start of his chapter entitled *The Buzzing of the Bees*) "We may not have to worry about the bees for much longer; help is at hand. They could soon be redundant, for they are to be replaced by robots! Teams of scientists in far-flung places from Japan to Indonesia to the United States are working on it as I write." He goes on to give details, deprecatingly of course, and ends a long paragraph thus: "Real bees avoid all of these issues; they are self-replicating, self-powering, essentially carbon neutral, and unlikely to be subject to mind control by Vladimir Putin any time soon." As it is, honey bees, some 3.2 trillion of them, make up only about a third of the something like 4000 species of pollinators which do their vital work for free. And what about honey, honey that they produce and which sustained our family during the war and throughout most of my life? (For I was for many years *Not a proper bee-keeper*) And, writes Dave, "Are we going to make robotic worms and ladybirds too?" Apparently untidy gardens like ours are helping. Bumble bees love them, and bee-friendly plants such as buddleia (and dandelions!) likewise. And the modern trend to have wild-flower patches such as the one up at Hergest in the Kitchen Garden, and to reduce the use of pesticides of course, all help....



Giles and I revisited that Kitchen Garden again recently – so productive and well kept! Chrissie was there with a couple of other gardeners, hand weeding the herbaceous borders, and one of them up a ladder, pruning those lovely old apple trees. Proper gardeners! I felt quite humbled, for during these last weeks, what with the snow on Advent Sunday and the frosts and dark short days, we've done little except harvest what's available. And I'm no good at pruning anyway. Not a proper gardener! But it's not all bad. The blackcurrants will be happy to have had a bit of frost and are no doubt hoping for more; and probably we shall be more energised once the days start getting longer – and brighter, we hope, than today, when it's hardly gotten light at all. And the apples in the shed are keeping well, and we've plenty of preserves, bottled and frozen, to keep us going meanwhile.

Happy New Year,

Denis.

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

### January 4th January 2024 at 7.30pm: The Old Oak (15), £5

Director Ken Loach's direction finale looks at a once proud community in the Northeast of England, where the mine closed, many young ones have left and those that are left are struggling, angry and resentful. Houses are cheap and available though, which makes it an ideal location to house Syrian refugees. How will they be received? And what will the future hold for the last remaining pub in the village, The Old Oak?

### Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7pm: Oppenheimer (12), £5

Oppenheimer chronicles the life of J Robert Oppenheimer, the American theoretical physicist who was pivotal in developing the first nuclear weapons as part of the Manhattan Project, thereby ushering in the Atomic Age.

The film is 3 hours long, so note the earlier start time of 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm). There will be a short interval.

Advance booking only - please book and pay for your tickets online at [pay-brilley.co.uk](http://pay-brilley.co.uk)

Please note that if you do not get an almost immediate email confirmation, then your payment has not gone through and you will need to try again!

Doors open at 7pm - don't forget to bring your own refreshments!

Brilley and Michaelchurch Village Hall, doors open 7pm

### From a Kington Kitchen - Savoury Bread & Butter Pudding

15 mins to prepare and 20 mins to cook

370 calories / serving

Serves 4

Freezable

#### Ingredients

1 tbsp vegetable oil  
½ onion, finely chopped  
2 rashers lean back bacon  
1 red pepper, deseeded and diced  
50g butter  
6 slices white bread  
3 eggs  
400ml milk  
25g cheese, grated



#### Method

1. Preheat oven to gas 5, 190°C, fan 170°C. Heat oil in a pan and fry the onion until soft. Add bacon and pepper and fry over a high heat until the bacon is browned.
2. Butter an ovenproof dish. Thickly butter one side of the bread slices, cut into triangles and arrange in the dish. Spoon over the onion and bacon. Beat the eggs and milk together and pour over. Top with cheese and bake for 20 minutes until golden.



## When is New Year's Day?

New Year's Day is the first day of the year, in the Gregorian calendar, and falls exactly one week after the Christmas Day of the previous year. However, countries who still use the Julian Calendar observe New Year's Day on January 14th. It is traditionally celebrated with firework displays across the globe at 00:00 in the local time zones.

## The History of New Year's Day

New Year's Day was originally observed on March 15th in the old Roman Calendar. When January and February were added during one of the many attempts to clean up the calendar, they were actually added to the end of the year.

The start of the year was fixed at January 1st in 153 BCE, by two Roman consuls. The month was named Janus after the name of the Roman god of doors and gates. Janus had two faces, one facing forward and one looking back, a fitting name for the month at the start of the year.

During the Middle Ages, a number of different Christian feast dates were used to mark the New Year, though calendars often continued to display the months in columns running from January to December in the Roman fashion.

In ancient Babylon, New Year's celebrations involved slapping the king in the face. If the king cried, this was considered a good omen.

For some parts of Europe, New Year's Day was determined by Easter, which meant a different New Year's Day date every year.

It wasn't until 1582 when the Roman Catholic Church officially adopted January 1st as the New Year.

Most countries in Western Europe had officially adopted January 1st as New Year's Day even before they adopted the Gregorian calendar.

## New Year's Resolutions

Many people take the opportunity of the new year to make resolutions. According to a survey by ComRes, the most common New Year's resolutions included exercise more (38%), lose weight (33%) and eat more healthily (32%).



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## Farewell and Thank you.

After 7 wonderful years the team at The Made in the Marches Gallery in Church Street, Kington, has decided, for a whole range of reasons, that it is time to close our doors. It has been a privilege to be part of the arts scene in the town, and we would like to thank all the artists and makers, visitors and customers for your support, encouragement and participation.

*Annie, Freya, Steve and the co-op team.*

## CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

On Friday 15th December, Churches Together in Kington had arranged a Carol Singing session in the barn of the Oxford Arms, and a large number of people turned up and had a very good time. The pizza van was there in the courtyard and did a roaring trade, as did the bar with its mulled wine .

In addition Trish and Eileen led the Christingle making in the courtyard

The music was provided by Paul on accordion and Lucy on flute, with Nicy leading the singing, and everyone sang with gusto. It was a lovely way to start the Christmas season.



*Freda*

---

### Some One-liners to fill a gap

- \* Whoever put the "S" in fastfood is marketing genius.
  - \* A stock market crash is worse than a divorce, you lose half your money and your wife is still around.
  - \* Welcome to our "ool", notice there is no "P" in it, let's keep it that way.
  - \* A Pizza is basically a real-time pie chart of how much pizza is left.
  - \* Where did the IT guy go? He probably ransomware.
  - \* My wife goes out 3 evenings a week with her driving instructor. I wouldn't mind but she passed her driving test in 2018.
  - \* I asked my wife to embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.
- 

### Handbells at Kington Court

This is a very late piece of news for the January Parish News, as we have just (midday on the day of printing the magazine this afternoon) come back from a very happy hour ringing Christmas carols on handbells at Kington Court.

It's a bit of a palaver transporting two cases of bells, six music stands, one table, one piece of foam and six books of music, but it was really worthwhile as the residents enjoyed the carols and joined in singing the words.

Also present was Ann Edwards who read the poem "I heard the bells on Christmas Day", which many people appeared to know as several joined in the words "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" at the end of each verse.

*Freda and Alison*





## **Help Support Your Community Shop** *Or else we will have to put the rent up!*

Our projected accounts for 2023 reveal that the rent groups pay for their week will not cover the massively increased electricity bills! This is a global issue and we hope that energy prices will come back down (and pigs will fly) but this year we are looking at a short-fall of over £2,000!

The committee have decided to work together to fundraise in the vacant week in the shop from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Let's see what we can do together to avoid increasing the rent we charge groups.

Donations of saleable goods;  
special items for a Super-Raffle  
and any help on the week's Rota  
will be very welcome.

Contact us by email:

[kingtoncommunityshop@oulook.com](mailto:kingtoncommunityshop@oulook.com)

Or telephone Rita Langford: 01544 230562

**KINGTON  
&  
DISTRICT**  
**Community  
Shop**

## News from Theodora Part 2

Living Aboard Chapter 1 27th April 2014

I don't necessarily subscribe to the theory that humans had an aquatic past but there is something that draws many people to water. Margaret and I are drawn to water and it has long been an ambition to live afloat. We had a longish apprenticeship in 2008 when we spent about nine months on Theodora floating about at a fairly speedy rate, covering more miles than were strictly necessary and enjoying ourselves hugely.

We finally moved aboard on 15th April and I would have liked to say that our life had been one long idyllic transformation from the rush of charging about in cars at upwards of fifty miles an hour to the gentle relaxation of two or three miles an hour with the water gently lapping the sides of the boat. If I were to say that it would be far from the truth. The fact is that when we moved aboard Theodora was barely fit for habitation. There has been lots of refitting work to be done, some by professionals but much by us. As I write this I can report that, only this afternoon, some weeks of cogitation and planning have come to fruition. We have a new set of cloths...

(Which brings me to the subject of Jargon. Narrow Boats have a jargon all their own and some of you will know much of it. Some will not know any of it. Some of the jargon does not have universal acceptance and never did. Some has changed its meaning as rich people displaced the working boatmen.)

... made by the nice Mr King at Tops Tarps in Sileby. We have now a good chance of keeping the rain out of the hold.

I need to add the first entry for the glossary that you may need to keep:

*Cloths: Tarpaulin sheets (usually black) making a tent like covering for the cargo hold of a working narrow boat.*

The fitting of the new cloths necessitated the rehanging of the doors at the front of the cabin. The idea for this only occurred to us at the very last minute so I was working very hard on the day of leaving to get that sorted out. The front doors now swing inwards and we can easily walk in and out of the hold even with the cloths up!

Tuesday evening on 29th April finds us moored on the Trent and Mersey Canal just to the west of Swarkeston. We have been blessed with the most perfect weather this trip with hardly a drop of rain and never have we needed to put on wet weather gear. The new solar panels have been doing what they do best and have made a serious contribution to the state of the batteries. The engine



has been ticking away like a sewing machine and gives me no cause for concern. In fact all is looking good.

There is much that still needs doing but we are not discouraged. After all, “life is lived in work” even if it is not paid work. I will list a sample of the things that yet need to be done before we feel that Theodora is as presentable as she deserves to be:

1. Put eye splices in the ends of sixteen pieces of rope which will act as lashings for the new cloths (Look up in your neatly written glossary if you can't remember what cloths are.)
  2. Paint borders around the edges of the new sheets of acrylic that serve as double glazing.
  3. Polish the outside brightwork (That was nautical jargon. Just call it “brass”, though some of it is gunmetal.) This will be something of a chore. It hasn't been touched for ages!
  4. Sort out the newly hung doors. I had cut them in half so that they would swing outwards over the new chests that I had made. Now we want them whole again because they swing inwards unimpeded. Ho hum...
  6. Remove all of the batteries (nine of them) clean the oil off them that was spread about in the partial sinking last October. (For a blow by blow account of this just let me know and you will get more than you bargained for!) Do the same with the battery leads and then clean up all around them.
  7. Having completed 6. affix sound insulation to the sides of the engine hole to deaden the racket of the old BMC 1.5 which pushes us along so reliably.
  - 8... Lots more, but that is enough and I am sure that you don't want to read a long list.
- I have come to the conclusion that we are strange people. Why? Lots of reasons, but I will leave you to think of them for yourselves.

*Nick*

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## **Kington PPG Newsletter**

We had another successful year with Covid and flu vaccination uptake. In September, 905 covid vaccines and in October 1190 vaccines were given in the surgery as well as 98 in nursing homes. The majority of these people also had the flu vaccine. A very big thank you to staff and volunteers for all of your hard work and thank you to all of the patients for your support and understanding.

We are pleased to announce that Dr Mohammed is now a partner at Kington Medical Practice and is also the clinical lead for the surgery.

The practice has welcomed several new members of the reception team over the past few months and are actively recruiting for new clinical staff.

Sadly the surgery lost a valued member of staff from the dispensary team due to the death of Melissa. She will be greatly missed by all.

We would like to remind you to please only park in the disabled bays if you have a blue badge. These are for patients with mobility issues.

The ambulance bay must be kept clear at all times as this needs to be available in case of emergency. Also, please do not park on the road near to the gates and dispensary as this causes a big hazard to people leaving and entering the car park. Please park in designated spaces.

We are planning another week in the community shop to raise funds for the surgery, date to be announced soon! Please think about us if you have a clear out.

*Suzanne Hughes & Gill Kantolinna PPG Members*

## Wordsearch for January

A whole new year stretches ahead of you. What are you going to do with it? What changes do you want to make to your life this year? What changes SHOULD you make in your life? What bad habits are still dragging you down? This month's word-search is about transformation.



Start  
Commence  
Begin  
Resolve  
Become  
Attempt  
Aim  
Dream  
Work  
Study  
Diet  
Exercise  
Save  
Earn  
Improve  
Detox  
Abstain  
Teetotal  
Behave  
Reform  
Repent  
Grow  
Sanctify  
Redeem  
Transform



## **Marches Makers Festival themed Exhibition Call-out**

The Marches Makers Festival is coming back in 2024 (4th - 6th May) with Story-telling as the central theme for many of the community events. In conjunction with the purchase of the Oxford Arms as a community pub, we are excited to announce an opportunity to be part of an exhibition of work exploring the many stories surrounding a building that has been at the heart of Kington for centuries.

In researching the history of the Oxford Arms, a timeline has been created. Information about the pub's tenants, original name, the famous visitors who have stayed there, and its importance as a transport hub to Wales and to the east of England are just a small part of what has been uncovered.

But there is so much more to the Oxford Story, and everyone who has visited will have their own tale to share.

We would like to invite you to respond to the theme of 'The Oxford Story' in any way you feel moved to do so, to tell your story, and, in doing so, to be part of building up a wider picture of what this historic building means to Kington.

There are many ways to explore this theme – in poetry (Byron was a visitor!), using a family photo as the basis of a story or painting, referring to the history of the Drovers and livestock moving through the town, referencing musical influences (Mike Oldfield was said to have frequented the Oxford, and to have jotted down ideas for his compositions when inspiration struck).

In the New Year we will be holding drop-in sessions to share what is known about the history of the pub and to explore ideas and themes for The Oxford Story. Details will follow on Facebook and through the Festival website ([marchesmakers.co.uk](http://marchesmakers.co.uk)). We look forward to talking with you about your unique memories and ideas, and to the excitement of working together towards a very special exhibition.

If you would like to express interest in being a part of this group show, or would like more information, please email [madeinthemarchesgallery@gmail.com](mailto:madeinthemarchesgallery@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

*Annie Gamble and Nancy Frost*

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## **Message of Thanks**

### **Irene Phillips**

Dennis and David would like to thank everyone who has sent messages of sympathy, cards and donations following the sad loss of Irene. Thanks to all who attended the service at the Crematorium. Irene was so active in the life of Kington and she will be very sadly missed by a great many people. A service to celebrate her life will be held at St Mary's church later in the new year.

Donations in memory of Irene have been donated to St Mary's Organ Restoration Fund, and we thank you all for your generosity.



### Authors of Kington

From the 14th Century to the modern day, Kington has always attracted the literary fraternity.

It began with Sir John Clanvowe, who lived at Hergest, a member of an important Welsh border family. Sir John was a friend of Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*. Sir John wrote poetry, some of which, was described as the “prettiest thing in medieval English” by Chaucer. Sir John was one of the Lollard Knights and the first to write a religious prose in English.

The 15th Century saw a great Welsh bard, Lewis Glyn Cothin writing in the Red Book of Hergest. There was also a White Book of Hergest, burnt in a fire at the bookbinders. Other early writers were Christopher Harvey, Thomas Trahearne and Susanna Hopton in the 1600's. By the 1700's, James Barrel, the town's first printer, was asked by John Lodge to print his book on Topographical Herefordshire, all 210 pages, which today is quite a rare find. John was friendly with John Price, another local historian.

In the 1800's we have William Wordsworth staying with relatives at Bywell, where he planted a tree. Wordsworth favourite walk was to Walton and back. We must not forget Lord Byron who visited Lord Oxford at Eywood, Titley, noting he wrote a poem to the second daughter Lady Charlotte, although very fond of Lady Oxford.

Sir Author Cannon Doyle was inspired to write “The Hounds of the Baskervilles” after a visit to Hergest Court. He was related to the Vaughans of Hergest and the Baskervilles from Eardisley and Clyro. The Rev. William Samuel Symonds wrote a tale after spending a night in a haunted room at Hergest, a keen geologist and was instrumental in founding the Hereford Woolhope Naturalist's Field Club in 1851.

Rider Haggard was staying with his sister at Lyonshall vicarage when he wrote the book “She”.

It was here where Sir George Cornewall Lewis, famous in Radnorshire and Herefordshire who might well have been Prime Minister if he had not died young, who wrote a glossary of Herefordshire words.

Good reference books on Kington history were written by local authors Richard Parry, William Howse, Bob Jenkins, RWD Fenn and not forgetting Allan Lloyd.

The Romilly family of Huntington corresponded with Maria Edgeworth, a prolific Anglo-Irish novelist of adult and children's literature. These letters were published in 1936. Kington has always had a printer in the town, one such was the Knowle family, but sadly not anymore. Their printing press is now to be found at the Ironbridge Museum, a beautiful piece of engineering equipment.

Recent authors living in or writing about the area were Historian Bob Jenkins, Sue Gee of Lyonshall, and Sam Llewelin, not forgetting Phil Rickman. There have been many books set in this area, as Kington has always been an inspiration, due to its wealth of myths and legends.

Happy New Year





## Autobiography

Bill Rowlatt has written his autobiography which is being published soon by Logaston Press in Eardisley (please see their website). All proceeds will be donated to St. Michael's Hospice. The book is entitled 'from Bashes to Ashes' and covers his 47 years service with the Police at Kington and Eardisley etc. He was the last village bobby in Eardisley then set up his business as Oak Tree Funeral Services.

Bill can be contacted by email at: [williamrowlatt@gmail.com](mailto:williamrowlatt@gmail.com) or by phone: 07974387056

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## Caring for God's Acre

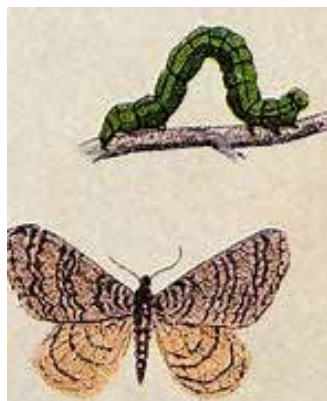
### Winter Moths

When the nights are long and cold, we do not think of seeing insects, but spare a thought for the Winter Moth which can withstand freezing temperatures and can be seen on the wing between October and January.

For many of us, we see the Winter Moth in car headlights when driving in small lanes after dark, it is pale brown in colour and can be seen fluttering. They are attracted to light however, and so will come to a moth trap if you want a closer look. Winter Moths are widespread, occurring in many places with trees and shrubs, so not particularly a churchyard species but, as with so many other creatures, churchyards will be a haven for them, particularly if they provide a space away from artificial lights which can be so disorientating to insects.

Unusually, females cannot fly, they have small stubby wings and are dark grey, giving them camouflage as they clamber up tree trunks to summon males. The females attract a mate by giving off pheromones, which draw in the flying males. Their eggs are then laid on the bark of the tree and don't hatch until spring, when tiny green caterpillars emerge. The caterpillars feed on tree leaves, eating a range of species including oak, sycamore, beech and willow. Caterpillars can also travel from tree to tree by spinning long threads of silk which act as a sail, carrying them through the air.

In the spring Winter Moth caterpillars are an important food for woodland birds, particularly the tit family. In January there is less food around and these small birds can be seen searching within the crevasses and nooks and crannies of trees for a range of adult invertebrates including Winter Moths, and also the overwintering larvae of other species.



Why not take a torch-lit walk and see if you can see a Winter Moth or even, if you are lucky, a female on a tree trunk. Alternatively wait for spring and look in April or May for the caterpillars chomping leaves, or a bluetit eating a caterpillar! The caterpillars are tiny, green and have a dark stripe on the top of their bodies. If you care for a church or churchyard then please consider the insects when planning outdoor lighting, having dark areas or lights which go off for part of the night can be beneficial to many species.

*Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*



## Easy Sudoku

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

## Intermediate Sudoku

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



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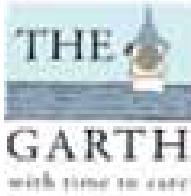
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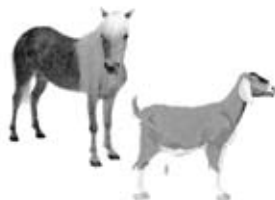
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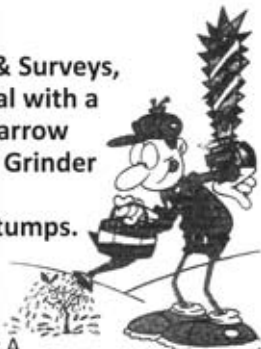
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Mon 15 January		Cut-off date for the February Parish News
Thurs 1 February	7pm	Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley village hall
		Flicks in the Sticks at Huntington village hall
Sat 24 February	7pm	Curry Night at Huntingtonvillage hall



### **MATERIAL FOR THE FEBRUARY 2024 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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