

ISSUE 80

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

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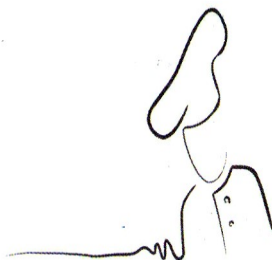
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EDITORIAL

A very happy Christmas to all our readers and advertisers.

Christmas and a new year are usually times of indulgence, with a feast of wonderful and different food and gatherings of families after maybe quite some time of separation. It can also be a time of sadness and missing loved ones who have died or are many miles away, or maybe even estranged. So, a special thought for those of us who are finding this time of year difficult.

We do have a feast of a magazine for you this month, combining accounts of the many activities in October and a promise of things to come; Charles Gregory gives us an account of his Iron Man challenge, George Warren and celebrations for his 100th birthday, the Harvest Festival in Tillington (known as the International Food Fest), and the Bishop's visit to Tillington.

We can also offer you other Christmassy things, such as pantomimes, a Christmas quiz and delicious mince and apple pie. Not content with that, there are articles on Mummers, Pantomimes, the Children's Society and more! You will find our usual features such as desert island discs – this month from Paul Lunt –, a lovely poem ...

All of us on the editorial team would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We are so grateful to you all for sending in your stories, all so interesting and so varied - we couldn't do it without you! We are also so grateful to our many faithful advertisers who allow us to distribute this magazine to over 500 households without making a charge.

Cover photograph: Blackbird on Holly © Alan Price Gatehouse Studio

FROM THE REGISTERS

All Hallows Church, Tillington

Wedding:

18 November: Zoe Reed and Angus Robinson

Baptism:

4 November: Rory Donaldson

FROM THE UPPER ROOM OF ALL HALLOWS

As I write this, in mid-November, I would say that the year 2023 been politically less turbulent than 2022. Covid is still around, but it feels under control, thank goodness. There has been better economic news of late, with inflation having apparently peaked, more stable energy prices and some of the trade union disputes being settled. But on the world stage, the Ukraine war has continued, and we have witnessed horrific images from the latest chapter of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The world seems a fragile and dangerous place.

Advent is about more than simply counting down to Christmas. There is a multi-level complexity to this season of preparation, which can be thought of as a progression or journey, a transition from one thing to another or from one place to another. From darkness to light, for example. Every Sunday, as we light another Advent candle, our church Advent crowns will shine brighter, and we shall light the fifth candle on Christmas Day.

In our churches, the King's Coronation stands out as a 2023 highlight for me, with joyful celebrations in each of our churches. Although I was officiating elsewhere, the Tillington All-age service for Coronation weekend was clearly a real gem. People are still talking about it! The Tillington and Dunton fundraising efforts have been outstanding in 2023, and we hope to accomplish the projects of electrifying the clock mechanism and installing an audio-visual system at Tillington as soon as possible. At Dunton, we are proceeding with the repair of windows and a full service for the organ. Upwaltham Church has had a very difficult year. The death of Tim Kearsy remains difficult to process.

I am approaching my third Christmas as parish priest to Tillington, Dunton and Upwaltham. *Ceteris paribus*, Annie and I shall have officiated at five funerals this year, but when added to six interments, two burials, two memorial services, eleven weddings and eight baptisms, this is affirming evidence of the church journeying alongside individuals and families through the ups and downs of life. It is always my privilege to stand with families on the difficult, as well as the happy, days. I regularly bring home Communion to the housebound, so if you know someone who might like that, or would perhaps just value a chat, please encourage them to contact me.

Elsewhere in this magazine, you will find details of the Advent course and the full range of Christmas services, intended to offer something for everybody, including children and families. Christmas is, of course, a time to give and receive gifts. But, as I always say at this point in the year, the world's greatest gift was a homeless baby, born in a stable, two thousand years ago.

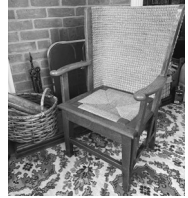
Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year,

David

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The Tillington and Duncton Facebook pages have proved useful
for some of us—use these as well*

Antique Orkney Chair for sale to a good home. Offers over £475.00. Circa late 1800s, the chair is in excellent condition. Height is 83cm. Images can be emailed if required. Please contact Fiona Gourd on 07812 850878.



TILLINGTON MENS' BREAKFAST



DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Our Men's Breakfast Speaker for Saturday December 2nd will be from the West Sussex Police, on Scams. Their aim is helping us to be more aware of scams – very necessary for us all.

Tillington resident, James Griffiths, will be our speaker at the Breakfast on January 6th. James is a Film Director, and was recently was called “Britain’s TV Midwife”, as he directed the TV series *Maternal*. He won a BAFTA Award in 2008. He says the most difficult decision is deciding what to cut out.

8.15 for 8.30 in Tillington Village Hall. All men invited.
No booking necessary. £7 on the door.

Gerald - 01798 342151.

See Also:

TILLINGTON FAMILY CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES - Page 26
DUNCTON COFFEE MORNING - Page 37
HEARTSMART WALKS - Page 15



Want to stop and take a breath in the Christmas rush?

Join us from 7-8.30pm to enjoy some refreshments and spend a short time exploring Advent through some familiar carols.

Led by Valerie Garrow and Annie Sneller

Everybody welcome to one, two or all three evenings.

For more info please contact Annie Sneller on 07790 107377 or thesnellers@gmail.com

Waiting with the Angels

Tuesday 5th December
Holy Trinity Church Dunton
Tuesday 12th December
St Mary's Fittleworth
Tuesday 19th December
All Hallows Tillington

Please Come to the
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
in Tillington Village Hall



Friday 8th December
at 12.15 for 12.30 lunch

Tickets £10 each, payable at the door.

We look forward to seeing you!

Please telephone Gillie on 342231 or Mark on 344489, to make sure of your place.

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 3 November, we celebrated the 100th birthday of George Warren. Many old friends and neighbours gathered for tea in the Village Hall, decorated in various shades of blue – a nod to George’s RAF service. Seated on a small platform, with his cousin Maureen and her husband Don, George received guests and showed off his birthday card from the King and Queen.



Various tributes touched on George’s war service and his teaching career, and on his very rich Tillington life. With his sister Joan and brother-in-law Gerry, George has always been at the heart of village and church events. George also spoke, expressing his delight at the gathering and his customary surprise that he should be the centre of attention. A delicious tea culminated in the arrival of the birthday cake, crowned with sparklers, and glasses were raised to wish George a very happy 100th birthday.

The celebrations did not end there. Sam, our publican chef from the Horse Guards, very kindly made a home delivery of a birthday steak and chips on Saturday evening. And on Sunday 5th November, George was chauffeured to the recreation ground to enjoy some mulled wine and a short but dazzling firework display, hosted by the Parish Council. By kind permission of the Clevelys, the beacon was lit in honour of the important day – a fine tribute to our navigator, teacher, artist, writer and local historian, Tillington’s very own Renaissance man.

We hope we did you proud George – you surely deserve it.



Bob & Sue Rance
Wish all their friends in the local community
A Very Merry Christmas
and
A Healthy & Happy New Year



HEARTSMART WALKS



Thursday 14th December
10.30am - Petworth via the famous Virgin Mary Spring

Leader: Gerald. **Duration:** 1.5 hours. **Distance:** 3 miles.

See the beautiful east side of Petworth. Flat countryside walk out south-east of the town and return via the Haslingbourne brook and the Virgin Mary Spring - famous for curing sore eyes since medieval times. Back via sharp ascent.

Meet: Petworth Library, Rosemary Lane, High St, Petworth GU28 0AU.

What 3 Words : reports.define.pizzeria.

Friday 12th January
10.30am - In the footsteps of Artistic Giants

Leader: Gerald. **Duration:** 1.5 hours **Distance:** 3 miles.

800 years old Tillington Church is the only church in the country that artistic giants JMW Turner & John Constable both painted. We will trace the exact location where these two great masters painted the church from.

Constable's painting is in the British Museum; Turner's is *The Fighting Bucks* in Petworth House.

Meet: The Horse Guards Inn, Upperton Road, Tillington, GU28 9AF.

Contact Gerald if uncertain, on 07748 597 568. Dogs are welcome.

TILLINGTON HARVEST FESTIVAL SUPPER

Anyone signing up for the harvest supper in expectation of a lamb chop and apple crumble was in for a pleasant international surprise as the cooking folk of Tillington laid on an exotic menu for the delectation of the many eager diners who turned up at the Village Hall on the evening of October 14th.

‘Jambon persillé’, anyone? – to be followed by ‘Persian Love Cake’ perhaps, decorated with crystallised rose petals – coo-er! It seems that the French and the Persians know a thing or two about the gastronomic needs of English folk. Certainly the Tillington interpreters of their delicious dishes needed no instructing in their creation. Yum!

But that is to take just two of the numerous offerings – seventeen in all – covering starters, main courses and desserts (pudding is far too clodhopping a word for the delicacies on offer). Our imaginations were verbally stimulated with such unfamiliar terms as ‘za’atar’ and ‘Gigantes Plaki’ – new to most of us surely – and our appetites stimulated (if stimulation were needed) by foods originating in countries as varied as Malaysia and Scotland, Turkey and Brazil.

It wasn’t just the food though that was engaging – it was also the presentation. The cooks - all eight or nine of them – served their fare with a charming blend of modesty and pride in their own productions, the effort enhanced by their uniform aprons and discreetly reserved dining table at which they hardly had time to sit and eat, before another course was lined up for the hungry customers, some of them surely wondering how many of the dishes they had room for (certainly not all!).

What a feat! (‘Supper’ doesn’t do it justice even with ‘international’ attached.) Well done the chefs and many thanks for creating such a rich and tasty repast: we are a fortunate people.

Simon Watson

View from the kitchen

When I was asked to organise the International Food Fair for the second time, I was pleased but a little apprehensive too. I wasn’t quite sure whether it would be received as well as the previous time. However, I need not have worried. I approached a number of accomplished cooks from around the village, and we all then embarked on organising a truly international feast as our annual harvest supper alternative. We met twice and agreed our menus, making sure there was plenty of choice and variety from around the world. Everyone enthusiastically suggested mouth-watering dishes, and how to present our

Choices to a roomful of hungry villagers. The kitchen was buzzing from early evening, chefs warming their dishes wherever they found space. The committee room tables were laden with our various appetizers ready to whet appetites. Then the guests arrived and everything went into operation in a wonderfully efficient way. It was great to see everyone sampling all the dishes and, as cooks, it was gratifying to see our offerings appreciated and dishes emptying fast! It was hard work but very enjoyable.

My thanks go to Angela, Sheila, Jenny, Gill, Shelley, Mark, Lee, Gillie, Penny and Carolyn. You are all brilliant in the kitchen!

Carmen Woodhatch

AN ANCIENT PRAYER

(found on the wall of an old Inn in Lancashire)

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun
A bit o' work and a bit of fun:
Give us all in th'struggle and splutter
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter.

Give us health our keep to make
An' a bit to spare for poor folks' sake;
Give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,
An' a heart to feel for all that suffers.

Give us too a bit of a song,
An' a tale, and a book to help us along.
An' give us our share of sorrow's lesson
That we may prove how grief's a blessing.



Unfortunately Cinderella didn't make it as a footballer. She kept running away from the ball.

Apparently Snow White has taken up a new career as a judge. After all, she's the fairest of them all.



CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

We shall soon be singing “O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie” . This is not so of Bethlehem today. Visitors coming for the first time, who have sung carols, been to Nativity plays, heard children singing “Away in a manger” and are familiar with the ways the Nativity scene is depicted in art, usually find the town comes as quite a surprise. It’s noisy, bustling and untidy, so different from how they imagined it to be. Sadly, the current situation in Gaza has led to some unrest but three experiences away from the hustle and bustle can convey the meaning of Christmas.

The cave of the Nativity This lies beneath the east end of a large sixth century church. Within this is a semi-circular recess with an altar, under which is a large silver star. It’s the custom for pilgrims to kneel and bend low beneath the altar to touch the star. This simple action recalls the humility of God in stooping to share our life, becoming “The Word made flesh”. The babe of Bethlehem is now our risen Lord and Saviour, inviting us to share his life by opening our hearts to him: “Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.” When this is so we incarnate Christ, so we become the extension of Christmas, making visible his loving and merciful presence in the world today. This is expressed in the second experience.

Lunch in a hospital On the pilgrimages that I have led we are warmly welcomed to a hospital in Bethlehem. Here we have lunch and an informative presentation from a member of the staff. The hospital provides comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services, particularly for people with disabilities. It’s a Christian foundation supported by McCabe’s, the pilgrimage company we use. It is a moving experience for pilgrims.

Through the Incarnation all humanity has been touched by God, giving each person a unique value. This is reflected in the hospital’s caring for Palestinians regardless of age, religion, gender or social class, and its commitment to changing negative social attitudes towards persons with disabilities. We see this in the ministry of Jesus. I commend their website: www.basr.org.

Christmas in the Shepherds’ Fields A short drive takes you to the Shepherds’ Fields. It’s a quiet, rocky area on the side of a valley with scanty vegetation. Here there’s a cave where sheep were once kept overnight with their shepherds. Our Eucharist is a Christmas celebration! We sing carols and we hear Luke’s account of the shepherds being woken by the angelic choir and hurrying in the moonlight to greet a new-born baby. Sharing the Peace we wish one another a Happy Christmas.

It’s significant that Christ’s first visitors were shepherds. We look upon them as being rather attractive rustic characters. In Christ’s time they were regarded

as being unclean and close to the bottom of the social scale, with a reputation for being thieves. Throughout his ministry Jesus went out of his way to cross social and religious divisions, revealing the extent of God's love. Christians are called to witness to that same love without boundaries.

Once the Christmas tree has disappeared, the decorations have been put away, the turkey has been consumed and carols cease, what difference will Christmas have made to you?

Wishing you the blessings and joy of Christmas

John Bundock



CHRISTMAS BELLS

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men'.

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men'.

Til ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day –
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men'.

And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,
'For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of 'Peace on earth, good will to men!'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!'

WHAT'S THE POINT OF A PANTO?

Merriment! Simply to bring us joy and restore our equilibrium by making us laugh. Being able to engage with the story (He's behind you!), anticipate disaster, to celebrate the inevitable triumph of good over evil, and see that true love wins, returns us to a place where we understand the world again!

Half the fun is **knowing** that things will go terribly wrong, but they will turn out right in the end. The custard pie will certainly hit its mark, the baddy can be booed, the Dame will be chaotic and glorious, the heroes and heroines will win out, we will all be able to join in, the beautiful girl will find her beloved, and we will laugh and smile all the way through.

The wonderful extravaganza of costume, song and dance, slapstick and madness is a superb blend of the anticipated and the unexpected. All are part of the magic of Pantomime. You will all have your memories and your favourite bits. Our children and grandchildren have all been transfixed by the delight of its silliness and the joy of the sweets flying through the air to be caught and devoured. "Oh no they're not....Oh Yes they are!"

Pantomime evolved over the centuries to be the uniquely British version of Christmas entertainment. It had its roots in Greek and Roman drama and the street theatre of the 15th century. It developed again with the tales of Harlequin in the 18th century.

As fairy stories began to be incorporated, new blends of music hall comedy and cross-dressed Dames (Dan Leno being the most famous) produced a unique mix of songs, dancing, jokes, slapstick and clowning, extravagant costumes, risqué humour and wonderful special effects. Topical jokes and a tussle with the villain of the piece, who is always given his comeuppance, are also part of the glorious and slightly barmy institution of Pantomime.

Much has been written of late about the cross-dressing, but the Dame as a man not really disguised was a popular joke on stage as early as the 1660's. The puzzling "breeches" role of a woman dressed as the "principal boy" was to allow the shocking delight of seeing an ankle or slightly more, in contrast to the convention of covering up even the legs of pianos in the Victorian era. This is now a faded practice, rather like the pantomime horse of two halves - sadly missed by performers and audiences alike.

You had best book at once, as this year they are selling out fast.

Shelley Fergusson

Pantomimes near Us

Guildford	Cinderella	Yvonne Arnaud Theatre
Horsham	Beauty and the Beast	The Capitol
Worthing	Sleeping Beauty	Pavilion Theatre
Portsmouth	Aladdin	New Theatre Royal
Crawley	Sleeping Beauty	Hawth Theatre
Woking	Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan.	New Victoria Theatre
Redhill	Beauty and the Beast	Harlequin Theatre
Esher	Dick Whittington	Esher Theatre
Camberley	Cinderella	Camberley Theatre
Richmond	Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs	Richmond Theatre
Leatherhead	Robin Hood	The Leatherhead Theatre
Croydon	Aladdin	Ashcroft Playhouse



A pantomime horse walks into a bar. The barman says “would you like a pint?” The horse says, “No, two halves”.

I asked the librarian for a book on pantomimes. He said, “It’s behind you!”!

MUMMING IN CHRISTMAS TRADITION

A few years ago, we were enjoying a pre-Christmas supper in the Horse Guards following the Leconfield Singers Christmas concert at St Mary's, when a troupe of mummers came into the pub and entertained us all with a very lively but somewhat bemusing play.

As a Christmas tradition, mumming all but died out during the First World War with just a few pockets surviving and like many traditions on the brink of extinction, there have been revivals, notable among them the Sussex mumming troupes of Ashdown Forest and Sompting. The Sompting mummers are drawn from the Sompting Village Morris group.

I can't recall where the troupe was from that appeared in the Horse Guards but it made our pre-Christmas meal out even more of a treat. Originating as a pastime for the poor, mummers were often farm labourers wearing big masks and hats and hamming it up in pantomime fashion to pass the hat or St George's ladle round to make a bit of extra income.

Mumming was reserved for the twelve days of Christmas but was banned in 1800 for a while because it was linked to drunken antics and much tomfoolery. What is Christmas (some might say) if not for some drunken antics and a bit of silly behaviour?

Mumming has its roots in medieval Mystery plays usually featuring St George in a fight to the death with a Turkish knight, who came to be known in some plays as the Turkey Snipe. After St George slays the knight, a doctor appears with a magic potion (alcoholic no doubt) to revive him. Other characters brought into the mix might include Father Christmas, the Fool (or little Johnny Jack) and Beelzebub (or little Devil Doubt).

Over the years current events have often led to the inclusion of well-known figures of the day and much lampooning and political comment, but the mummers are always well disguised and it was considered unlucky to name the players.

The tradition of mumming was also carried across to America by the Puritan settlers and is still found today from Boston to Newfoundland. There it more usually means visits in disguise to family and friends during the festive season, rather more like 'first footing'. Mumming is also thought to have been the origin of the Christmas pantomime.

Whilst the traditional mummers' plays are pretty silly, it must be said that the fun of a mummers troupe entering the pub does lend a little extra Christmas cheer.

Sue Laker



With Christmas rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn to food, buying presents, family and decoration. For the last 10 years or so, I have avoided buying cut Christmas trees and instead buy pot grown Christmas trees (as opposed to ‘potted’ Christmas trees, as these are grown in open ground, then dug up in December and shoved in a tiny pot, severing the main root. These trees will struggle to survive for long). Pot grown trees tend to be smaller due to the logistics of customers transporting them home. They also tend to be more expensive because the care, attention and time invested in growing these has to be taken into account. However, if you are happy to have a smaller tree there are several types to choose from: Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*), Nordmann Fir (*Abies nordmanniana*) and Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*) and also Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*). A pot grown tree will last many years so the investment will be worth it, and it avoids wasting trees and carbon release from cutting them down. When you bring your potted tree into the house, place it on a large saucer so that you can keep it watered, as houses are much hotter than outdoors! After the season, pot it into a bigger pot if it is root bound. Keep it in a shady spot in your garden, remembering to water it during dry periods and give it a nitrogen feed (or make your own by soaking nettles or comfrey in water) every now and then during the growing season.

You might have noticed my Christmas House Dressing advertisement. I have been doing this for 3 years and it began with a request from an American lady client. It is a big thing in the U.S. to have your house expertly decorated for the Christmas season. I make bespoke wreaths, mantelpiece swags, door framed foliage, woven foliage around bannisters, windowsill displays and anything else I am asked to make. I really enjoy it! Some folk have all their soft furnishings replaced with a Christmas theme too: curtains, cushions, lampshades etc. I don’t know about you, but it seems a little excessive to me ...

Allow a wildflower (or two). As this edition covers December and January, I have listed two wildflowers that you might be lucky enough to have in your gardens, or that you might consider adding to your garden, to increase pollen availability to help mitigate pollinator mismatch. (This is an increasing problem as our seasons lengthen and it is often exceptionally warm early in Spring. Insects emerge before their preferred plants have begun flowering and there is no pollen to sustain them. This is why we sadly often see dead bumblebees early in the year.) My first suggestion is the lovely native Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) which can often be seen flowering as early as December—delicate pale yellow flowers about sturdy leaves. The second suggestion is Lesser Celandine, which can be seen flowering from January and is a valuable source of nectar for early emerging insects. A member of the buttercup family, its cheery yellow flowers really brighten your day in dismal January.

Bev Exall



TILLINGTON PATRONAL SERVICE
WITH BISHOP RUTH

The fifth Sunday in October coincided with the Patronal Festival of All Hallows Tillington. As is customary on the fifth Sunday, all the five parishes of the Benefice came together for a Communion service, this time hosted by Tillington and, on this special occasion, presided over by Bishop Ruth of Horsham.

Bishop Ruth said how truly delighted she was to be back in Tillington for the first time in three years. So much so that she could easily see herself there every week !

Jenny Williams and Reverend David, respectively, read the first lesson and the Gospel very well.

We then had a reading of the names of those people in the five parishes who have died in the past year. We were thinking of the souls of the departed at this appropriate time. This proved to be a very moving part of the service, probably because it was unusual, but also because all the names were grouped together, each one separated by a single tolling of one Church bell. In an unintended way it also foreshadowed the collective reading of names on Remembrance Sunday.

Reverend David later said that two people in particular had found the service spiritually affecting and that this had been due in large measure to the inspiring sermon given by the Bishop.

The combined parishes' nine-strong choir sang the world première of 'It is Finished', a new work by Tillington organist Brian Knowles. It received a very warm welcome.

Having commenced the service with 'For All the Saints', the choir concluded with a spirited rendition of 'When the Saints Go Marching In', much to the delight of one choir member, who is a season ticket holder for Southampton Football Club. There was much happy mingling after the service, which only served to emphasise what a happy and joyous occasion this was.

Geoffrey Pattie

TILLINGTON SERVICES SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

CHRISTINGLE **Sunday Dec. 3rd 4pm.**



Children - **let us know if you would like a ‘Christingle in a bag’ delivered to your home.** Please then bring it to the church at 4pm for a short candlelit service.

CRIB SERVICE **Tuesday Dec.19th 10am.**



Outdoor Nativity Procession starting at Tillington Village Hall and ending up outside the church. Come along from 9.45, either dressed as Mary, Joseph, a shepherd or a king, or just be you! Costumes available if needed - let us know what you need and we'll drop it off to you beforehand.

We hope to have a pony, an alpaca and a sheep to lead our Procession via the Horse Guards and then on to the Church. Do join us.

FAMILY SERVICE **Sunday Jan. 7th Family Service 9.45 for Bacon Butties, with the All-Age Service at 10.15**



The Epiphany; Wise Men?

Contact Gerald (342151), Annie (342507) or Shelley (345150)
for more information.

TILLINGTON AND THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society is a national charity, working with young people who face serious life challenges. The charity's objectives are to improve the lives of children, and the related social attitudes. The children they help may be living in poverty, abused, or battling with mental health. They look out for young carers, children groomed into gangs and child refugees.

You might be thinking that this is just another worthy cause asking for donations, but in Tillington many people have taken this particular charity to their hearts, and for many years there has been a wonderful community effort to raise funds for The Children's Society.

In early December, there is a Christingle Service at All Hallows, which is a lovely fun service for children (churchgoers or not). Children make a Christingle by decorating an orange with sweets, ribbon and a candle, then process around the church by candlelight. The collection from this service goes to The Children's Society.

In addition to the Christingle Service, many households in the village have a Children's Society House Box, which they use to collect any loose change over the year. Towards the end of the year, as the House Box coordinator, I collect the boxes in and send the contents to the Children's Society. It's a really painless and easy way to donate, and it's amazing how it adds up. If you don't have a box and would like one please, let me know: francis-sas@gmail.com.

Sarah Francis



RAINFALL FOR OCTOBER 2023

Recorded by Fran Trimming in River
(previous years recorded by John Mayes in Haymarsh)

Year	October	Year-to-date
2023	202ml	797ml
2022	121ml	523ml
2021	158ml	883ml
2020	242ml	734ml
2019	142ml	660ml
2018	51ml	711ml

TILLINGTON, DUNCTON AND UPWALTHAM CHURCH SERVICES
DURING DECEMBER 2023

	All Hallows Church, Tillington	Holy Trinity Church, Dunton	St Mary's Church, Upwaltham
Advent Sunday, 3 December	Christingle Service at 4pm		
Wednesday, 6 December	BCP Holy Communion at 10am		
Second Sunday of Advent, 10 December	Parish Communion at 9.30am	Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion at 11am	
Third Sunday of Advent, 17 December	Service of Lessons and Carols at 6pm		Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at 11.30am
Tuesday 19 December	Crib Pageant Service, gathering at Village Hall at 10am		
Wednesday, 20 December	BCP Holy Communion at 10am		
Christmas Eve, 24 December	Morning Prayer and Praise at 9.30am	Family Crib Service at 4.30pm	
Christmas Day, 25 December	Family Communion at 9.30am		
New Year's Eve, Sunday 31 December	There is one service only in our group <u>Five parishes fifth-Sunday Covenant Communion</u> <u>at Holy Trinity Church, Dunton at 10.30am</u>		

Additional services in our group during December:

3 December: 9.30 Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Holy Com'n at Stopham.
10 December: 8am BCP Holy Communion at Fittleworth; 9.45am/10.15am Breakfast, then All-age Service at Fittleworth; 4pm BCP Evensong at Stopham.
16 December: 10.30am Children's Workshop at Fittleworth
17 December: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 3.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols at Fittleworth; 6pm Service of Lessons and Carols at Stopham.
21 December: from 7.30pm Carols in the Fittleworth Sports and Social Club
Christmas Eve, 24 December: 9.30am BCP Holy Communion, 2.30pm Crib Service and 11.30pm Midnight Mass at Fittleworth
Christmas Day, 25 December: 9.30 Family Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Holy Communion at Stopham.

David Crook, Priest-in-Charge
(david.crook15@btinternet.com; 01798 865473)

Kids' Pages

I Spy and Count

Count how many times you can spot these Christmas images.



- mistletoe
- holly
- cracker
- reindeer

- snowflake
- present
- candy cane
- Santa hat

- star
- angel



How to Make a Snowflake

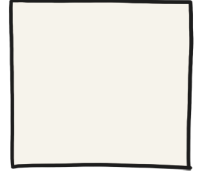


You will need:

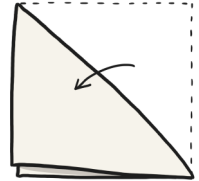
- * Paper - coloured tissue paper is best
- * Scissors



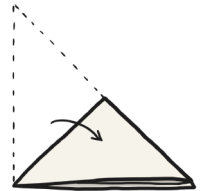
1. Start with a square piece of paper.



2. Fold the paper in half to make a triangle.



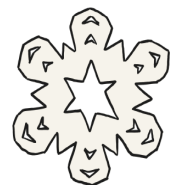
3. Fold the paper in half twice more.



4. Snip small triangles or curves out of the side of your triangles. Be careful not to cut away all the folded edges.



5. Unfold to reveal your snowflake!



Melting Snowman Biscuits

Method

1. Using the edible pen or writing icing, draw a face on each marshmallow. Add an orange-coloured sweet or some icing to the middle as a carrot nose.
2. Sieve the icing sugar into a bowl. Add the water a little at a time, stirring constantly, until the icing drops thickly off the spoon but is not too runny.
3. Spread out the biscuits on a tray. Drop spoonfuls of icing onto each biscuit and spread out. This does not need to be neat or cover the whole biscuit -they are supposed to look like melted snow.
4. Stick one of your prepared marshmallows onto each biscuit. Add three silver balls. Draw two stick arms with the writing icing, or use pretzel sticks.
5. Leave the biscuits to set before serving.



Ingredients

- Round biscuits (digestives or rich teas work well, or make your own)
- Silver balls (3 per biscuit)
- Optional: pretzel sticks
- Icing sugar (approx. 1 tbsp per biscuit)
- Water (approx. 20ml per tbsp icing sugar)
- Medium white marshmallows (1 per biscuit)
- Black writing icing or edible pen

Happy New Year!

People all over the country celebrate New Years Eve with friends and family. At midnight it is a tradition to sing a song called 'Auld Lang Syne', and wish everyone a Happy New Year! New Year is a time to think about the things that you would like to do in the coming year. People often make New Year's resolutions linked to things they want to achieve or change over the next 12 months.

New Year in England

London has a huge fireworks display, at the London Eye. It starts when Big Ben's famous 'bongs' ring out at midnight.

New Year in Scotland

New Year is called Hogmanay. First-footing is a tradition where people go to one another's homes with gifts, to bring good luck to the house for the next year.

New Year in Wales

New Year is known as Calennig in Wales. Calennig is Welsh for 'New Year celebration or gift'. Children decorate an apple and go from house to house singing in return for small gifts.

New Year in Ireland

People open all their doors and windows to let the old year out and the New Year in.

What's a cow's favourite holiday?
Moo Year's Day!

What do farmers grow on January 1st?
New Years hay!

What did the ghost say on New Year's Eve?
Happy boo Year!

What do dogs say on New Year's Eve?
Woof!

TILLINGTON, DUNCTON AND UPWALTHAM CHURCH SERVICES
DURING JANUARY 2024

	All Hallows Church, Tillington	Holy Trinity Church, Dunton	St Mary's Church, Upwaltham
Wednesday, 3 January	<u>No BCP Holy Communion today</u>		
Epiphany (transferred), 7 January	Breakfast Church/ All-age Service at 9.45am/10.15am		
Second Sunday of Epiphany, Plough Sunday (transferred), 14 January	Parish Communion at 9.30am	Parish Communion at 11am	
Wednesday, 17 January	BCP Holy Commun- ion at 10am		
Third Sunday of Epiphany, 21 January	BCP Holy Communion at 9.30am		Plough Sunday Country Service at 11.30am
	Five-Parish Evening Prayer online via Zoom at 6pm. Please contact David to register for his weekly email with Zoom links.		
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, 28 January	Morning Prayer and Praise at 9.30am	BCP Holy Communion at 10.30am	
Second Sunday be- fore Lent, 4 February	Breakfast Church/ All-age Service at 9.45am/10.15am		

Additional services in our group during January:

7 January: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Holy Com'n at Stopham.

14 January: 8am BCP Holy Communion at Fittleworth; 9.45am/10.15am Breakfast, then All-age Service at Fittleworth; 4pm BCP Evensong at Stopham.

21 January: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Holy Com'n at Stopham.

28 January: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; 11am BCP Matins at Stopham.

4 February: 9.30am Parish Communion at Fittleworth; BCP Holy Communion at Stopham

David Crook, Priest-in-Charge

MY DESERT ISLAND DISCS

by Paul Lunt

1. My ‘classical’ choice

Masquerade Suite – Waltz by Aram Khachaturian

I, like many of my schoolfriends, associate Khachaturian with the *Sabre Dance*. It wasn’t until I was well into my secondary school that I was introduced to his other work. Hearing the Waltz takes me right back to the music hall at school and how we were mesmerised by this weighty, boisterous and energetic movement which we played at the highest volume we could get away with.

2. My ‘memorable day’ choice

The Prince of Denmark’s March by Jeremiah Clarke

Written around 1700 by the English Composer Jeremiah Clarke, The Prince of Denmark’s March became popular as wedding music and was broadcast by the BBC during WW2, especially when programming was directed towards occupied Denmark. Andrina and I chose this as our wedding march in 1989 and so holds very special memories of our special day.

3. My ‘best cover version’ choice

Vas-Dis by Wishbone Ash

I dislike most cover versions, always holding the original version as the standard by which other efforts are judged. The original version of this track was composed by American Jazz Musician Eugene (Jack) McDuff back in 1963. This Wishbone Ash interpretation epitomises the band’s versatility and cohesiveness and is a great way to listen to Progressive Rock with a jazz infusion. Unusually, I prefer the Wishbone interpretation over the original. I had the great fortune to see them perform this live, together with many of their earlier tracks, in Chester in the autumn of 1974.

4. My ‘first concert’ choice

The Bogus Man by Roxy Music

This track is the centrepiece of Roxy Music’s sophomore album and, lasting more than 9 minutes, is a track that you will not hear on the radio, but if you have the time yourself, please indulge! I find it has trance like properties hinting at menace, but without delivering any actual shock or gore. I was enthralled to see Roxy Music live in 1973, but had to travel from Chester to London for this unique experience of a group in its ‘forming’ stages of development.

5. My ‘take heed’ record choice

The Deal by Stephen Duffy

Stephen Duffy has provided us with a mixed bag of music since his association with Duran Duran. This particular track has been a favourite of mine, if only to warn me of the impact of travelling and maintaining a closeness with your family. It covers the complexity of a romantic relationship where one partner is constantly traveling, leaving the other feeling insecure and uncertain.

6. My 'folk' music choice

Fotheringay by Fairport Convention

To many, myself included, Sandy Denny was the finest, most versatile female British singer of the 1960s and 70s, remarkable for her treatment of anything from traditional British folk songs to country, jazz, or rock. She died from a fall in 1978, aged 31, without achieving the commercial success she deserved. This is my favourite Fairport track and is about Mary Queen of Scots, who spent the last days of her life as a prisoner in Fotheringay Castle in Northamptonshire before her execution in the castle's Great Hall. The song reflects on her years of imprisonment.

7. My alternative/indie choice

Desire by Talk Talk

This is one of the many Mark Hollis tracks that continue to engage his growing number of followers after his untimely death in 2019. Talk Talk at this stage had successfully transitioned from being a main-stream Synth/Pop act in the UK into an Abstract/Post Rock act using a rich palette of organic instrumentation. This particular track is from the 'Spirit of Eden' album which comprises six haunting, evocative and moody compositions. 'Desire' is an intense track marked by beauty and abrasion, and a sparseness that is both intimate and expansive.

8. My 'family sing-along' track

Hackensack by Fountains of Wayne

I have this clear memory of driving along the Pacific Highway, North Sydney on our regular weekend family trip to Dee Why on the New South Wales coast. The entire family would be singing 'Hackensack' at the top of our voices. As we passed French's Forest we would reach the height of our crescendo until one of the children would announce that the Pacific Ocean was in sight. It was an exciting time in our lives and such a wonderful experience for the family. This track always takes me back to this period.

Book: *Three Men in a Boat* by Jerome K Jerome

First published in 1889, *Three Men in a Boat* is one of the comic gems of the English language. Supposedly the tale of three city clerks on a boating trip, an account that sometimes masquerades as a travel guide, *Three Men in a Boat* is what I would label as a late-Victorian farce about the camaraderie of youth, the absurdity of existence, camping holidays, playing truant, comic songs, and the sweet memories of lost time.

Luxury item: A bit of a stretch, but I would like to take my flight simulator with me (no questions about the power supply please). Having spent the time building my own simulator during the COVID period, I would find life difficult if I didn't test my aviation skills on a regular basis.



TILLINGTON'S IRON MAN

On 18 February 1978 a race was staged on the Hawaiian island of O'ahu in an attempt to settle a long-running debate between the Mid-Pacific Road Runners and the Waikiki Swim Club as to which sport created fitter athletes. US Navy Commander John Collins suggested that cycling should be added to allow the inclusion of a third discipline and they would then combine the three existing long distance events already held on the island. From the first 15 men who embarked on this race, where the winner was crowned the 'Ironman', a brand now worth over \$900 million was born. Today there are 53 Ironman branded races held per year globally (150+ if you include the additional distance of races) and over 50,000 participants take on the ultimate challenge in multisport endurance.

Taking it back to the bones, the Ironman is a triathlon (three sporting disciplines undertaken consecutively) consisting of a 3.8km (2.4 mile) swim, 180km (112 mile) bike and 42.2km (26.2 mile) run (a marathon!). The best in the world will complete this race in a blisteringly quick time. The current records are 7.40.24 for the men, and 8.24.31 for the women, which was set this weekend by England's Lucy Charles-Barcley on the way to winning the World Championships for the first time.

I am no superhuman athlete, and certainly am not at risk of breaking any records, but have just completed my second Ironman in Barcelona on 1 October and it has effectively dominated the first 9 months of 2023. In total I have spent 120 hours on my bike, 70 hours running and 37.5 hours swimming, and covered close to 4,500km. The commitment to this cannot be taken lightly. I have missed social events and dragged myself out of bed the morning after a wedding for a long bike ride.

Race day started early, waking from a nerve-filled sleep at around 4.30am. A light breakfast of a bagel with banana and honey (nerves suppress the appetite). I headed down to do the final preparations on my bike, which I checked into the venue the day before, making sure all the necessary hydration and energy gels were topped up and ready. From here, I joined my fellow competitors on the beach at the start line and ready for the sun come up and the race to start. The swim start can be intimidating. People adopt a siege mentality and will kick, scratch and pull anybody around to gain the smallest advantage. It quickly settled down, however, and I settled into the process of an hour and a quarter of front crawl before heading towards the swim exit. The bike, which is my favourite bit, is more of a solitary pursuit, as a 'drafting ban' means that you cannot spend time within 12 metres of another athlete. I got my head down

and rode hard for an uneventful five-and-a-half hour ride. The most important aspect of this phase is staying hydrated and keeping energy stores topped up. I ate an oat bar or energy gel every 30 minutes and think I drank around 7 litres of fluid on a hot day. The marathon run is the final stage and is when the mental games start for me. As you run over three 14km laps, the emotion of seeing people ahead of you crossing the finish line as you are forced to turn around and head out for one or 2 more laps can be a tough pill to swallow, but I focused on keeping the legs turning, sometimes in a shuffle rather than a run until, in the twilight of the setting sun, I rounded the final turn toward the finish line to the announcer declaring “Charles Gregory, you are an Ironman”!

Unlike the records I mentioned above, I persevered, though, to finish in a respectable time of 11.11.27, knocking 1 hour 30 minutes off my previous performance.

Charles Gregory



HOLLY

by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm sure you'll agree that these are crazy times, folks. Back in Ancient Rome they had a festival – Saturnalia – which saw their society turn upside down for a week each December. It seems Saturnalia's traditions of chaos and mayhem are now the daily norm for us Brits but, as we career towards Christmas, we have another thing in common with Saturnalia. We will soon be paying our respects to the holly tree.

Holly has been celebrated in many traditions over the centuries because, as a native evergreen, its vibrancy in the dead of winter could easily be mistaken for immortality. Holly was the sacred tree of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. In neo-pagan tradition, the Holly King rules over the Oak King from Midsummer to Midwinter. Holly was easily adopted by Christians, who saw many links between the tree and the life of Christ. Today, holly remains a centrepiece of our Christmas decorations, cards and cakes.

Each holly tree is either male or female. While both produce delicate white flowers in May, it's only the female holly that bears a berry 'as red as any blood'. When these berries are produced in profusion, it's taken to be a sign of an oncoming hard winter -although in reality it's the outcome of a successful spring. Holly's prickles provide protection for nesting birds, their flower buds are food for the Holly Blue butterfly's caterpillar and their ripe berries are essential for thrushes.

If you're after a tree filled with folklore, then holly must take a bow. So if you're planning to deck your halls with boughs of the stuff this Christmas, here's a quick user guide. First off, *never* cut down a holly tree – that's guaranteed bad luck, a superstition which has spared many holly trees from the woodsman's axe. And make sure you leave holly trees in your hedgerows to prevent witches from running along the top. If you bring holly into your home at Christmas, it'll help protect you from those pesky festive faeries. Only female holly leaves under your pillow will allow you to predict your future in your dreams. Oh, and don't forget to get rid of your holly decorations before Twelfth Night (but don't burn them, that's bad luck too). Holly trees will protect you against lightning strikes (I'm not sure if this has been scientifically proven, so don't blame me if you still get zapped). And don't eat the berries, they're poisonous, but if you have smallpox you can drink an infusion made from the leaves.

Stick to those rules, folks, and you'll have a peaceful Christmas. Me? I've had enough of the state of the world today. I'm going to pour some wine, put on my toga and pretend I'm in ancient Rome. Somebody pass me my fiddle.

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Being tasked by the editorial team with scribbling something full of hope for 2024 is rather a tall order in present times. But I am to be a grandmother in February! Yes, I know the wedding was in August, but in 2024 the small matter of a baby in rather too few months after the wedding must not be censured. Despite all the troubles of the world, the baby will be welcomed with hope and joy.

I recently read a newspaper piece from national treasure Joanna Lumley, who offered some advice on making the most of life. “Try to look nice and try not to get fat”, she said. I thought she had a point but Mike says this is rubbish and likely to lead to a veto of Friday night fish and chips and Sunday roast potatoes. Not to be adopted as his New Year’s resolution, I fear.

As a senior citizen (although reluctant to admit it) I am still running, or perhaps shuffling might be a better word, around Duncton or Tillington once a week with running mate Gerald Gresham Cooke, in obstinate denial of our advancing years. My advice on how to make it a happy New Year is try always to remain positive and do what you can to help others, when it is within your means to do so.

I am lucky enough to have spent a lot of time in South Africa - the rainbow nation, where the standard greeting everywhere is “How are you ?” and “I’m fine, how are you ?” is the response. In a nation of greater inequalities than Britain, greater differences between people in different parts of the country, this recognition and gesture of concern for others in everyday greeting is an acknowledgment that for some life is especially tough and health can be fragile.

Let’s forget about New Year resolutions that we may not be able to keep. I’ve never quite managed a “dry January” or stuck to a diet for long. But Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty’s recent advice is to exercise to maintain quality of life. Well, that works for me and for Mike. I go running on a Saturday morning and he makes himself a bacon butty without admonishment. Everyone’s happy. Is there a magic formula to make sure 2024 is a Happy New Year? Probably not, but try making a list of things you are looking forward to next year. Other than meeting my new grandchild, here are some of the items on my list:

Enjoying the Spring bulbs – always do.

Seeing more of friends - we have lost one dear friend recently and had not seen him for too long, so this must not happen again.

Deciding what colour sweet peas to plant – best ever were giant dark blue ones.

Hoping for some snow – so beautiful to walk in a winter wonderland.

Happy New Year everyone.

Sue Laker

MINCE MEAT, APPLE & TREACLE TART

Ingredients:

Sweet paste

250g plain flour
120g unsalted butter, chopped
1 egg yolks
25ml ice cold water
50g sugar

Apple & Treacle tart filling

2 eggs
1/2 lemon, juice & zest
280ml golden syrup
220ml double cream
70g breadcrumbs
1 small cooking apple, grated

1 jar of your favourite mincemeat, or have a go at making your own

Method

1. Preheat an oven to 180c
2. Mix the flour, butter and sugar together until breadcrumb consistency is achieved.
3. Add yolks and water.
4. Mix until mixture just starts coming together.
5. Wrap in parchment paper and leave to chill/rest for 30 mins
6. In the meantime, butter and flour a 24cm tart case.
7. Roll out the pastry as thin as you can and line the pre-greased and floured tart case, with the pastry over hanging the edge by a couple of cm, ensuring the pastry has been well pressed into the case.
8. Blind bake the pastry, until golden in colour.
9. While the case is baking, prepare the filling by mixing all the ingredients together.
10. Once the case is baked and golden, add a layer of mincemeat to the bottom of the pastry case.
11. Pour over the filling mix (you might have a little left over depending on the depth of your pastry case)
12. Bake @ 180c until just set (around 15 mins)
13. Leave to cool, once cooled trim off the excess pastry. Remove from the tart case and portion.
14. Once portioned serve warm or cold - either is good, with custard, cream or ice cream.

*Sam Beard
The Horse Guards Inn*

DUNCTON COFFEE MORNING

19th December

After a break of a few months, we are holding a coffee morning in the church on December 19th from 10.30 until 12.00. We hope to raise money for the Petworth Foodbank, so will be selling mince pies and jams. We hope it will be a lovely occasion for folk to get together in the Christmas season.

Date for the Diary



Cheer yourself up after a hard winter by coming to our Chilli Food Extravaganza. This will take place on March 9th in Duncton Village Hall. We will be serving various chilli con carnes, with choices ranging from chilli with chocolate to hot dishes, with an alternative for those who don't like spicy food. Tickets will be on sale in February at £12.50 for adults and £5.00 for children. So come along for a fun evening.

Petworth & District Over 60s Centre – The Friendship Centre

December 2023

In December there will be bingo sessions on Wednesday 6th and 20th at 2.00pm, The minibus will be available to bring members to the Centre to all of these activities.

There is a 'pick a lucky number' for a Smart Watch - £1.00 per number. This will be available in the Centre and at the PACT Coffee morning on Fridays. The draw will be on 12 December in the Centre.

The Christmas Tea on 3rd December is at the URC at 3pm – if you would like to attend please add your name to the list in the Centre. Transport will be available. Please bring a raffle prize.

The Christmas Raffle in the Centre will be drawn on Tuesday 12 December.

The Centre will be closed on 20 December and re-open on Tuesday 2 January.

Caroline Stoneman – House Committee Chairman (01798) 342942

CHRISTMAS QUIZ



We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar ...

1. Name the three “kings”.
2. Where were their respective lands of origin?
3. What gift did each king bring to the new-born Jesus?



*The Holly and the Ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown ...*

4. What is the Latin name for the Common Holly?
5. Why might the holly varieties ‘Silver Queen’ and ‘Golden King’ cause a gardener to feel confused?
6. During which months does ivy usually flower in our locality?

Ding Dong! Merrily On High, In heaven the bells are ringing ...

7. Where is the UK’s heaviest bell and what is it called?
8. How many church bells are to be found in Tillington, Duncton and Upwaltham respectively?
9. The bells of which 6 London churches are mentioned in the nursery rhyme Oranges and Lemons?



*On Christmas night true Christians sing
To hear what news the angel bring ...*



10. Which English county features in the popular title of this carol?
11. Which famous English composer set the carol to his music and published it in the year 1919?

*In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone ...*

12. Which year saw the coldest Sussex day on record?
13. Does Bethlehem experience snow?
14. How many sides does a snowflake have?



(Answers on page 44)

FROM UPWALTHAM

We are overwhelmed with the love and support that has been extended to the Kearsay family over the very sudden loss of Tim.

The suddenness took us all by surprise. Tim always appeared to be very healthy and fit, attending yoga classes every day, and active at all times.

He was always so friendly and ready for a chat or a smile and will be extremely missed by everyone who knew him, Tim would have been truly amazed at the number of people attending his funeral - the churchyard was packed with so many showing their love and respect. We would like to thank you all for the kindness that has been shown to us.

We have two little new members to our family who have brought love and light to us all. Willow, born on 30th August, and Imogen (Immie), born on 31st October.

Birthdays and Christmas are going to be very difficult this year, but we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With love,

Sue, Roger and Nicola



FOODBANK UPDATE

Harvest Festival donations

We have been fortunate to receive an amazing amount of harvest festival donations this year from schools and churches. This is wonderful because we tend to see donations drop off considerably in the summer and this replenishes our stock as we start to hit our busiest time of the year. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Finding a way out of crisis

As a Trussell Trust foodbank, Chichester District Foodbank (which includes Petworth) is very much focused on helping people out of their crisis so that they no longer need to turn to a foodbank. What this means is that as well as providing three days' worth of emergency food, we also refer people to organisations that may be able to help our clients in other ways. This may be a local organisation or a national one or a combination of both.

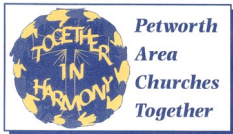
Such is the need for help that we now have a Citizens' Advice worker attached to the Chichester District Foodbank. The range of issues that our Citizens' Advice worker can help with include benefits, housing, debt, utility bills and many others. For example, a client may be about to have their gas and electricity cut off, so quick intervention is vital. Or a family in low paid work may be entitled to more universal credit than they're receiving, or financial difficulties may have led to unmanaged debt.

When these types of problems overwhelm, it can cause a downward spiral and people can find it very difficult to move through their crisis. In the midst of such difficulty, it is also hard to know where to turn, particularly if you don't have a computer or smart phone to search for the right kind of support. At Petworth foodbank, our telephone signposting team are able to let clients know where those sources of help can be found as well as a making a referral to our Citizens' Advice worker as appropriate.

Would you like to be a volunteer signposter?

We are looking for a couple more people to join our team of signposters. The role is home-based but you'll definitely be part of our Petworth team. Training is provided. You need to be IT literate, with a good telephone manner, and be able to offer a morning a week of your time (we particularly need to cover Monday morning at present but there is flexibility on the day). The hours are 09.30 to 12.30 on your chosen morning but you do not need to sit by the phone all that time!

To find out more and see if it is something you'd like to be involved with, please e-mail petworth@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk



P A C T NEWS **Petworth Area Churches Together -** *working together in harmony*

DECEMBER / JANUARY NEWS

Christian Unity Week. January 18-25, 2024.

On Sunday January 21st, at 3pm. St. Giles Church, Graffham GU28 0NL will hold a Christian Unity Service at 3pm. All are welcome.

In the following week, the United Reformed Church (URC) in Petworth will kindly host the weekday Lunchtime Talks, with a soup and roll lunch. Speakers and dates are for lunchtime talks starting at 12.30: Monday Jan. 22nd Rev. Anne Lewitt (URC); Tuesday Jan. 23rd Father Peter Newsam of RC Sacred Heart; Wednesday Jan. 24th Rev. David Crook (Fittleworth); Thursday Jan. 25th John Riddell (Tillington). Soup & roll lunch to follow. Booking is not necessary.

This year the Unity week is guided by the churches of Burkina Faso, previously Upper Volta.

Their theme is the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*. They invite us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to



love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis.

Communities in the British-Irish context may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence.

Further details from Geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com.



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DECEMBER

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Friday 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd | Late Night Shopping |
| Sunday 3rd | Christmas Lights Switch On |
| Saturday 9th | Elf School Starts |
| Monday 18th | Gingerbread Decorating Workshop |
| Tuesday 19th | Ranger School |
| Sunday 31st | New Year's Eve Dinner |

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Wednesday 6th December 2023

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Further details on:
www.theartssocietysouthdowns.org.uk
or Jane Allison, Tel 01798 813314

Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar. 2. Arabia/Ethiopia, Persia and India.
3. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. 4. Ilex Aquifolium. 5. Silver Queen is a male plant and Golden King is female! 6. September to November. 7. St Paul's Cathedral, London; Great Paul. 8. 5,1, and 1. 9. St Clements's, St Martin's, Old Bailey, Shoreditch, Stepney and Bow. 10. Sussex. 11. Ralph Vaughan Williams. 12. 1963. 13. Yes. 14. Six.

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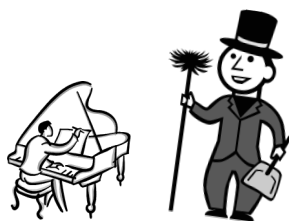
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TILLINGTON – See front pages for Church, Bell Ringing, Parish Council and Village Hall.

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UPWALTHAM -See front pages for Church.

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