

The Parish Magazine

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a PEACEFUL NEW YEAR
to all our Readers

December 2020 & January 2021

70p

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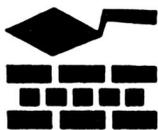
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Minister's Message

"O Come let us Adore Him"

Christmas is going to be very different this year, and our usual preparations, activities, services and festivities in the build up to Christmas, will inevitably be somewhat curtailed due to the effects of the pandemic. At the time of writing this piece, it is unknown as to how long the Lockdown will last, and so it is written in the hope that Lockdown will have ended at the beginning of December, allowing some time at least for our usual seasonal preparations.



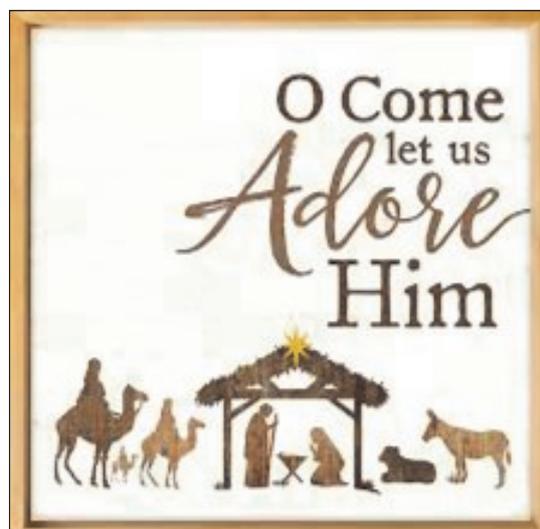
Whatever our current national circumstances, perhaps the necessity of having to have a more scaled down Advent and Christmas season, will help us to reflect on the simplicity of the first Christmas; for Mary and Joseph were poor and so they made their way to Bethlehem on the most ordinary of animals, that of a simple donkey. There were no fine hotels in which they could stay, just a dirty shed or outbuilding in an inn. There were no hospitals or medical staff around to help as Mary gave birth to her child, just farm animals and the owners of the inn.

We tend to forget the ordinariness of that first Christmas as we put up our decorations and tree, give and receive presents, enjoy special food and wine as we celebrate this most special time of year with those whom we love. Whilst I, like all of you, love the excitement of this season, perhaps we should pause and take time to remember, that God brought his Son and the anticipated Saviour, into the world, amidst poverty, Roman oppression and very challenging times.

However, the birth of that one baby, Jesus Christ, was heralded and welcomed by a choir of heavenly angels telling the world of the wonderful event which had happened. And such was the wonder and mystery of the event, that shepherds left their flocks untended to come and see the new baby, and wise men travelled thousands of miles, bringing gifts to honour someone they knew to be a king. These events were certainly not ordinary, for these people recognised that something amazing had happened, and for this reason alongside Mary, Joseph, the innkeepers and the animals, we have shepherds and kings all gazing in adoration and worshipping this new born baby.

My prayer this December is that we will all, in our own ways, be able to take time to worship and give thanks for the birth of this baby, Jesus Christ, who comes to bring peace and hope into a dark and troubled world. This year, more than ever, we need to share and receive God's offer and gift of love. I hope, therefore, that in the words of that most beautiful hymn, "Come all ye Faithful", we too may be able to come and adore Him this season. I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and let us pray for peace and better times for the year ahead.

Allison Davies



SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, 6 December

- 9.00am Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton *with the Rev. Catherine Lack*
- 9.00am Holy Trinity, Eckington *with the Rev. Allison Davies*
- 10.30am St. Peter's, Little Comberton (Morning Prayer) *with the Rev. Allison Davies*
- 10.30am St. John the Baptist, Beckford *with the Rev. Doug Chaplin*

Sunday, 13th December

- 9.00am St. Barbara's, Ashton under Hill *with the Rev. Allison Davies*
- 10.30am St. James, Defford *with Bishop Michael Hooper*
- 10.30am St. Giles, Bredon *with the Rev. Allison Davies*

Sunday, 20th December

- 9.00am St. Peter's Chapel, Besford *with the Rev. Allison Davies*
- 9.00am St. Mary's, Elmley Castle *with Canon Roger Spiller*
- 10.30am St. Margaret's, Alstone *with Archdeacon Robert Jones*

Thursday, 24th December

- 10.00pm St. Barbara's, Ashton under Hill *with the Rev. Doug Chaplin*
- 10.00pm St. James, Defford *with the Rev. Allison Davies*

Friday, 25th December

- 10.00am St. Giles, Bredon *with Bishop Martin Gorick*
- 10.00am St. Mary's, Elmley Castle *with Canon Roger Spiller*
- 10.30am St. Faith's, Overbury *with the Rev. Catherine Lack*
- 10.45am Holy Trinity, Eckington *with the Rev. Allison Davies*

Sunday, 27th December

- 9.00am St. Michael's, Great Comberton (Morning Prayer) *with the Rev. Nancy Murray Peters*
- 10.30am St. John the Baptist, Beckford *with Archdeacon Robert Jones*

Given the reduced capacity of churches resulting from social distancing rules being in place; if anyone would like to attend a service on either the 20th, 24th, 25th or 27th December, can they please let Alison Khan know at acbhteam@gmail.com or by telephone on 07984 748059 so that places can be reserved.

Remembrance Day 2020

Due to COVID-19 this year's Poppy Appeal and Remembrance activities were always going to be different to previous years. With changes in government restrictions, plans kept altering and it was a miracle anything went ahead at all.

Thank you to Peter Whitehead, all the church wardens, the Bredon Flower Guild, and anyone else involved in making the churchyard look fabulous, and being able to hold a mini socially-distanced ceremony to honour the fallen.



Due to lockdown, the Bishop of Dudley couldn't leave Bredon (he recently moved into The Rectory) so he graced us with his presence.



"When you go home, tell them of us and say. For your tomorrow, we gave our today."



Poppy Appeal 2020

House to house collections were forbidden; which meant Declan Shiels (Poppy Appeal Organiser) had to be creative with this year's Poppy Appeal. He set up a table on two Saturdays, dodging rain showers, and this along with a school collection, raised a total of **£1,265.42** 😊



In Bredon's Norton, approximately 70 poppies were knitted by kind ladies of the Parish, (Joan Jenkins, Eileen Wainwright, Judith Dockerty, Nicky Macnamara and her mother, and Ann Attwood). Some of these poppies were used together with the silhouette of a soldier for an effective remembrance display in the recently renovated telephone box.



<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>

Bredon Community Play and Recreation

Well, where has the year gone? Even though it has been a strange time and most of us have been stuck at home a lot this year, we could not be more grateful for the amazing Bredon community spirit. Not only did we have our wonderful COVID-19 Local Lockdown heroes to keep us going, we also had our amazing playing fields which were enjoyed by so many people of all ages. We are ever thankful to Adam Gallagher and Wendy and her team of maintenance volunteers for working diligently throughout to keep them looking pristine! We are all so lucky to have this amazing space right on our doorstep that we can use to play, exercise, and chat with our friends. We are very much looking forward to the new swings being installed, we hope this will be before the end of the year, however with the current lockdown restrictions this might run into 2021. Watch this space for their arrival. When they do arrive, no matter how big or small you are, go down, have a swing, lie back and look up at the sky - unleash your inner child and forget about all your worries for a moment. It's guaranteed to make you smile!



200 Club

We would like to thank all our 200 Club members who have paid their membership fees for 2021. If you use the playing fields at all, then please support us by becoming a member. It costs just £15 per year, it is easy to set up and should only take you 5 minutes. Please email Andrea Freestone on andrea.fleck@fivecounties.com and she will send you some information on how to get started. We hold 6 prize draws per year; each draw has 6 winners with the total prize money for each draw being £130.

So please - if you have thought about joining - but then life got in the way and you forgot about it again, please contact us and become a member. Your support is truly invaluable, especially this year since we have been unable to run other fundraising events.

Santa Sleigh

Our annual Christmas fundraiser in partnership with Pershore and District Round Table has become a much loved Bredon village event. We are very excited to confirm that Santa and his sleigh will be coming to Bredon to spread some Christmas cheer! Due to COVID restrictions this year, the BCPR team will be unable to walk with Santa but we will still be fundraising. Remember that half the money raised on the day will go directly to the Playing Fields. So keep an ear out for Santa on Sunday, 6th December from 4pm. Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram for further updates.



AGM - Postponed

After much deliberation we have made the decision to postpone our AGM until the new year. We hope by then restrictions will have been lifted to allow us to have our usual face to face meeting. A new date has been set for Wednesday, 10th February 2021 at 7:30pm, although the venue is to be confirmed, more details will follow nearer the time.

Lastly, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year from all of us at Bredon Community Play & Recreation.



Andrea Freestone & Karen Fitzpatrick

Merry Christmas!

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Bredon WI



Another month without a full meeting, but I hope you have not forgotten how to sing "Jerusalem" while we all await future developments in what we are allowed to do. The success of future vaccines certainly inspires the hope of a future, and we keep fingers crossed, while continuing to behave ourselves responsibly. President Joan continues to send out Newsletters, and the latest Quiz therein was much enjoyed. Congratulations to Gloria and Sue for being crowned joint winners with a score of 19/20. There will be a further quizzical challenge at the end of the month, again with a prize for the winner(s), so do enter the fun. We have nearly forgotten how to play Scrabble, but Margot's little library offers an interesting range of light reading; always worth a visit. QE Hospital, Birmingham has heard of our nattering knitters, and is keen to make use of our woolly skills, with requests for bonnets etc. Get more details from Elaine, if you can make a contribution. Then, for the crafty with elephants in mind, look at the St Richard's Hospice article in this magazine to support the 8 weeks of the Elephant fundraiser in Worcester next summer



Although it may be a little different, do make the most of Christmas 2020, enjoy it, and keep safe.

Viv Ebbage
773549

Tewkesbury and Bredon Hill Probus Club

The Club for retired and semi-retired Professionals and Businessmen



Beware the Groaner Virus!

Just when we thought we had had enough of Coronavirus, along comes another one (I hear you say, dear Reader). So what on earth is the Groaner Virus?

Well, the hard pressed editorial team of the Probus Newsletter are constantly beseeching our members for contributions to our weekly publication and whilst we are receiving a wide variety of articles ranging from experiences from the world of work, through a travelogue of Northern Ireland, a weekly quiz, poetry about Bredon Hill and a For Sale and Wanted section - perhaps there was still something missing.

Maybe something to amuse, something to raise a titter, something to titillate the chuckle-muscle as Ken Dodd might have said - in fact did say many, many times!

After a friend of mine sent me some really corny gags I suddenly had a flash of inspiration. Could these jokes be just what the Probus Newsletter needs? Maybe amongst all the gloom and doom of the lockdown, the mask wearing, the lack of holidays and not seeing our families, this could be just the tonic to lift the spirits of Probus members missing our weekly meetings. But these jokes were so corny, they made you groan ... and that's how the Groaner Virus was created.

Now abbreviated to GV's, they are liberally sprinkled throughout each issue of the Newsletter and hopefully bring a smile to our members' weary lives.

Some examples:

- I thought Reuters were novelists from Birmingham.
- So I said to this bloke - What do you do for a living? He said I sell manure. I said I bet you're rolling in it.
- My name's Jack. I'm an airline pilot. I got on the plane the other day and the co-pilot said "Hi Jack" and everyone started screaming.
- My friend said "What's that big bump on your head?" I said "A row of books fell off the wall and landed on my head." He said "You've only got your shelf to blame."



Groan!

Chris Brown

Bredon Playgroup

Well, the children continue to enjoy their time at Playgroup, enjoying making friends, old and new.

What a wonderful time of year, with a sprinkling of frosty mornings to discover frost covered spider's webs.

At Woodland Workshop we have been thinking about the changes in the weather and colours around us. As it's getting colder, we have been discussing hibernation and what the animals need to do to get ready to hibernate.



Halloween arrived at the end of October and pumpkins were the order of the day. It's always a lovely time at Playgroup as we have lots of sticky and fun things to do - bugs and spiders included. Everyone made a pumpkin picture to put in their window at home.

Although many children couldn't go to an organised display this year, Bonfire night gave us the opportunity to look at the fantastic colours and sounds of fireworks. It was also a time to discuss the importance of fire safety, which the children took very seriously.

Remembrance Day is so important for the children and we talked about its meaning, in an age appropriate way. They all made poppy pictures for their window at home, looked at the poppies in the church grounds and we had a minute's silence too.

Diwali has been a great experience for us. Some of the children mixed their own bright colours to decorate the Diya pots they'd made and also their Rangoli patterns - whilst learning all about this Hindu Festival of Lights. We also enjoyed listening and dancing to traditional Indian music - accompanied by our very own band of drummers.

Christmas is fast approaching, and we are enjoying learning Christmas songs and doing lots of other exciting Christmas preparations. We will also be looking at the Christmas Nativity Story together. Everyone has a chance to dress as Mary, Joseph, a King, Shepherd or Angel - role playing their own Nativity.

Bredon Playgroup is a Playgroup for the community and is a non-profit making charity. We provide wonderful learning experiences, all through play, and are very welcoming to new families. We also work very closely with the school and take every opportunity to visit and play there, giving our children the best possible transition to the next stage in their lives - "big school".

We would love to hear from you if you have a child who would be interested in coming to join us, we have a few spaces available for this academic year and also sessions available from September 2021.



Have a look at our website www.bredonplaygroup.co.uk

Playgroup number is 01684 773536 (during session time), or email me at bredonplaygroup@gmail.com and I will call you at a time suitable to you.

Tracey Ford

Parish Office

At the moment we have no parish secretary.
If you have an enquiry, please call our churchwarden

Peter Whitehead 01684 772642



St. Richard's Hospice

A couple of years ago, there was an invasion of giraffes in Worcester, big and beautifully adorned standing around to raise money for our Hospice. Next summer, a similar invasion will take place, but with a bevy of large elephants! There will be plenty of information later, but crafters of a small variety of elephants might like to start now, on knitting/crocheting/sewing a donation to this exciting fundraiser. As for all charities, money has been a problem this year, so your craft skills will be very useful and much appreciated. You can find instructions on <https://worcestersbigparade.co.uk/elephant-patterns/> or contact me for further information. Have a trumpeting Christmas.



Viv Ebbage
773549

Tewkesbury Food Bank

The team at Tewkesbury Foodbank would like to say a huge thank you to the Bredon Drop in Café for all their valued support over the past few years. We have truly appreciated your donations, all of which have been used to provide much needed food parcels to clients who attend the foodbank. We predict a busy winter so thanks to you, other groups and individuals, we have a well-stocked store to draw on to enable us to help those in need at this time.



We need your support!

The last Bredon Food Bank donation day in 2020 is on **Wednesday, 16th December, 8:30am - 5:30pm** at St. Giles Church (North Porch).

If you can't donate at the church on this day, you can also donate money at Tewkesbury Foodbank website <https://tewkesbury.foodbank.org.uk>, so they can gather the donations to turn them into vouchers (Woody's and Kevin Mace, the Butchers) for those families in need.



Thank you all for your generous donations!
- photos taken by Laura Haines-Gill

Bredon and Bredon's Norton Parish Council

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

2020 has been a tough year for everyone, but it has reminded us all what a lovely parish we live in, with a great community spirit.

The Parish Council would like to wish all of our parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas Tree

The Parish Council agreed to purchase a large Christmas Tree and locate, in the same place as last year, outside the Village Hall. We have invited Bredon Playgroup and Bredon Hancock's School to decorate with their own decorations.

Hedge Cutting

The Council would like to remind those residents with hedges next to public roads, pavements, footways & footpaths, please could they make sure that hedges are cut back to provide safe access to anyone using the right of way.

Local Lockdown Heroes

All the recipients of the Local Lockdown Heroes Survey, voted for by you, deservedly received their certificate of appreciation and feature in the special "Our Lockdown Heroes" photo gallery in the parish magazine.

Crowdfunding - Glebe Field Biodiversity

During lockdown we all realised the importance of green space within our community, somewhere to relax and unwind. With your help, our community, especially playgroup and school children, would benefit from this currently inaccessible land and providing a quiet space to relax and learn about the environment. The small field next to Church Walk in Bredon is called Glebe Field. We are planning to install various features to improve the biodiversity of this area of land. Following guidance from the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, we plan to grow wildflowers & fruit trees, build an invertebrate bank and hibernaculum, install interpretation boards to educate, a public route through the meadow, with picnic benches to sit, relax and enjoy the environment, and learn about the nature around us.

Please back this project with a pledge, and make comments to show your support:- <https://www.spacehive.com/glebe-field-biodiversity-improvements>

You can either use GoCardless or PayPal to make pledges. PayPal allows you to pledge directly from your PayPal account, whereas GoCardless is a direct debit system that allows you to make payments directly from your bank account, via a **one-off** direct debit. The direct debit is set up when you pledge, allowing Spacehive to collect the funds from your bank account at the end of the campaign, should we reach our funding goal. Because it's a one-off direct debit, only one payment can ever be taken as a result of this pledge. This is why we cannot accept cash / cheque as we would have to return everything if the project proves unsuccessful.

We believe that pledging on Spacehive should be inclusive and available to as many people as possible. That's why we've set the minimum pledge to £2. Every little helps!



Planning Applications

The Parish Council's role is only advisory. For more details, please refer to www.wychavon.gov.uk.

For consideration by Wychavon:

W/20/02087 - The Manor, Farm Lane, Westmancote. Demolition of a single storey timber clad stable building & construction of a single storey timber clad three bay garage with associated hard and soft landscaping. **PC has no objections.**

W/20/02152 - The Pound, Westmancote. Erection of one and a half storey, three-bedroom dwelling. **PC has no objections subject to conservation & heritage comments.**

W/20/02173 - Castle View, Eckington Road, Bredon's Norton. Change of use to single pitch traveller site. **PC objects see Wychavon website for details.**

W/20/01998 - Lantern House, Manor Lane, Bredon's Norton. Re-Roofing of existing roof with slate tiles. **PC has no objections subject to conservation & heritage comments.**

W/20/01592 - Meadow View, Mill End, Bredon. Erection of detached dwelling and associated parking. **PC objects see Wychavon website for details.**

W/20/02302 - Avonvale Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Bredon's Hardwick. Prior Approval for proposed machinery store and workshop. **PC has no objections.**

Date of Next Meeting(s):

Monthly Parish Council

Monday 14th December

&

Monday 11th January

at 7:15pm

This meeting will take place virtually, please contact the Clerk for access to this meeting.

Bredon Bowling Club

President's Report

This has been a very strange summer and a difficult one for many people this year.

We have all had to try to make the best of our individual situations. When lock-down began to ease, the Bowling club started to have a small diary of events which progressively expanded until we had an extremely good programme. It was mapped out for us so that we could get the best out of our bowling activities this season, all within the confines of the COVID-19 guidelines as directed by BOWLS ENGLAND.



A number of members have worked very hard throughout this summer since mid-May. We have completed our Club competitions and had a number of friendly matches with other clubs. All of which have been very well supported. It is the camaraderie of belonging to a club such as ours that has helped a lot of us to get through this difficult time in a much better way than if we had been on our own.

Our Finals weekend was stretched over three days this year to include Bank Holiday Monday. It was so nice to see some new names of players in the Finals who had reached their goal this season.

Although we have not had the pleasure of taking part in our usual Bowls tour this summer for obvious reasons, it has been such a relief to get out of the house and see friends on the Green. It has been uplifting for us all. Obviously, next year we shall be looking forward to touring the Isle of Wight with even more gusto!



It has also been a pleasure to welcome several new members this season and we certainly have room for more if anyone would like to GIVE BOWLS A GO.

Margaret Compton
President

Bredon Luncheon Club

A very Happy Christmas to all our guests at the lunch club. It has been such a long time since we have been able to meet safely. Sadly we have still been unable to find a safe way of meeting again.

We know that many of you have missed this monthly time together. It was not really the food which was the most important thing but rather the opportunity to meet up with friends and have a good chat. Generally the puddings were enjoyed though!

We will miss the joyful singing of the children from Bredon Hancock's School. It was such a good start for us at Christmas and enjoyed by all.

Hopefully we will be able to meet again safely in the Spring. Until then, all the volunteers wish everyone a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.



Food and Friendship





OUR LOCKDOWN HEROES

Voted
by You

23rd March 2020 will be remembered as the day we went into lockdown due to an unknown, unseen virus that would affect our lives and that of our community for many months to come. Our request for nominations found that individuals and businesses in and around our parish recognised the need for action and did something about it. We are very lucky where we live to have so many community spirited people, below are all the nominations we received and there are many more.



Woody's Fruit & Veg - "They reacted and changed their business, introducing click & collect and delivery services. They communicated when rare items came into the shop. Brilliant service."



Tewkesbury Garden Centre - "Staying open, delivering everything to ensure people stayed busy and lifted peoples' spirits - the food delivery was incredible also and such good value—they thought of everyone"



Bredon SPAR - "With the support of his team, Dips worked tirelessly, literally night and day, to keep the shop stocked and residents supplied, himself delivering to those unable to go out or carry heavy bags. When the two resident post masters had to isolate he was unstinting in his efforts to keep the essential post office going. All has been done in the best of spirits and with real care for each of his customers. He has been our lifeline."



Jude & Neville King - "Helped to organise the community response quickly, made hundreds of scrubs for NHS and care staff, offered lots of practical support to residents during lockdown"



Emma Miles - "Ran our local WhatsApp help group, checked in on vulnerable people daily, delivered and collected food/prescriptions and made sure everyone's spirits were up."



Gwen Foord on behalf of Bredon Hill Bags for NHS - "They sent out hundreds of items to support NHS and care staff, such as scrub bags and similar. Amazing work by all involved especially Jean and Laura"



Bernie Hartley - "Always ready to fetch and carry or organise someone to help. She was there for a chat when times were tough."



Vikki White - "Kindly walked my dog everyday for 5 months due to our whole household shielding as 2 extremely vulnerable members."



Bredon Hancock's School - "Keeping the school open for key workers children throughout the summer. Teachers giving up their own holiday to do this and risking their health to do it for no extra pay, no ppe."



Hilary Burke - "Collecting my prescriptions which she still honours doing despite everything and always affording the time to kindly ask how I am"



Jodie Molyneux - "Not only her smile and caring nature, but kept me fit and sane during the lockdown period"



Grace McGuigan - "She collects and delivers all my prescriptions from the surgery, picks up my shopping lists and delivers the goods the next day."



Kevin Falvey - "Kevin is always supporting his community but stepped up even more during lockdown supporting elderly and vulnerable"



Thank You

Thank You

Laura Haines-Gill - "She runs the local Facebook Noticeboard and used it so well to make sure the community had info on all of the local resources, kept it up to date and was one of the main people organising the WhatsApp community groups & Facebook support. Invaluable when we couldn't easily communicate with people in lockdown! She also ran the Bredon Bags For NHS which made & sent out thousands of scrubs bags, headbands and toiletries for NHS staff, care home workers, air ambulance and anyone else who needed the support. She has also just now set up a food bank Donation (to send stuff to the food bank) in the village to support those who have been affected by the pandemic financially i.e. people who have lost their jobs due to COVID, etc."



Bredon Hill Surgery - "Kept on serving the community despite the risk to themselves - especially the nurses and pharmacy staff. Great job"



Yew Tree, Conderton - "Bringing me cooked weekly nutritious food after hearing of my terminal diagnosis"

What I Love About ... Family History Research

My interest in family history began in 1982. My mother's family name was Spetch. I had heard family stories of my great grandfather, a draper in York, disappearing from his home, allegedly with the maid around 1905. Always liked a good mystery. It happened that an evening course on Family History was available in Sanderstead where we lived at that time. I was hooked. The tree grew rapidly. For a while the building of the tree took priority. Spetch was a very unusual surname. It was what is known as a One Name study with the potential that everyone with that surname could be related. But I am still looking to solve the mystery; the circle is smaller but it is not yet resolved!

But in 1986, when I was walking with my father, Benjamin Wells, he uncharacteristically started talking about getting older; he was 70 then. Out of the blue he said, "Before I die, I would like to see my sister again". I had no idea he had a sister. I resolved to find her.

I knew he was born in Penn y Darren in the Rhonda; I knew his mother had died aged 28 from influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia in 1918 at the height of the Spanish Flu pandemic. I knew that he and his older brother Eddie had been sent to live somewhere in Hereford as my grandfather could not cope alone and continue to earn his wage in the coal mines. I knew my grandfather returned to his native Somerset and remarried and returned to the Rhonda, with his new wife, Annie to bring his sons back home and start work again. But Annie hated Wales and eventually the family returned once more to Somerset. I remember Annie was a bit of a tyrant who forbade anyone to talk of Wales. Needless to say, I didn't understand why but, it would explain why I had never heard mention of a sister.

In 1986, family history research was hard work requiring multiple visits to archives and much manual searching. No computers, no ancestry.com. But when you found something it was a joyous occasion. One such moment was finding my father's sister's birth certificate. Her name was Gwladys, the eldest child and just 5 years older than my father. I went to see Uncle Eddie in Somerset. Yes, he did know of a sister Gwladys but had no idea if she was still alive or where she lived. He did tell me that his last home in Wales was in Ynyshir and somewhat casually told me about a distant cousin of sorts called Gordon Wells who played rugby for Wales. I wrote to the Welsh Rugby Union and to a sports journalist in Cardiff who helpfully told me where Gordon lived. We met; he was sure members of the family still lived in Ynyshir but he had no addresses and had never heard of Gwladys. I wrote letters to local newspapers and to pubs seeking their help. I struck gold at the Ynyshir Hotel where the publican had posted a note on his bar asking for information. A customer told him that he had heard that Gwladys was probably now living in Brecon. I wrote to the Dean of Brecon Cathedral. What a gem he was. He put a short article in his Parish magazine. Bingo! Gwladys did live in Brecon and I was put in touch with her daughter who lived in Pontypridd.

Within weeks a reunion was arranged. Along with my father, we travelled to Wales staying first at the Ynyshir Hotel where a previously unknown huge contingent of relations turned up to meet my Dad with all the welcome you would expect from the Welsh Valleys. Next day, we travelled to Brecon to meet Gwladys. It was an emotional reunion but a very happy day. Sadly, Gwladys's health deteriorated and she died in early 1988. My father died suddenly, just two months later.

My husband, Gordon, thought this was a great hobby too. We often worked as a team undertaking research projects for others as a means of raising funds for our chosen charity. Our different approaches and ideas often enabled us to crack difficult problems develop different leads.

We have both found that our hobby opens up a window on related topics: social, local, and political history and Gordon now majors on his local history work. If you like a good detective story, then Family History research may be for you; talking to others, digging deep, following the facts, verifying and sharing ideas. The advent of computer data bases and tools such as ancestry.com have revolutionised the subject presenting many new sources of information and often enabling you to look at the work of others. But always beware; using other peoples work always needs a check. We have seen many examples where mistakes have been embedded in trees.

This an exciting and rewarding hobby; what's not to love about family history research!?

Sue Sawyer
The Old Bakery, Bredon



Sue & Gordon Sawyer

Book for December

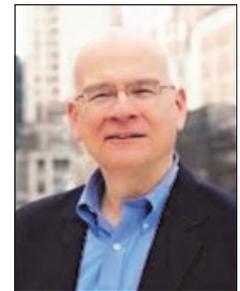
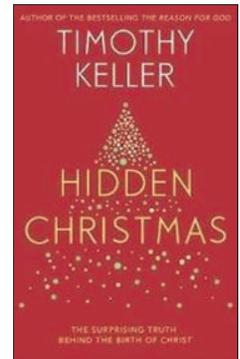
HIDDEN CHRISTMAS by Timothy Keller

Magi, mangers, shepherds and angels - we all think we're familiar with the story of Christmas. But despite these Christian references welcomed on board during our early years, how many of us have closely examined the details of this biblical story?

In Hidden Christmas, Timothy Keller takes us on an illuminating journey into the surprising background of the Nativity. By understanding the message of hope and salvation within the Bible's account of Jesus' birth, we experience the redeeming power of God's grace in a new and meaningful way. In the Bible narrative we read of King Herod's violent reaction to the news 'ONE BORN TO BE KING OF THE JEWS'. We see in the following extract the chief reason for the season, and its meaning for us

"Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "where is the one who has been born king of the Jews"? **"Where's the true King?"** That question is the most disturbing question possible to a human heart, since we want at all costs to remain on the throne of our own lives. We may use religion to stay on that throne, trying to put God in the position of having to do our bidding because we are so righteous, rather than serving him unconditionally. Or we may flee from religion, become atheists, and loudly claim that there is no God. Either way, we are expressing our natural hostility to the lordship of the true King.

ISBN 9781473642584 © 2016 by Redeemer City to City and Timothy Keller
displayed in St Giles during December 2017



Timothy Keller

QUOTE . . . UNQUOTE from Gloria Cain

THE WEAKNESS OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Christmas means that the King has come into the world. But the Bible tells us that Jesus comes as King twice, not once. The second time he will come in power in order to end all evil, suffering, and death. The first time - the Christmas coming - he came not in strength but in weakness, to a poor family in a stable.

Timothy Keller

*Seek not in courts, nor palaces,
Nor royal curtains draw;
But search the stable, see your God,
Extended on the straw.*

William Billings



Book introduced by Derek Cain

Computer Wisdom by Jim Verrechia, Bredon "Computer Doctor"

Microsoft Windows 10 – Feature Update

The latest Feature update (20H2) for Windows 10 has been rolled out. The focus is on bug and performance fixes. Some people are still running very old versions of Windows 10 (have a look at 'Settings' -> 'System' -> 'About' to see the version of windows you are currently on). These updates are not just for aesthetics, they are there to protect your computer from hackers, viruses etc.



Go back to 'Settings' and then 'Update and Security'. If the update is available for your computer, you should see it. If not, it might be because Microsoft thinks your computer isn't capable of installing the update.

They sometimes do not install automatically so going into the 'Update and Security' and checking for updates should be a regular task that you undertake to keep your computer up to date.

Do I need to buy anti-virus (AV) software?

In short "no". Windows 10 comes with a powerful anti-virus product 'Windows Defender'. The number of infected computers I see with Norton, McAfee or other paid-for AV products is testament to this. The free products like AVG and Avast are also pretty much useless. It would be much better to pay for a Microsoft 365 subscription, knowing that your office software will always be up to date than shelling out on AV software.

COVID and the cost of working from home ...

Anyone looking for a new laptop – or even a webcam will probably be aware that their availability and pricing have gone through the roof over the past few months. This trend is not showing any signs of slowing down. So, if you have a laptop but it's getting a bit slow you should consider swapping out your computer's 'spinning disk' hard drive for a solid state disk (SSD) before paying £500+ for a new laptop.

Zoom and Gloom ...

This is my final comment regarding Zoom. Despite warning folk in previous blurbs about the dangers and pitfalls of using Zoom, a lot of people are still using it as their primary social communications tool. I am glad that they are, because I then get to fix their computers and make a tidy profit 😊

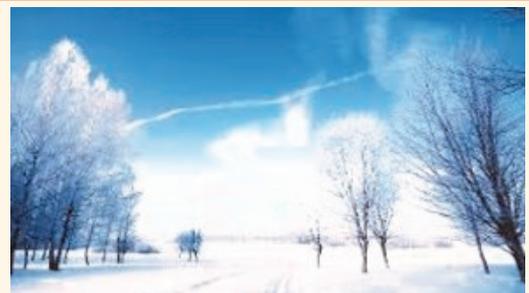
There are alternatives - Skype, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams and for tablets and phones there are WhatsApp, FaceTime etc., but hey 'Zoom on!'



Jim Verrechia

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him

Romans 15:13



Sylvia Harrington's Recipes for December



NON ALCOHOLIC PUNCH – Serves 20



Ingredients:

- 4 x 3" cinnamon sticks
- 6 mace leaves
- 8 cloves
- 2 teaspoons grated nutmeg
- 100 grams granulated sugar
- 2 x bottles/cartons of red grape juice
- Juice and rind of 2 oranges

Method:

- Put everything into a saucepan, bring to a slow boil, turn off heat, lid on and then leave to infuse for at least an hour.
- Strain and serve.



CHRISTMAS PUDDING PARFAIT – Serves 12

Ingredients:

- Zest and juice of 1 orange
- 2 tablespoons brandy
- 100 grams each of sultanas, and ready to eat prunes
- 1 teaspoon ground mixed spice
- 568 ml double cream
- 100 grams dark muscovado sugar plus 1 tablespoon extra
- 4 large eggs separated
- A little icing sugar for dusting

Method:

- Line a 4 pint pudding basin with cling film.
- Put zest, juice and brandy, sultanas, prunes and spice in a pan, heat gently for 3-5 minutes until liquid is absorbed.
- Puree in a food processor.
- Whisk cream until just thickened.
- Put sugar and egg yolks in a bowl. Whisk for 5 minutes until creamy and sugar dissolved, fold in cream.
- Wash the whisks thoroughly. Put egg whites in a clean grease free bowl and whisk until soft peaks form.
- Beat in the 1 tablespoon of sugar.
- Stir in a large spoonful of whites into the egg and cream mixture, then fold in the rest with a metal spoon.
- Add the pureed fruit and fold in. Pour mixture into the lined bowl. Freeze for 6 hours.
- To serve, run the bottom of the bowl under a warm tap, turn out onto a serving plate and remove clingfilm.
- Wrap the end of a holly sprig in clingfilm and insert into the parfait to decorate.
- Dust with icing sugar to serve.





December Quiz

IDENTIFY POPULAR CHRISTMAS CAROLS

By Inquizzitor 2



1



Whoever you are, you are scaring the sheep

2



3



4



5



6



- A

7



B



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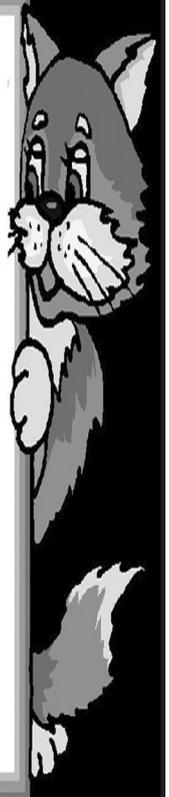
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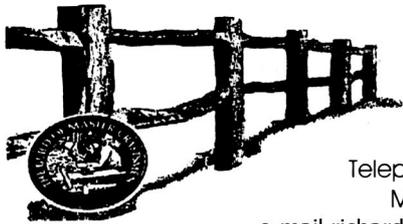
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Yoga, concerts, art classes, a nursery school and after school club, in addition to a huge variety of local small businesses from stud, to IT, designers and artisans. The village is home to a vibrant school, church and sports clubs.

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residents and businesses. Our Overbury Estate Office is the administrative hub which supports the farms, building, gardens, forestry and Grasshoppers nursery teams.

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Just a few words

I hope you will enjoy reading this double edition which has four more pages than the regular monthly edition, and has a special coverage of Remembrance Day and lockdown heroes. I am so privileged to be able to read these articles at first hand. Thank you, Declan Shiels, for your contribution and job well done!

Also, a big welcome to Christopher Frith, the magazine editor, who is back in action at his desk and has produced for us this issue's beautiful front cover. It is a watercolour painting by Pam Frith, and greeting cards using this painting are available from Pam's garage shop, Back Lane.



Lastly, Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to you all!

Anne Choi Fordham



Slight price change for the New Year

There will be a modest price increase for our Parish Magazine from February 2021, the first for a number of years. Copies will now cost 80p, or £7 for a year's subscription. Distributors will call for the subscription when delivering the February issue in the last week of January.



The next PARISH MAGAZINE will be for February 2021

Deadline: Tuesday, 12th January for material to be included

All items to be included should go to Anne Choi Fordham by that date please
yannchoi@yahoo.com or Corner Cottage, Lower Lane, Kinsham 01684 772042

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QUIZ ANSWERS *First see the questions on page 21*

- 1) While Shepherds watched; 2) The Holly and the Ivy; 3) Silent Night
- 4) I saw three ships; 5) (Christians) Awake Salute the Happy Dawn
- 6) Away in a Manger; 7) In the bleak midwinter

THE COVER PHOTO

Watercolour painting titled 'Bredon dreaming of a White Christmas for a change' by Pam Frith

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